IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE

Intercepted Letters of the Rebel State, War, Naval and Treasury Departments.

South Side View of Military, Naval and Financial Affairs.

Intrigues of the French Relative to Texas.

THE NEW MAN "WITH A WHITE HAT."

Attempt of the French Consuls to Induce the "Lone Star" to Secede from the Confederacy.

Slidell to Handle the Matter with White Kid Gloves and Circumspection.

GEORGE SANDERS ON IRON-CLADS.

The Fears of George That Some One Else Will Get the Job.

HIS PATRIOTIC APPEAL AND CONTRACTS.

George's Pockets Full of Cotton Certificates.

His Iron-Clads for Freighting as Well as Fighting.

The Snubbing of Minister Mason by Lord John Russell.

HOW HE BEARS IT.

THE REBEL ESTIMATE OF UNION LOSSES.

Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand the Figures,

&c., &c., &c.

Correspondence of the Confederate State Department.

MR. BENJAMIN TO MR. SLIDELL.

[No. 6, duplicate.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, RICHMOND, Sept. 26, 1862.

Hon. JOHN SLIDELL, &c., &c., &c., Paris:—

SIR—Since my number 6, of 19th July, I am without any communication from you, with the exception of your No. 3, of 26th February last, which was brought to the department on the 26th of this month by Mr. Chamberlyn, to whom you had entrusted it. This gentleman has thus consumed seven months in discharging the trust confided to him.

Your numbers 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are still missing, and for the regularity of the archives of the department I beg you to forward duplicates of them.

Events of startling importance have been crowded so rapidly into the short period which has elapsed since my last despatch, that any attempt to give them in detail would swell this communication into a volume. I shall endeavor to send you herewith our files of newspapers, which will furnish details, and confine myself to a statement of the present condition of affairs.

On the 19th July the remnant of McClellan's defeated army was still encamped at Harrison's Landing, on James river, fortified in a very strong position, and protected by a formidable fleet of gunboats. His defeat had been followed by an order of President Lincoln investing Major General Halleck with the command-in-chief of all the armies of the United States, headquarters at Washington. Major General Pope was assigned to the command of the army of the Potomac, which was composed of the shattered remnants of the armies of Fremont, Milroy and Banks, after their rout by General Jackson in the battles of the valley, to which were added the several armies of McDowell, who occupied Fredericksburg; of Burnside, who was recalled from North Carolina; and of Hunter and Stevens, who were recalled from South Carolina. This army was also increased by troops withdrawn from Norfolk and Fortress Monroe, and replaced at those points by raw levies. This accumulated force amounted probably to about ninety thousand effective men, and the old cry of "On to Richmond" was renewed with the usual accompaniment of extravagant boasting by the Northern journals.

General Lee first despatched General Jackson with a corps d'armee of about twenty-five thousand men to check Pope's advance, and having satisfied himself that a small force would be sufficient to watch McClellan (whose army was demoralized and dispirited by the result of the battles of the Chickahominy, and was being fast worn down by sickness), proceeded with the main body of the army as rapidly as possible to join General Jackson; but the movement was not accomplished as speedily as was desirable in consequence of our deficiency in means of transportation. General Lee had hoped with his united forces, which were nearly equal in number to Pope's, to crush the army of that General before McClellan could come to its relief, if such a movement were attempted. The plan was on the eve of successful accomplishment when a sudden rain storm so swelled the Rapid Ann river that it was necessary to wait some days before crossing it, and Pope, in the meantime, taking the alarm, retired rapidly behind the Rappahannock, thus bringing himself within supporting distance of McClellan, who had been ordered round to join him in accordance with the anticipations of General Lee. The combined forces of McClellan and Pope were, however, met by General Lee in a series of successful battles on the plains of Manassas on the 28th, 29th and 30th of August, and the total rout of the enemy was followed by the withdrawal of their entire forces into the fortifications around Washington; by the disgrace of Pope, who has been banished to an insignificant command in Minnesota; and by the appointment of McClellan to the command of the army collected "for the defence of Washington!" General Lee, amusing the enemy by feigned demonstrations of attack on his lines at Arlington Heights, succeeded in withdrawing his entire army from their front and entered Maryland by the fords at Edward's Ferry, in the neighborhood of Leesburg, without opposition, and established his headquarter at Frederick.

Again making deceptive demonstrations of an intention to march, at one time into Pennsylvania and at another against Baltimore, General Lee disposed his army in such manner that by a rapid movement he enveloped the whole federal force of over eleven thousand men, stationed at Harper's Ferry, and forced it into an unconditional surrender. The fruits of this movement were over eleven thousand prisoners, including more than four hundred officers, twelve thousand stand of arms, ninety pieces of artillery, and an enormous quantity of stores, principally munitions of war, together with two hundred wagons, &c. General McClellan becoming aware too late of the danger, moved from Washington in great haste, with the view to relieve the troops invested at Harper's Ferry, and on the day before their surrender attacked, with his whole force of eighty thousand men, General D. H. Hill, who, with a rear guard of fifteen thousand men, had been left to resist his advance, and who held his position with unconquerable firmness, but was finally compelled to give way for a short distance, under the stress of those overwhelming odds, until Generals Lee and Longstreet, arriving with reinforcements, re-established his lines and repulsed the enemy. The rapid arrival of reinforcements for General McClellan induced General Lee to withdraw his troops to Sharpsburg, for the purpose of effecting a junction with the corps of Generals Jackson and A. P. Hill, who had not yet returned from the capture of Harper's Ferry. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the 16th and 17th instant, General McClellan, with his entire army, amounting probably to one hundred and fifty thousand men, attacked General Lee with great fury, while the latter was still separated from the corps of Jackson and Hill, and had not more than forty thousand men to meet the assault. Incredible as it may appear, our unconquerable soldiers met the shock with unyielding firmness, fought with desperation, although terribly outflanked on both wings, and, slowly retiring, maintained an unbroken front, until the arrival of Jackson at noon, followed by that of A. P. Hill at four P. M., enabled them to turn the tide, to drive back the advancing columns of the enemy, and to regain their first position, when the approach of night put an end to the most desperate conflict of the war, each party sleeping on its arms in the respective positions occupied by them when the battle began. General Lee prepared to renew the engagement next morning, but the enemy had disappeared from his front, and left him the master of the field.

After occupying the day in providing for his wounded and the burial of the dead, General Lee withdrew his army across the river to Shepherdstown ford, and for the purpose of gathering a large number of stragglers yet on the road from Richmond, and no sooner was this fact known than General McClellan claimed a victory, and was tempted by the frantic exultation of the Northern papers into what he called a pursuit of a flying foe. His temerity met with severe punishment. On the 21st inst. a division of his army, in attempting to cross the river, was decoyed by a feigned retreat of Jackson until they were too far advanced for retreat, and were routed with appalling slaughter. The river was choked with their dead, who fell by thousands; and out of one regiment of about fifteen hundred men who attempted the passage, but about one hundred and fifty are believed to have escaped. General Lee, at the last accounts, was about to recross into Maryland at Williamsport, and has probably already established his headquarters at that point.

Gen. Loring, in Western Virginia, has just concluded a perfectly successful campaign (with the aid of Gen. Jenkins), by which the enemy, after being beaten in a series of battles, with heavy loss in killed, wounded and prisoners, had, reached in their flight the lower waters of the Kanawha, and the remnant of their forces is probably by this time on the other side of the Ohio river, thus leaving Western Virginia perfectly free from any other invading force than some small parties in the extreme northwest in the neighborhood of Wheeling.

Signal triumphs have illustrated our arms in the valley of the Mississippi. My last despatch announced that Gen. Bragg had commenced a movement which was expected to liberate Tennessee from the presence of the invaders. After a long and laborious march of over 400 miles he crossed, uninterrupted by the enemy, from Tupelo in Mississippi to Chattanooga in Tennessee. Cavalry expeditions, under the daring leadership of Col. Morgan and Gen. Forrest, were despatched into Kentucky and Tennessee, which attacked the enemy at their different encampments and depots of supplies. Their communications were intercepted, railroad bridges burned, tunnels destroyed, camps captured and several thousands of their troops made prisoners. The enemy's army at Cumberland Gap, about 10,000 strong, was closely invested, its supplies cut off, and they were forced to abandon their position in the night, and are now fleeing through Kentucky, hotly pursued by our forces under General Carter Stevenson, who is capturing their straggling bands as fast as he can reach them. This army of the enemy may be considered as nearly annihilated. Major General Kirby Smith, in the meantime, advanced rapidly into Kentucky, reached Richmond, defeated and utterly routed an army of 10,000 men, under General Nelson, on the 30th of August (the very day of General Lee's grand victory at Manassas). The enemy's army was absolutely destroyed, not more than two or three thousand fugitives escaping from the battle field. The whole of the arms taken in this battle were used to arm the Kentuckians who are joining us en masse, and no doubt is entertained that that great State is at last permanently joined to our confederacy. Gen. Bragg advanced into Kentucky by another line, and, leaving Nashville and Bowling Green to his left, arrived at Munfordsville, where he forced a body of five thousand men to a capitulation, thus providing arms for further reinforcements of Kentuckians. These operations, by cutting off General Buell from his base, have forced that officer to evacuate Nashville and thus not only is the whole State of Tennessee restored to our possession, with the exception of a small district around Memphis, but the seat of war has been removed from the line of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad to the banks of the Ohio. We are in daily expectation of the news of the capture of Louisville.

The contrast between our present condition and that which existed ninety days ago seems almost magical. Instead of having the invader in the heart of our country, with our capital closely invested by an arrogant and confident foe, our entire frontier from the Atlantic to the Mississippi, with a few insignificant exceptions, is reposing in peace behind the protection of our victorious forces. The cry of "On to Richmond" and of "waning proportions of the rebellion" is changed into a discordant clamor for protection arising from Ohio and Pennsylvania, and terror and confusion reign in Cincinnati and Harrisburg and Philadelphia. No greater or more striking proof of the change of spirit at the North can be presented than is shown in the official despatch of General McClellan, in which, after falsely claiming a victory on the 17th inst., he actually felicitates his government that "Pennsylvania is safe!" The newspapers of New York, too, are demanding the transfer of the Mint of the United States to that city, on the ground that it is exposed to capture in Philadelphia.

Herewith you will receive the President's Message and accompanying documents, including the measures taken for the repression of the enormities threatened by the enemy under the command of General Pope. I am gratified to inform you that some seventy of General Pope's officers, including General Prince, were captured by General Jackson at the battle of Cedar run, soon after the issue of the President's retaliatory order, and were excepted out of the exchange of prisoners of war and held in close custody. This wholesome severity produced the desired effect, and on official assurances from the enemy that General Pope's order was no longer in force, and that he had been removed from his command, the captured officers were paroled for exchange. As I have observed that in some of the English journals the facts have been strangely perverted and the action of the President censured as wanting in humanity, it is desirable that some proper means be adopted by you for giving publicity to the facts. The confinement of the officers, notwithstanding the threat of great rigor, was the same as that of all the other prisoners of war, and no other severity was exercised towards them than a refusal to parole them for exchange till Pope's murderous orders were set aside.

It may not be improper to call your attention, for such use as may occur, to the enormous losses suffered by the enemy during the present campaign, and to which history furnishes no parallel except the disastrous retreat from Moscow. I give you the following estimate, which, without any pretension to exact accuracy, is reduced much below what is believed to be the real state of the case, from sources of information derived mainly from the enemy's own confessions. The list includes not only the killed, wounded and prisoners, but the losses of the enemy by sickness (which was truly terrible) and desertion:—

1. McClellan's army loss	200,000
He landed on the peninsula with nearly 100,000 men, was afterwards reinforced to 158,000, and left with a remnant of about 55,000 men.	
2. Pope's army in the battles of Cedar run and of Manassas Plains	30,000
3. The armies of Banks, Milroy, McDowell, Shields, and Fremont, in the battles of the Valley of Virginia	30,000
4. Halleck's army in the West, originally 220,000, was reduced by battles, at Shiloh and elsewhere, by sickness and desertion, to less than 100,000 men, but let the loss be stated at only	100,000
5. On the coasts of North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Louisiana, principally by sickness and desertion, at least	10,000
6. In North and Southwestern Virginia	5,000
7. In the battles of Econsboro and Sharpsburg	15,000
8. In the surrender of Harper's Ferry	11,000
9. In the battle of Boteler's Mills	2,500
10. In the army of General Morgan, at Cumberland Gap	5,000
11. In the battle of Richmond, Kentucky	7,000
12. In the surrender of Munfordsville	5,000
13. In the campaigns of Morgan and Forrest, and other partisan leaders in Kentucky and Tennessee	4,000
14. In the trans-Mississippi campaign, including partisan warfare in Missouri and Arkansas	25,000
Total	349,500

In this enormous number I am not now able to state what general officers were included, but in the single battle of Sharpsburg, of 16th and 17th instant, eleven generals of the enemy were killed or wounded, among them four major generals.

I enclose you, for information, a copy of a despatch sent to Mr. Mann on the subject of a recent convention between the United States and the King of Denmark, relative to Africans captured from slavers at sea. It may be well to have an eye to the movements of the enemy in the disposal of slaves captured from our people, and you will perceive, by the instructions to Mr. Mann, what are the President's views on this interesting matter.

I received, on the 29th July, the duplicate of a letter of Mr. Rost, resigning his office, and informing the department that he was about to leave Madrid, and had confided the books and papers of the legation for safe keeping to Mr. Bauer, the agent and partner of the Rothschilds in Madrid. This letter is dated on the 25th May, and as nothing is said in it in relation to Mr. Walker Fearn, the Secretary of Legation, I infer that the original was accompanied by a letter of resignation from Mr. Fearn also, but no such letter has reached the department. You are requested to ascertain whether Mr. Fearn has resigned, and if, contrary to the inference drawn from Judge Rost's letter, he has not done so, the President desires that you intimate to him, in the manner best adapted to avoid wounding his feelings, that the departure of Mr. Rost, under the circumstances, and his closing up of the legation at Madrid, have put an end to Mr. Fearn's functions as Secretary to Madrid, and that his office has thus been vacated. I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. P. BENJAMIN, Secretary of State.

MR. BENJAMIN TO MR. MANN.

[No. 4.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE, RICHMOND, August 14, 1862.

Hon. A. DUDLEY MANN, &c., Brussels, Belgium:—

SIR—We are informed that an arrangement has been recently concluded between the government of the United States and that of Denmark for transferring to the Danish colonies in the West Indies Africans who may be captured from slavers and brought into the United States. We are not informed of the precise terms of this agreement, and can, of course, have no objection to offer to its execution if confined to the class of persons above designated, that is, to Africans released by the United States from vessels engaged in the slave trade in violation of laws and treaties.

It has, however, been suggested to the President that under cover of this agreement the United States may impose upon the good faith of the government of Denmark, and make it the unwitting and innocent participant in the war now waged against us. The recent legislation of the Congress of the United States, and the action of its military authorities, betray the design of converting the war into a campaign of indiscriminate robbery and murder. I enclose herewith a letter of the President to the General commanding-in-chief of our armies, and a general order on the subject of the conduct of Major General Pope, now commanding the enemy's forces in Northern Virginia, that you may form some faint idea of the atrocities which are threatened. The act of Congress of the United States (of which a copy is enclosed), decreeing the confiscation of the property of all persons engaged in what that law terms a rebellion, includes, as you are aware, the entire property of all the citizens of the confederacy. The same law decrees substantially the emancipation of all our slaves, and an executive order of President Lincoln directs the commanders of his armies to employ them as laborers in the military service. It is well known, however, that notwithstanding the restrictive terms of this order, several of his generals openly employ the slaves to bear arms against their masters, and have thus inaugurated, as far as lies in their power, a servile war, of whose horrors mankind has had a shocking example within the memory of many now living. The perfidy, vindictiveness, and savage cruelty with which this war is waged against us have had but few parallels in the annals of nations.

The government of the United States, however, finds itself greatly embarrassed in the execution of its behests by the difficulty of disposing of the slaves seized by its troops and subjected to confiscation by its barbarous laws. The prejudice against the negro race is in the Northern States so intense and deep rooted that the migration of our slaves into those States would meet with violent opposition both from their people and local authorities. Already riots are occurring rife in the Northern cities, arising out of conflicts and rivalries between their white laboring population and the slaves who have been carried from Virginia by the army of the United States. Yet these slaves are an inappreciable fraction of the negro population of the South. It is thus perceived that the single obstacle presented by the difficulty of disposing of slaves seized for confiscation is of itself sufficient to check in a very great degree the execution of the barbarous policy inaugurated by our enemies.

The repeated instances of shameless perfidy exhibited by the government of the United States during the prosecution of the war justify us in the suspicion that bad faith underlies every act on their part having a bearing, however remote, on the hostilities now pending. When, therefore, the President received at the same time information of two important facts—one, that the United States were suffering grave embarrassment from the presence within their limits of the slaves seized from our citizens; the other that the United States had agreed to transfer to Denmark, for transportation to the Danish West-Indies, all Africans captured at sea from slave trading vessels—he felt that there was just reason to suspect an intimate connection between these facts, and that the purpose of our treacherous enemy was to impose on the good faith of a neutral and friendly Power by palming off our own slaves seized for confiscation by the enemy as Africans rescued at sea from slavetraders.

You are especially instructed to observe that the President entertains no apprehension that the government of Denmark would for a moment swerve from the observance of a strict neutrality in the war now raging on this continent; still less that it would fail disdainfully to reject any possible complicity, however remote, in the system of confiscation, robbery and murder which the United States have recently adopted under the sting of defeat in their unjust attempt to subjugate a free people. His only fear is that the Cabinet of Copenhagen may (as has happened to ourselves) fail to suspect in others a perfidy of which themselves are incapable. His only purpose in instructing you, as he now does, to communicate the contents of this despatch to the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs (and if deemed advisable to furnish a copy of it), is to convey the information which has given rise to the suspicions entertained here. The President hopes thus to prevent the possibility of success in any attempt that may be made to deceive the servants of his Danish Majesty by delivering to them for conveyance to the West Indies our slaves seized for confiscation by the enemy, instead of Africans rescued on the high seas.

You are requested to proceed to Copenhagen by the earliest practical conveyance, and execute the President's instructions on this subject without unnecessary delay. I am, &c.,

J. P. BENJAMIN, Secretary of State.

MR. BENJAMIN TO MR. SLIDELL.

[No. 7.] CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, RICHMOND, Oct. 17, 1862.

SIR—Since my No. 6, of 26th ultimo, of which duplicate is herewith forwarded, some circumstances of a very remarkable character have come to the knowledge of the President, to which your earnest attention is invited.

On the 7th instant the President received from Governor Lubbock, of Texas, a letter, of which a copy is annexed, marked A, with enclosures Nos. 1 and 2.

The very singular nature of this correspondence, initiated, as you will perceive, by Mr. B. Theron, French Consular Agent and Spanish Vice Consul at Galveston, naturally excited a lively interest; but we had not yet arrived at any satisfactory conclusion as to the nature and extent, nor the source of the intrigue evidently on foot, when, on the 13th instant, the President received from the Hon. W. S. Oldham, Senator from Texas, a letter, of which a copy marked B is herewith enclosed.

The concurrent action of two French consular officers, at points so remote from each other as Galveston and Richmond, the evident understanding which exists between them, the similarity of their views and conduct, the choice of Mr. Oldham as the party to be approached—he being generally considered as identified with the party opposed to the administration, while Mr. Wigfall is its supporter—all concur in satisfying us that there is not only concert of action between these officials, but that their conduct has been dictated by some common superior. In plain language, we feel authorized to infer that the French government has, for some interest of its own, instructed some of its consular agents here to feel the way, and if possible to provoke some movement on the part of the State of Texas which shall result in its withdrawal from the confederacy. It is difficult, if not impossible, on any other hypothesis to account for the conduct of these agents.

I have, in accordance with the instructions of the President, expelled both Mr. Theron and Mr. Tabouelle from the confederacy, and have forbidden their return without the previous permission of the government. I enclose you copies of the orders of expulsion, marked C and D.

In endeavoring to account for such a course of action on the part of the French government, I can only attribute it to one or both of the following causes:—

1st. The Emperor of the French has determined to conquer and hold Mexico as a colony, and is desirous of interposing a weak power between his new colony and the Confederate States, in order that he may feel secure against any interference with his designs on Mexico.

2d. The French government is desirous of securing for itself an independent source of cotton supply, to offset that possessed by Great Britain in India, and designs to effect this purpose by taking under its protection the State of Texas, which, after being acknowledged as an independent republic, would, in its opinion, be in effect as dependent on France and as subservient to French interests as if a French colony.

It is more than probable that both these considerations would have weight in the councils of the French Cabinet, and we are not without suspicions that the tortuous diplomacy of Mr. Seward may have had some influence in inspiring such designs. The desire to weaken the confederacy, to exhibit it to the world as "a rope of sand," without consistence or cohesion, and, therefore, not worthy of recognition as an independent member of the family of nations would afford ample motives for the adoption of such a course by the Cabinet of the United States, which is driven to a diplomacy of expedients in the desperate effort to avert the impending doom which awaits the party now in power in Washington.

One other suggestion occurs to me, which you may receive as merely conjectural on my part. It is known to me personally that at the date of the annexation of Texas to the United States, Mr. Dubois de Saligny, the present French Minister in Mexico, and who was at that time French Charge d'Affaires to the republic of Texas, was vehemently opposed to the annexation, and was active in endeavoring to obstruct and prevent it. Even at that date the despatches of Mr. Guizot, which I had an opportunity of reading, were filled with arguments to show that the interests of Texas were identical with those of France, and that both would be promoted by the maintenance of a separate nationality in Texas. The intrigue now on foot, therefore, accords completely with a policy in regard to Texas that may be almost said to be traditional with France; and it is not impossible that the movement of the consular agents here has received its first impulse from the French legation in Mexico instead of the Cabinet of the Tuileries.

These movements are not considered as having the slightest importance so far as their effect on Texas is concerned. The answers of Governor Lubbock and the letter of Mr. Oldham will satisfy you how little those gentlemen were disposed to encourage such attempts, while the popular feeling in Texas is best evinced by the fact that she has seventy regiments of volunteers in our army. But the evidence thus afforded of a disposition on the part of France to seize on this crisis of our fate as her occasion for the promotion of selfish interests, and this, too, after the assurances of friendly disposition, or, at worst, impartial neutrality, which you have received from the leading public men of France, cannot but awaken solicitude; and the President trusts that you will use every effort to discover the source, extent and designs of these intrigues, and whether the United States are parties to them. It may perhaps be in your power to make use of this discovery also by awakening the British government to a sense of the fact that designs are entertained of which that government is not probably aware, and which it may be unwilling to see accomplished.

An enlarged and generous statesmanship would seem to indicate so clearly that the establishment of Southern independence on a secure basis (and with a strength sufficient to counterbalance the power of the United States as well as to prevent extensive French colonization on our Southern border) would promote the true interests of Great Britain, that we find it difficult to account for her persistent refusal to recognise our independence. The knowledge of a secret attempt on the part of France to obtain separate advantages of such vast magnitude may perhaps induce a change in the views of the British Cabinet. I speak of the attempt as secret, for it is scarcely possible to suppose that the action of the French agents is taken with the concurrence or connivance of the British government. If you come to the conclusion that these conjectures are well founded, you are at liberty to make known to her Majesty's government the facts herein communicated, either through the British Minister at Paris or by concert with Mr. Mason. It is deemed desirable that in either event you should advise Mr. Mason of the course you may adopt, as it is very probable that the English government will learn from Richmond the fact of the expulsion of the consuls, and the cause of the action of this government, which from its very nature is accompanied with some degree of publicity.

I enclose to Mr. Mason for his information a copy of this communication. Your obedient servant,

J. P. BENJAMIN, Secretary of State.

Hon. JOHN SLIDELL, Commissioner, &c., Paris.

OCTOBER 20, 1862.

P. S. Since the foregoing was written I have had an interview with Mr. Tabouelle, and from the explanations offered by him and certain facts which have come to my knowledge, I have become satisfied that, notwithstanding the singular coincidence between his conversation with Mr. Oldham and the communication of Mr. Theron to Gov. Lubbock, there was no concert of action between them, and that Tabouelle is no party to the intrigue referred to. The order for his expulsion has been therefore revoked, as you will perceive by the annexed copy of a letter to him, marked E.

It is barely possible, though I think not probable, that Theron may have acted on his own ideas of what he supposed would be agreeable to his superiors, and not in consequence of instructions. The whole matter is one of great delicacy, and I must leave it to your own discretion how best to treat it, after endeavoring to satisfy yourself whether Theron's movements were dictated by the French Cabinet. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. P. BENJAMIN, Secretary of State.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, AUSTIN (TEXAS), Sept. 11, 1862.

To his Excellency JEFFERSON DAVIS, President, &c., Richmond, Va.:

SIR—I have the honor to forward for your consideration the enclosed copies of letters, the one (marked A) from the French and Spanish Consul at Galveston, the other (marked B) being my reply thereto.

As the proceeding of the said Consul would seem to indicate an incipient intrigue, I have deemed it proper to advise you thereof on the threshold.

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

F. R. LUBBOCK.

[A]

Consulate Agency for France and Vice Consulate for Spain, in Galveston.

GALVESTON, August 18, 1862.

To his Excellency F. R. LUBBOCK, Governor of the State of Texas:—

SIR—Will you be kind enough to inform me confidentially of your personal opinion on the following questions:—

1st. The annexation of the republic of Texas to the United States was or was not a good political measure?

2d. The act of disunion and of the junction of the State of Texas to the Southern States was or was not another good or bad political taking by the State?

And 3d. The reestablishment of the old republic of Texas will or will not be beneficial to our beloved adopted country?

Your answer to these questions, sir, will serve me as a guide in my political correspondence with the government which I have the honor to represent.

I have, &c., sir, and with very much respect, to be your obedient servant,

THERON, French and Spanish Consul.

I certify the above and foregoing to be a true copy of the original now on file in the Executive Department at Austin, Texas.

JAMES PAUL, Private Secretary.

(B). EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, AUSTIN, TEXAS, Sept. 9, 1862.

B. THERON, Esq., French and Spanish Consul, Galveston:—

SIR—Your communication of 19th ultimo is before me, and contents duly noted.

In answer to your first interrogatory, permit me to say that the annexation of Texas to the United States was a good political measure.

As to your second question, I answer most emphatically that "the act of disunion and of the junction of the State of Texas to the Southern States was a good and proper political step."

In reply to your third inquiry, I have to say "the re-establishment of the old republic of Texas will not be beneficial to our beloved adopted country."

Texas has linked her fate with that of her sisters of the South. She will be true, steadfast and victorious.

I have the honor to be, yours, very respectfully,

F. R. LUBBOCK.

True copy of the original.

JAMES PAUL, Private Secretary.

[B.] RICHMOND, Oct. 13, 1862.

His Excellency JEFFERSON DAVIS, President, &c.:—

SIR—On to-day Mons. Tabouelle, French Vice Consul at Richmond, sought an introduction to me in the Senate Chamber, and stated that he desired to obtain from me certain statistical information in regard to Texas. I told him that I did not then have the time to give him the desired information, but if he would call at my room I would take pleasure in giving him any information which I possessed. He promised to call this evening, which he did, and has just left my room. I deem it proper to give you the substance of the conversation between us, as it had a connection with the subject matter of the correspondence between the Governor of Texas and French consular agent at Galveston, of which you advised General Wigfall and myself a few days since.

After I had furnished him with information in regard to the area, population, debt, taxes and agricultural productive capacity of Texas, he remarked that the resources of the State were magnificent, and capable of supporting a powerful and independent people, and then asked me whether I thought it would not be to the interest of the State to assume an independent nationality. I told him that the people of Texas, being mostly emigrants from the old Southern States, were strongly attached to those States and to our federative system of government, which I at some length explained to him. I told him that they never could have been induced to secede from the United States but to preserve that form of government, which was in danger of being destroyed. I further stated to him that not only the affections and sympathies, but also the interests of the people of Texas bound them to the States of the confederacy; that their institutions, pursuits and agricultural products were the same, and that mutual safety required harmony amongst them, which could only be insured by a confederacy; that, as a separate and independent State, Texas would be weak and incapable of self defence; that we were sensible that we would be subject to be involved in collision with our sister Southern States; that the similarity of institutions and production, which are now bonds of union and the cause of harmony, would become causes of rivalries, jealousies, and perhaps wars between the States; that in the confederacy we would not be a weak and dependent people, incapable of resenting insult or repelling aggression. The subject was then waived, and we talked of other matters.

But for the fact you had called my attention to the correspondence between the Governor of Texas and the French consular agent at Galveston, this conversation would, perhaps, have made no impression upon my mind; but as an introduction to me was sought by the Vice Consul, with the view to obtain statistical information in regard to Texas, and the subject of the separate independence of that State was thus introduced by him, it struck me that it was not casual or accidental. He furthermore stated to me that he had written to the consular agent at Galveston for information upon the resources of Texas, and had received from him a specimen or sample of Texas wool, which he either had or intended to send to France.

I have deemed it proper to communicate the foregoing to you, as affording confirmatory evidence to the conclusion that it is the object of Louis Napoleon, and perhaps of other of the European Powers, to induce Texas to assume an independent nationality. The fact communicated by you to General Wigfall and myself put me on my guard, and caused me to be more explicit and specific than I might otherwise have been, for the purpose of dissipating such a design if it exists, and to induce whatever steps that may be taken to be for the benefit of the entire confederacy. I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. S. OLDHAM.

MR. BENJAMIN TO MR. THERON.

[C.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE, RICHMOND, Oct. 17, 1862.

SIR—The Governor of Texas has communicated to the President a correspondence between him and yourself, in which you plainly attempted to induce the Governor to enter into some understanding or arrangement for the withdrawal of Texas from this confederacy. This attempt on your part is considered by the President as an abuse of the hospitality of the confederacy, and as indicating hostility on your part to this government and people.

Your presence within the confederacy can no longer be permitted. You are therefore required to depart immediately, and not to return without the previous permission of this government.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. P. BENJAMIN, Secretary of State.

Mr. B. THERON, French Consular Agent, and Vice Consul for Spain, Galveston, Texas.

MR. BENJAMIN TO MAJOR GENERAL MAGRUDER.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, RICHMOND, Oct. 17, 1862.

SIR—Herewith you will find enclosed a letter addressed to Mr. B. Theron, French Consular Agent and Vice Consul for Spain at Galveston, Texas, requiring that functionary to depart immediately from the confederacy.

The President requests that you will have this order executed as promptly as can be done without undue violence, and that you have Mr. Theron conveyed under surveillance to Matamoros or other convenient point on the Mexican frontier, whence he can depart for Europe if he chooses.

Mr. Theron will be allowed to make such disposal of the books and papers of his consulate as he may deem proper.

Please acknowledge receipt of this communication.

Your obedient servant,

J. P. BENJAMIN, Secretary of State.

Major General J. B. MAGRUDER, Spottswood Hotel.

MR. BENJAMIN TO MONS. TABOUELLE.

[D.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE, RICHMOND, Oct. 17, 1862.

SIR—The Hon. Mr. Oldham, Senator from the State of Texas, having communicated to the President the substance of a conversation held with you on the 13th inst., in the course of which you sought to impress on that Senator the conviction that it would be for the interest of the State of Texas to separate herself from this confederacy, I am instructed by the President to inform you that your presence within the confederacy can no longer be permitted, your conduct being considered hostile to this government and people.

You are therefore required to depart from the confederacy, and not to return without the previous permission of this government. You will prepare to leave by the flag of truce boat, which will depart on the 18th instant.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

J. P. BENJAMIN, Secretary of State.

MONS. TABOUELLE, Vice Consul of France, Richmond.

[E.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE, RICHMOND, Oct 18, 1862.

SIR—I have seen the President since my interview with yourself and Mr. Giles, this morning, and having taken into consideration your explanations in relation to your interview with Mr. Oldham, and the other facts stated by you, the President is satisfied that your conversation with Mr. Oldham was not prompted by any hostility to this government, and that you are not connected with the intrigue known to exist having for its object to induce the withdrawal of the State of Texas from this confederacy. You will, therefore, consider the order to depart from the confederacy as withdrawn, and you will remain at liberty to reside here as heretofore.

Your obedient servant,

J. P. BENJAMIN, Secretary of State.

MONS. TABOUELLE, at French Consulate, Richmond.

MR. BENJAMIN TO MR. SLIDELL.

[No. 8.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE, RICHMOND, Oct. 28, 1862.

Hon. JOHN SLIDELL, &c., &c., &c., Paris:—

SIR—Since writing my No. 7 of 17th and 20th instant I have received from the hands of Mr. Fearn (who arrived on 25th instant) your No. 10 of 25th July, with its very interesting reports of your interviews with the Emperor of the French and M. Thouvenel. I had previously received (on 21st instant) your private letter of 18th September, forwarded through Mr. Mason—this last having reached me in a shorter time than any communication hitherto had with Europe, and demonstrating the great value of the new means of intercourse now opened and which we hope to maintain. Mr. Mason will explain to you the details of the new arrangement, and your best course will be to forward your future despatches through him.

The voluminous contents of your despatch and that of Mr. Mason have prevented their communication to the President, with whom I desire to confer before answering you. The President is for the moment deeply engaged in military matters, and in endeavors to repair by new combinations the evils resulting from the failure of the Kentucky campaign, which has overclouded in none of the happy consequences which we so confidently hoped. The only gain has been the capture of a very large amount of supplies.

I have no time to add anything by this conveyance, but another opportunity will offer in a few days for a full despatch.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. P. BENJAMIN, Secretary of State.

P. S.—Mrs. Davis begs me to say that she anticipates with eagerness the promised letter from your daughter, which has not yet reached Richmond.

MR. BENJAMIN TO MR. DE LEON.

[No. 2.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE, RICHMOND, Dec. 18, 1862.

SIR—I avail myself of an unexpected opportunity to acknowledge receipt of your Nos. 1 and 2. They have been read with lively interest, and you will not fail to keep the department fully advised of your conclusions as to the probable action of European Powers as fast as their views are developed, either through the press or other agencies.

The President has been so fully occupied with military matters that it has been scarcely possible for me to confer with him at length on the matters suggested by you, and he has just departed very suddenly for a tour in the Southwest, where his presence was greatly needed to restore affairs and impart renewed energy and activity to our military operations.

On his return I will take measures to forward you additional means to enable you to extend the field of your operations, and to embrace, if possible, the press of Central Europe in your campaign. Austria and Prussia, as well as the smaller Germanic Powers, seem to require intelligence of the true condition of our affairs and of the nature of our struggle, and it is to be hoped you may find means to act with efficiency in moulding public opinion in those countries.

When I send you a remittance, on the return of the President (at the end of this month), I will give you my views more at large.

The bearer of this goes in part to complete arrangements for more prompt communication, and I hope that for the future my despatches will reach Europe more regularly and promptly. Your obedient servant,

J. P. BENJAMIN, Secretary of State.

EDWIN DE LEON, Esq., care of Hon. John Slidell, &c., Paris.

MR. BENJAMIN TO MR. MASON.

[No. 7.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE, RICHMOND, Sept. 26, 1862.

Hon. JAMES M. MASON, &c., &c., London:—

SIR—Since my No. 6, of 19th July, I have received three communications from you (not numbered), all of which arrived on the 25th of August. I also received duplicate of your No. 11, of 16th May.

To your general despatch of 23d June the number 12 has been affixed. To another despatch of same date, in relation to a newly invented gunpowder, the number 13 has been affixed; and to your despatch of 24th June, in relation to counterfeit issues of the Confederate Treasury notes and other Southern paper currency, the number 14 has been affixed. I pray you to make your own numbers to conform to these, and to notify your secretary of this oversight, that it may not be repeated.

Your numbers 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 are still missing, and, for the regularity of the archives of the Department, I beg you to forward duplicates of them.

(Here the body of this despatch to Mr. Mason is precisely the same with that addressed to Mr. Slidell, under date of Richmond, September 26, 1862, as above printed. It concludes as follows:—)

I enclose you, for information, copy of a despatch sent to Mr. Mann on the subject of a recent convention between the United States and the King of Denmark relative to Africans captured from slavers at sea. It may be well to have an eye to the movements of the enemy in the disposal of slaves captured from our people, and you will perceive by the instructions to Mr. Mann what are the President's views on this interesting matter.

I must again request of you to have communicated to Mr. Mann a copy of that part of this despatch which relates to the war and present state of the country, as it is out of my power to write to him by this conveyance. I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant.

J. P. BENJAMIN, Secretary of State.

MR. BENJAMIN TO MR. MASON.

[No. 8.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE, RICHMOND, Oct. 28, 1862.

Hon. JAMES M. MASON, &c., &c., &c., London:—

SIR—Since my No. 7, of 26th ult., I have had the pleasure of receiving your Nos. 14, 15, 16 and 17, dated respectively 30th July, 5th August, 18th September, and 18th September. The two latter were received by special messenger, who reached Richmond on the 21st instant. The two former were delivered by Mr. Fearn, who did not arrive till 25th instant.

The contents of Nos. 14 and 15 are so voluminous (and they were accompanied by others of equal bulk from Mr. Slidell), that I have not yet been able to confer with the President in relation to them, and shall therefore defer replying, the more especially as I shall have another opportunity of forwarding despatches in a very few days.

The arrangements made by the bearer of despatches 16 and 17 for facilitating intercourse between us have been approved, and will be continued as long as successful. The details