

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

IN COMPLIANCE WITH

A RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE,

COMMUNICATING

Information in relation to the 4th and 5th instalments of the Mexican indemnity.

FEBRUARY 19, 1846.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate of the United States :

In compliance with the request of the Senate, in their resolution of the 10th instant, asking for information relative to the Mexican indemnity, I communicate herewith a report from the Secretary of State, with the papers accompanying it.

JAMES K. POLK.

WASHINGTON, *February 18, 1846.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, February 17, 1846.

The Secretary of State, to whom has been referred a resolution of the Senate of the 10th instant, requesting the President to "communicate to the Senate, if not incompatible, in his opinion, with the public interests, a copy of the communication dated 17th October, 1845, from the agent of the United States at Mexico, relative to the payment of the fourth and fifth instalments of the Mexican indemnity, which is referred to in his last annual message as having been 'received at the State Department on the 9th November last;' and also all information in his possession relative to the said instalments, and to the payment of the said indemnity, not communicated with his message to the Senate of the 3d February, 1845, or received since that time; and also all proceedings of the State and Treasury Departments in relation to the collection and payment of the said indemnity not heretofore communicated," has the honor to lay before the President the accompanying papers.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

To the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

List of accompanying papers.

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- B.—Same to same, (with enclosures,) November 19, 1845. (Extract.)
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- C.—Mr. Slidell to Mr. Buchanan, (with enclosures,) January 10, 1846.
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 - No. 2. Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co. to Mr. Voss, December 17, 1845.
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 - No. 13. Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co. to Mr. Slidell, January 2, 1846.
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 - No. 18. Mr. Slidell to Mr. Black, January 6, 1846.
 - No. 19. Mr. Voss to Mr. Slidell, January 6, 1846.
 - No. 20. Mr. Ducoing to Mr. Voss, December 22, 1845.
 - No. 21. Mr. Slidell to Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co., January 8, 1846.
 - No. 22. Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co. to Mr. Slidell, January 9, 1846.
 - No. 23. Mr. Slidell to Mr. Voss, January 9, 1846.
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 - No. 25. Same to the minister of foreign relations, January 7, 1846.

A.

Mr. Buchanan to Mr. Slidell.

[Extract.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 10, 1845.

You are aware that Congress, at their last session, made the following appropriation :

" For paying the April and July instalments of the Mexican indemnities, due in eighteen hundred and forty-four, the sum of two hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars: *Provided*, It shall be ascertained, to the satisfaction of the American government that said instalments have been paid by the Mexican government to the agent appointed by the United States to receive the same, in such manner as to discharge all claim on the Mexican government, and said agent to be delinquent in remitting the money to the United States."

The whole transaction between Emilio Voss, esq., the agent of the United States, and the Mexican authorities, is yet involved in mystery, which this government has not been able to unravel. You will endeavor, with as little delay as possible, to ascertain the true state of the case in relation to the alleged payment of the instalments by the Mexican government to our agent, and give the department the earliest information on the subject. A copy of his receipt ought to be obtained, if possible.

JOHN SLIDELL, Esq., &c. &c. &c.

B.

Mr. Buchanan to Mr. Slidell.

[Extract.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 19, 1845.

SIR: Since my last despatch,* the department has received, enclosed in a letter from Mr. Parrott, under date October 18, a communication on the subject of the April and July instalments of the Mexican indemnity, addressed to him, under date the 17th October, by Emilio Voss, esq., the agent appointed by the last administration to receive that indemnity as it should become due. Of these papers a copy is herewith transmitted. As the letter of Mr. Voss was written with the view of having it presented to

* The despatch here referred to bears date November 10th. The letter from Mr. Parrott was received on the 9th. The discrepancy between these dates and the above reference to the letter arose from the fact that the despatch was written on the 8th, at which time Mr. Parrott's letter had not come to hand; but, owing to its not being sent off until the 10th, this date was given to it, being the true and proper one, corresponding with the day on which it issued from the department. Afterwards, in writing the despatch of the 19th, Mr. Parrott's letter, which had been received since the despatch immediately preceding had been written, was referred to as having been so received, without adverting to the relation which the date given to that despatch bore to the moment when Mr. P.'s letter had come to hand.

the department, it may be considered official; and this is the first information that he has ever communicated to us on the subject. It appears, from his own declaration, that he has never received a single dollar of these instalments from the Mexican government, and yet he has given it a general receipt for their full amount. He has not even specified what securities he accepted from it, although he expresses the confident opinion that these will be finally rendered available. Such conduct requires no comment. I presume he cannot suppose that he now possesses power to make similar or any other arrangements in regard to the instalments due at a subsequent period; yet the President deems it advisable, from abundant caution, that you should formally make known to the Mexican government that his powers as an agent of this government have entirely ceased; not only as regards all instalments subsequent to the two above specified, but as regards those two likewise. He is to be regarded as no longer possessing authority to receive money on account of the indemnity, nor on account of the United States in any shape. It is not to be supposed that Mexico will contend, that the mere delivery to Mr. Voss of promises in the shape of securities which have been dishonored, can have relieved her from the performance of her treaty obligations. From the position, therefore, in which she finds herself placed by this transaction, together with the notification which you are now instructed to make, her government will see the necessity, for its own sake, of guarding against the payment of any money into his hands, and of recovering possession of those unavailable securities, which could not now be cashed without that government bringing upon itself the reproach of collusion in this very extraordinary proceeding.

The President desires that you should obtain from the Mexican government authentic and official information in regard to all the circumstances connected with this pretended payment, and communicate the same, with as little delay as practicable, to this department.

JOHN SLIDELL, Esq., &c. &c. &c.

[Enclosure in B.]

Mr. Parrott to Mr. Buchanan.

[Extract.]

MEXICO, October 18, 1845.

I accompany herewith, in an authenticated form, a copy of the receipt given by Mr. Voss to the general treasury of Mexico, for the April and July instalments of indemnity corresponding to 1844.

Mr. Voss requests me to assure the government that his late pecuniary embarrassments will not endanger the securities held by him, for its account, received in payment of the said instalments of indemnity.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. S. PARROTT.

HON. JAMES BUCHANAN,

Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

[Sub-enclosure in B.]

*Mr. Voss to Mr. Parrott.*MEXICO, *October 17, 1845.*

MY DEAR SIR: At your request, I hand you copy of the receipt given by me to the Mexican government for the two instalments due on the 30th of April and 30th of July, last year, and on account of which I have not yet received a single dollar, but I hold such security as warranted me at the time to give it, and have no doubt that I will eventually obtain the money, or be able to recall my receipt, which I gave, as follows:

"\$274,664 67.—Recivi de la tesorería general la cantidad de doscientos setenta y cuatro mil seis cientos sesenta y cuatro pesos sesenta y siete centavas, importe de los dos trimestres vencidos de las reclamaciones de los Estados Unidos.

"EMILIO VOSS.

"MEXICO, *Setiembre 20, 1844.*"

I remain yours, very sincerely,

EMILIO VOSS.

W. S. PARROTT, Esq., *Mexico.*

[No. 744.]

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Mexico, October 18, 1845.

I, the undersigned, consul of the United States of America for the city of Mexico, hereby certify that the signature of Emilio Voss to the foregoing document is genuine and in the proper handwriting of said person, who is well known to me.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the con-
[L. s.] sular seal, the day and year first above written.

JOHN BLACK, *Consul.*

Register folio 166.]

Translation of the receipt.

\$274,664 67.—I received from the general treasury the sum of two hundred and seventy-four thousand six hundred and sixty-four dollars and sixty-seven cents, the amount of the two quarterly instalments due on the claims of the United States.

EMILIO VOSS.

MEXICO, *September 20, 1844.*

C.

Mr. Slidell to Mr. Buchanan.

[No. 5.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Mexico, January 10, 1846.

SIR: I am instructed by you to "endeavor, with as little delay as possible, to ascertain the true state of the case in relation to the alleged payment of the instalments due on 30th April and 30th July, 1844, by the Mexican government."

The accompanying documents, marked No. 1 to 25, will place you in possession of all the information that I have been enabled to obtain on the subject. I regret that it is not more complete ; but you will observe that the Mexican government, although twice applied to for explanation by our consul, Mr. Black, has failed to make any reply whatever, and it is not probable that any information will be had from that source during the continuance of the present state of our relations. I have carefully examined the files of the legation, and can find nothing bearing upon the question excepting the note of Mr. Rejon to Mr. Shannon of 2d September, 1844, informing the latter that the instalments, which fell due on 30th April and 30th July, 1844, had been paid on the 27th August to the agent appointed by the government of the United States, and the despatch of Mr. Shannon of the 21st September, in which he says that these instalments were paid to the agent of the government, to receive and transmit the same, on the 27th August. In his despatch of 12th November, 1844, Mr. Shannon says : " Our agent, appointed to receive the instalments due our citizens under the convention of 30th January, 1843, was directed to call at the proper department on 30th ultimo and demand payment of the instalment that fell due on that day. He did so, and payment was refused, on the alleged ground that there was no money in the treasury applicable to such a purpose. He has called on two occasions since, but has not received any satisfactory answer as to the time when payment may be expected.

" I do not feel myself justified in giving you any encouragement as to the payment of the last or future instalments under the convention of 30th January, 1843."

I have made these extracts from the files of the legation, because I have no means of knowing what despatches of Mr. Shannon have reached Washington. In his despatch of 6th April, 1845, he says that he has received no information from Washington since November preceding ; and his closing despatch of 25th of same month makes no mention of the receipt of any further advices.

You will see that I have complied, as far as it has been in my power, with your instructions of 19th November last, in relation to the revocation of the powers of Mr. Emilio Voss, by my letters of 20th December to that gentleman and to Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co., and of 6th instant to our consul, Mr. Black, which he, in his official capacity, has communicated to the minister of foreign affairs.

I understand your instructions as calling upon me for the facts, and not for my opinion, in relation to the alleged payment of the instalments due 30th April and 30th July, 1844 ; and as any statement which I could make would be a mere recapitulation of what is contained in the accompanying papers, I consider such a statement superfluous.

It may be proper for me to say that Mr. Theodore Ducoing is an American citizen, long established in Mexico, and of unimpeachable character ; that Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co. are English merchants, extensively engaged in business here ; and that, at the date of the transactions referred to, they were, and perhaps still are, in the enjoyment of good credit. Messrs. Manning and Mackintosh are merchants and bankers, frequently engaged in transactions with the government. The resident partner is the British consul. The credits of the government which Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co. were, by their accepted proposition of 25th August, 1844,

to have the privilege of exchanging for a portion of the orders received by them, could have been procured for about *seven* or *eight* per cent. of their nominal value. This fact I have ascertained from satisfactory information, and expected to have a certificate to that effect from two licensed exchange brokers; but it has not been prepared in season to accompany the other documents. In the regular course of official business here the rubric, or flourish of a functionary, is often affixed to a paper, without his signature, and has equal validity with, or indeed greater than, a simple signature, which is not complete without the rubric. This explanation is necessary to account for the absence of the signature of the Secretary of the Treasury, Trigueros, to the acceptance of Tayleur, Jamison, & Co.'s proposition.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your most obedient servant,
JOHN SLIDELL.

Hon. JAMES BUCHANAN,
Secretary of State, Washington.

No. 1.

Mr. Voss to Mr. Slidell.

MEXICO, December 17, 1845.

SIR: In answer to your inquiries respecting the occurrences which took place here in September, 1844, with reference to the two instalments of the American claims due in April and July of that year, and respecting the receipt given by me to the Mexican government for those instalments, I have the honor to submit to you the following statement of facts:

For the avowed purpose of liquidating the recognised American claims, General Santa Anna, the head of the Mexican government, in May, 1843, decreed the collection of a forced loan, to be distributed in certain proportions through the departments of this republic, and paid at periods corresponding to those stipulated in the convention to that effect with the government of the United States. This measure, essentially unpopular, could only have emanated from a government as absolute as that of Santa Anna then was, and, even with the aid of his unlimited powers, was very imperfectly enforced, while the temptation to a misapplication of the funds collected amidst the difficulties by which Santa Anna was surrounded is sufficiently obvious. From these concurring circumstances, the Mexican government was absolutely unable to pay the instalment which became due in April, 1844; and in July of the same year, when another instalment should have been paid, the incapacity of the government to fulfil its engagements had become still greater. The arrears due at that period on the American claims amounted to \$274,664 67.

About this time public attention was directed to the Texan question with renewed force; and amidst the angry excitement which it occasioned, the press found a popular theme for complaint in the payment of the American claims, and freely advocated its discontinuance. From private information I had reason to know that many members of Congress entertained similar opinions, and to fear that a law to that effect would be passed. These embarrassing circumstances continued, without any prospect of amendment; and my applications at the treasury were evaded or disregarded till the

latter part of August, 1844, when, despairing of obtaining any direct payment, and war with the United States being apparently decided on here, I reflected on the course which, in the discharge of my duty to the American claimants, would be best calculated to secure their interests, and I considered it a very fortunate event that I was enabled to make an arrangement with an English house here of the highest standing, (then successfully prosecuting a claim of considerable amount on this government,) by which they assumed the collection of the \$274,664 67 due to me as the representative of the American claimants, in addition to their own claim, and agreed to pay over to me the proportion to which I was entitled, gradually, as recovered by them from the Mexican government. Confident as I felt with respect to the propriety of this course, I did not, however, rely exclusively on my own judgment; for, before taking any step, I detailed to Mr. Shannon (then residing here as the minister of the United States) the facts which I have now mentioned to you, and received his entire approbation of the measure by which I proposed to protect the interests intrusted to my charge. In consequence of this arrangement, vouchers against different branches of the public treasury for the sum of \$274,664 67 were handed over to the English capitalists; in return for which, I gave the government a receipt for the same sum, as if actually paid—this operation being in fact an exchange of documents, in perfect accordance with the established rule and practice in the financial department here, and the value of my receipt remaining inseparably connected with that of the vouchers given in exchange.

I have to regret that an arrangement designed solely for the benefit of my constituents, accomplished with difficulty, and which gave so fair a promise of success, has not yet realized the expectations which led to its adoption. The revolution effected in December last year overthrew Gen. Santa Anna's government, and transferred political power to another party in this country, who, adopting a purer policy than their predecessors, have nevertheless found themselves involved in financial difficulties of enormous magnitude, and, as a consequence, the vouchers assigned as a payment of the American claims for \$274,664 67 remain as yet dishonored; and though still held by the English house referred to, these parties (as will be perceived by the letter from them which I annex) justly regard the transaction between us as valid only in the event of this government fulfilling its engagements to them.

I have myself great confidence in the good faith of the present Mexican cabinet, and I am persuaded of their desire to settle this claim at the earliest moment possible. Had no efforts been made by me to effect the recovery indirectly of the two instalments which form the subject of this letter, the situation of the claimants would be in no respect better, for nothing could have been paid by this government; and in the absence of any extraordinary measure by the government of the United States to effect the collection, I still regard the chances of payment as improved by the steps which I have taken, and from which I have neither sought nor derived any private advantage.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

EMILIO VOSS.

HON. JOHN SLIDELL,

*Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
of the United States of America, &c. &c. &c.*

No. 2.

[Enclosure in No. 1.]

Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co. to Mr. Voss.

MEXICO, December 17, 1845.

DEAR SIR : In conformity with your desire to be informed of the actual position of the orders received by us against various departments of the public treasure for the two instalments due by this government, in July, 1844, to the American claimants, the collection of which has been assumed by us, we have to inform you, with regret, that up to the present date not a dollar has been paid on account of those documents. The government having failed to comply with its engagements to us, we of course can make no anticipation to you on account of those orders, but we continue our efforts to effect the collection; and, persuaded, as we are, that temporary financial difficulties only have produced this want of punctuality on the part of the government, we are far from despairing of success.

Should you, however, prefer receiving back the documents, which are—

Order on the treasury for bills arising from maritime duties at Mazatlan, payable here -	\$160,000 00
Order on Manning & Mackintosh for funds proceeding from forced loan -	60,000 00
Order against circulation and export duties of specie at this custom-house -	50,000 00
Part of an order on the tobacco revenue -	4,664 67
	<hr/> \$274,664 67

we hold them at your disposal, or that of any party whom you may name to receive them.

We are, dear sir, your's respectfully,

TAYLEUR, JAMISON, & CO.

EMILIO VOSS, Esq.

No. 3.

Mr. Voss to Mr. Slidell.

MEXICO, December 17, 1845.

SIR : With reference to my communication to you of this day's date, on the subject of the two instalments due to the American claimants by this government in July, 1844, I beg leave to hand you, herewith, copy of my letter addressed to W. S. Parrott, esq., on the 17th October last, and of a communication received from the Mexican government when applied to by me for the return of my receipt for those sums.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

EMILIO VOSS.

Hon. JOHN SLIDELL,

*Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
of the United States of America, &c. &c.*

No. 4.

[Enclosure in No. 3]

[See preceding enclosures, in "Mr. Buchanan to Mr. Slidell."]

No. 5.

[Enclosure in No. 3.]

Report of the ministers of the treasury upon the petition of Mr. Voss.

E. S. pide D. Emilio Voss, en esta instancia, que le sea devuelto el recibo que dió á esta tesorería general por la cantidad que importaron los dos plazos cumplidos en 30 de Abril y 30 de Julio del año proximo pasado por el prestamo forzoso destinado al pago de los Estados Unidos. Es verdad que la cantidad á que se refiere Voss no le fué dada en efectivo por esta tesorería; pero se le expidieron ordenes para su pago por lo que esta oficina considera que este negocio debe tenerse por terminado, y no puede accederse á su solicitud de devolverle el recibo, pues ademas del trastorno que se sigue naturalmente en la cuenta y razon, hasta cierto punto padecería el credito de la nacion, pues teniendo ya conocimiento el gobierno de los Estados Unidos de estar pagada esta cantidad, si simplemente se devuelve el recibo á Voss aparecerá que el de Mejico aun sin conocimiento del apoderado aseguró estar hecho el pago, lo que no ha sucedido, pues al expedirse aquellas ordenes por convenio tenido con el mismo apoderado, el gobierno cumplió por su parte, si las repetidas ordenes no han tenido cumplimiento por circunstancias que no ha sido posible evitar, puede Don Emilio Voss solicitar que lo tengan por algun otro fonde que el que estaba designado. Asi pensamos nosotros; mas V. E. resolverá lo que estime justo.

MEJICO, *Noviembre 11 de 1845.*

Los ministros de la tesorería general de la nacion certificamos: que la antecedente copia lo es á la letra del informe que dió esta tesorería general al E. S. Ministro de Hacienda sobre el asunto á que se refiere, y cuya copia se espide al interesado en virtud de orden suprema fecha tres del actual.

A. BATRES.

A. M. DE ESNAURRIZAR.

MEJICO, *Diciembre 5 de 1845.*

[No. 756.]

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Mexico, December 27, 1845.

I, the undersigned, consul of the United States of America for the city of Mexico, hereby certify that the signatures of A. Batres and A. M. de Esnaurrizar, subscribed to the preceding certificate, are in the proper handwriting of said persons, respectively, the same as used by them in all their official acts and deeds, who are both well known to me, and were, at the time of subscribing their names, in due exercise of their office as ministers of the general treasury, and that all their official acts are entitled to full faith and credit as such.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the
[L. S.] consular seal, the day and year first above written.

JOHN BLACK, *Consul.*

Register C, folio 171.]

[Translation of No. 5.]

Don Emilio Voss, in this petition, prays that the receipt be returned to him which he gave to this general treasury for the amount of the two drafts which fell due on the 30th of April and the 30th of July of the last year, on the forced loan destined to the payments [of the debt] to the United States.

It is true, that the amount to which Voss refers was not delivered to him in effective funds by this treasury, but orders were issued for the payment; for which reason, this department considers that this business should be held as finished; and it cannot comply with his petition to have the receipt returned to him, since, besides the confusion [*trastorno*] which it would naturally occasion in the account and statement, the credit of the nation would suffer, in a certain degree, as, the government of the United States being already informed that the said amount has been paid, if the receipt be simply returned to Voss it will seem that the government of Mexico, even without the knowledge of the person empowered, gave the assurance that the payment had been made; which has not happened, inasmuch as, on the issue of those orders, by agreement with the said person empowered, the government fulfilled its part. If the repeated orders have not been complied with, in consequence of circumstances which it has not been possible to avoid, Don Emilio Voss may pray that they be given on some other fund than that which was designated. This is the opinion of us all; but your excellency will determine what you may consider just.

MEXICO, *November 11, 1845.*

We, the ministers of the general treasury of the nation, do certify that the preceding copy is literally conformable with the report made by this general treasury to his excellency the minister of finance on the subject to which it refers, and copy of which is delivered to the person interested, in virtue of a supreme order dated the 3d of the present month.

A. BATRES.

A. M. DE ESNAURRIZAR.

MEXICO, *December 5, 1845.*

No. 6.

Mr. Slidell to Mr. Voss.

MEXICO, *December 20, 1845.*

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt, on this day, of your letters of the 17th instant on the subject of your agency in the matter of the two instalments of the Mexican indemnity due in April and July, 1844, together with—1st, the letter of Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co. to you, of same date; 2d, copy of a letter addressed by you, on the 17th October last, to W. S. Parrott, esq.; 3d, certified copy of a communication from the Mexican government, when applied to by you for the return of your receipt for the said instalments.

I have been instructed, formally, to make known to the Mexican gov-

ernment that your powers as agent for the government of the United States have entirely ceased, not only as regards all instalments subsequent to the two above mentioned, but as regards those two likewise, and that you are to be regarded as no longer possessing authority to receive money on account of the United States in any shape. I am further instructed to say to the Mexican government that the mere delivery to you of promises, in the shape of securities which have been dishonored, cannot relieve it from the performance of its treaty obligations. Not having, as yet, been accredited by the Mexican government, I cannot, at present, make the communication required by my instructions. But as Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co. express their willingness to hold at your disposal, or that of any person whom you may name to receive them, the orders received by them on various departments, for the said instalments, I would desire that they should be placed in deposite in safe hands, to be held until the Mexican government shall reclaim them, in conformity with the request that I am instructed to make, when, I presume, as a matter of course, the receipt which you have given will be cancelled or declared of no effect. The act of deposite should, however, reserve to the accredited agent of the United States the right of reclaiming them, should it hereafter be thought expedient, for any reason, so to do. I would suggest that the consul of the United States, in this city, would be a proper person with whom to make this deposite. I shall communicate to Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co. a copy of this letter.

I am, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

JOHN SLIDELL,

Envoy Extraordinary, &c., of the U. S. of America.

EMILIO VOSS, Esq., *Mexico.*

No. 7.

Mr. Slidell to Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co.

MEXICO, December 20, 1845.

GENTLEMEN: I beg leave to communicate to you, herewith, copy of a letter which I have this day addressed to Emilio Voss, esq., on the subject of his agency in the matter of the instalments due in April and July, 1844, of the indemnity stipulated to be paid by the Mexican government to the United States, by the convention of January 30, 1843. I would be obliged to you for a reply acknowledging the receipt of this letter.

I am, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

JOHN SLIDELL,

Envoy Extraordinary, &c. of the United States of America.

MESSRS. TAYLEUR, JAMISON, & Co., *Mexico.*

No. 8.

Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co. to Mr. Slidell.

MEXICO, December 23, 1845.

SIR: We have the honor to acknowledge receipt, to-day, of your letter dated 20th instant, enclosing copy of a communication addressed by you to E. Voss, esq. In reply, we beg to confirm the contents of the letter written by us to that gentleman, the receipt of a copy of which you acknowledge to him in the letter to which you have called our attention.

We have the honor to remain, sir, your most obedient servants,

TAYLEUR, JAMISON, & CO.

JOHN SLIDELL, Esq.,

Envoy Extraordinary, &c. of the United States of America.

No. 9.

Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co. to Mr. Slidell.

MEXICO, December 31, 1845.

SIR: With reference to the conversation of yesterday between yourself and our Mr. Melville, on the subject of the sums due to the American claimants in April and July, 1844, of which we undertook the collection in August of that year, at the solicitation of Mr. E. Voss, then the agent of the United States government, we beg to repeat that nothing whatever has yet been paid to us by the Mexican government on account of those arrears; and, in conformity with the desire expressed by you to Mr. Voss and Mr. Melville, we are prepared to address the Mexican treasury, directing them to hold the several orders which should have been paid to us at the disposal of Mr. Black, the consul of the United States; or, if you prefer it, informing them that, in consequence of the non-compliance of the Mexican government with the conditions agreed to, we consider the transaction as null and void, the government of the United States consequently resuming their right to recover the amount in question from that of this republic; in corroboration of which, we will, at the same time, if approved of by you, communicate to this government a copy of your letter to Mr. Voss of 20th instant.

We have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servants,

TAYLEUR, JAMISON, & CO.

The Hon. JOHN SLIDELL,

Envoy Extraordinary, &c. of the United States of America.

No. 10.

Mr. Slidell to Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co.

MEXICO, December 31, 1845.

GENTLEMEN: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your note of this date.

To enable me to decide upon the course proper to be pursued in relation to the orders given to you, by this government, on account of the instalments of the American indemnity, stipulated to be paid in April and July, 1844, it is necessary that I should be informed of the precise actual situation of those orders, and of the circumstances which have prevented their collection.

This explanation, as I understood from the conversation had with your Mr. Melville yesterday, you were prepared to make, and it will be a necessary preliminary to any further action on my part.

You speak of arrangements between yourselves and Mr. Voss, by which you undertook the collection of these instalments. The nature of that arrangement does not appear from any statement made either by you or Mr. Voss. The proposition made by you, on the 25th August, 1844, to the Mexican government, and accepted by the then Minister of Hacienda, Mr. Trigueros, on the 27th of the same month, of which you have furnished me a copy, seems to me to have formed an unconditional contract, binding upon you, to advance, in specie, on that day, the sum of \$274,664 67 for the payment of the above mentioned instalments. Your proposition, as I understand it, did not contemplate the receipt of any sum by you in cash; and, in addition to the interest of one and a quarter per cent. per month stipulated for your advances, the conversion of \$105,335 33 of old credits of this government, on which a very large profit would have been realized, offered sufficient compensation for the outlay of money, and the risk attending the transaction.

I do not make these observations with the view of entering upon an argument as to the character of your contract of 27th August, 1844, with the Minister of Hacienda, or of the obligations which you may thereby have contracted towards the government of the United States, or its citizens who are interested in the indemnity, but that you may not suppose, from my silence on that point, that I accede to the view which you have taken of it. Neither shall I comment upon the discrepancy between your letter of 17th instant, to Mr. Voss, declaring, in unqualified terms, your readiness to surrender to him the different orders of the Mexican government, therein enumerated, and the suggestions, made in your letter of to-day, until you have given the explanations, respecting the orders, which have been promised to me by Mr. Melville. As I shall leave this city on Saturday morning for Jalapa, I hope that you will not find it inconvenient to let me hear from you before my departure.

I am, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

JOHN SLIDELL.

MESSRS. TAYLEUR, JAMISON, & Co., *Mexico.*

No. 11.

Mr. Slidell to Mr. Voss.

MEXICO, December 31, 1845.

SIR: In your letter of 17th instant you speak of an arrangement made by you, in September, 1844, as agent of the American claimants, with Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co., for the collection of \$274,664 67, due

on the April and July instalments of the indemnity stipulated by the Mexican government. You will find, from the accompanying copy of a letter which I have just received from those gentlemen, that notwithstanding their unqualified promise made to you, on the 17th instant, to hold subject to your disposition the orders of the Mexican government enumerated in their letter of that date, they are not now prepared to do so. As I am desirous to be placed in possession of all the facts connected with the issuing of these orders to Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co., I will be obliged by your furnishing me with a copy of the arrangement to which you allude, if made in writing; and if not, with a detailed statement of the verbal conditions. I would call your attention to the accompanying copy of a proposition made by those gentlemen, on the 25th August, 1844, and accepted by the then Minister of Hacienda, on the 27th of same month, by which they bound themselves to advance, in cash, the sum of \$274,664 67, then due for the above named instalments, on conditions highly onerous to the Mexican government, and advantageous to themselves. As I shall leave this city on Saturday next for Jalapa, I would be pleased to hear from you at your earliest leisure.

I am, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

JOHN SLIDELL.

EMELIO VOSS, Esq., *Mexico.*

No. 12.

[Enclosure in No. 11.]

Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co.'s proposition to the Mexican government.

Propuesta que los que suscriben hacen al supremo gobierno para el pago de los trimestres vencidos y debidos á los Estados Unidos de America.

Se librarán las ordenes siguientes:—

Una orden á la tesorería general para que gire una letra á cargo de la renta del tabaco de \$110,000; que se pagarán en el preciso termino de dos meses y en pagas semanarias:

Otra á la tesorería general para que gire una letra de \$60,000, á cargo de los Señores Manning y Mackintosh sobre las cantidades cobradas del préstamo forzoso:

Otra á la tesorería general para que libre á nuestro favor y sobre los derechos de la conducta que debe salir de esta capital para la de Vera Cruz el 1º de Enero venidero la cantidad de \$50,000:

Otra á la tesorería general para que las libranzas giradas de Mazatlan por la parte libre de los derechos al supremo gobierno sean á nuestro cargo ó á cargo de los Señores T. de la Torre Yecker y Ca. nos sean entregadas hasta la cantidad de \$160,000:

Otra á la tesorería general para que reciba de los SS. Tayleur, Jamison, y Ca. la cantidad de \$274,664 67 en dinero efectivo, y \$105,335 33 en credits anteriores ó posteriores á la independendencia que causen réditos y por cuya entrega se los conceda el plazo de 6 meses, ademas se les bonificará á los mismos SS. Tayleur, Jamison, y Ca. un premio de uno y cuarto por ciento al mes por sus adelantos.

El E. S. Ministro de Hacienda, á nombre de S. E. el Presidente de la republica, empeña su palabra á los SS. Tayleur, Jamison, y Ca. como subditos Ingleses, de que por ninguna causa ni motivo se suspenderán los abonos espresados en esta propuesta hasta estar cubierto el total de la deuda, y de no verificarse así se indemnizará á los repetidos señores por la hacienda publica de todos los daños y perjuicios.

TAYLEUR, JAMISON, y CA.

MEJICO, Agosto 25 de 1844.

Examinada esta propuesta por el E. S. Presidente, se sirvió aprobarla en todas sus partes, disponiendo se libren las ordenes de conformidad inmediatamente, por ser para el pago de los trimestres vencidos de la convencion con los E. U. de A.

AGOSTO 27, 1844. [Rubrica de Sr. Trigueros.]

[Translation of No. 12.]

Proposition which the undersigned make to the supreme government for the payment of the quarterly instalments due and payable to the United States of America :

The following orders are to be delivered : An order to the general treasury to issue a draft (requisition) on the revenue from tobacco for \$110,000, to be paid punctually in the term of two months, and in weekly payments.

Another to the general treasury to issue a draft for \$60,000 on Messrs. Manning & Mackintosh, out of the amounts collected by the forced loan.

Another to the general treasury, in our favor, on the duties on the *conducta*, which is to leave this capital for Vera Cruz on the 1st of January, to the amount of \$50,000.

Another to the general treasury, that the drafts issued from Mazatlan for the portion free from duties to the supreme government, whether drawn on us or on Messrs. De la Torre, Yecker, & Co., shall be delivered to us, to the amount of \$160,000.

Another to the general treasury, to receive from Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co. the amount of \$274,664 67, in effective money, and \$105,335 33 in funds, anterior or posterior to the independence, which yield dividends ; and for the delivery of which the term of six months is allowed them. Besides which, a premium of $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. per month is to be allowed to Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co. for their advances.

His excellency the minister of finance, in the name of his excellency the President of the republic, pledges his word to Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co., as British subjects, that for no cause or motive, whatsoever, the payments set forth in the above proposition shall be suspended until the entire discharge of the debt be effected ; and if it should not be thus effected, that the treasury of the nation shall indemnify them for their losses and injuries.

TAYLEUR, JAMISON, & CO.

MEXICO, August 25, 1844.

This proposition having been examined by his excellency the Presi-

dent, he was pleased to approve it entirely—directing that the orders be immediately given conformably therewith, as being for the payment of the instalments due, quarterly, under the convention with the United States.

[Rubric of]

TRIGUEROS.

AUGUST 27, 1844.

No. 13.

Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co. to Mr. Slidell.

MEXICO, January 2, 1846.

SIR: We have received, this morning, your letter of 31st ultimo, to which we lose no time in replying.

You state that your observations respecting our arrangements with Mr. Voss are not made with a view of entering upon an argument as to the character of our contract of 27th August, 1844, with the Minister of Hacienda, or of the obligations which we may have thereby contracted towards the government of the United States or its citizens; and therefore, though fully prepared to repel any charge of responsibility arising from that transaction, we consider it unnecessary to advert further to those observations.

The discrepancy which you suppose to exist between our letters of 17th ultimo to Mr. Voss, and 31st ultimo to you, is easily explained. In the former, we tell Mr. Voss that we hold at his disposal the several orders for \$274,664 67, and in the latter we offer to your selection the transfer of those orders, by a communication from us to the treasury, to the hands of Mr. Black, or a notification by us to this government that, in consequence of their dishonor, we regard the transaction as void. We were induced to make the last proposal in consequence of our Mr. Melville having understood, in his conversation with you, that this course might possibly be the most agreeable to you.

The order for \$160,000, standing first in our letter to Mr. Voss, is lodged in the treasury here, in conformity with the usual practice to authorize the receipt by us of the bills for that amount, which *should have been* remitted from Mazatlan according to agreement, but which have not been received.

The order for \$60,000 on Manning & Mackintosh was returned by them unpaid, and has since unfortunately been mislaid; but, as you will perceive from the enclosed copy of a letter from them, dated 23d ultimo, the proof of non-payment is easily established.

The supreme order for \$50,000, arising from specie duties, exists in the treasury; but, as before mentioned, without effect, in consequence of later counter-orders from the government; and the order against the tobacco revenue for \$4,664 67 is in the same situation. None of these facts will be denied by the government; and we propose, should you decide on having the deposit made with Mr. Black, to address a communication to the minister, requesting him to consider the consul of the United States as the party to whom the several sums are to be paid—an arrangement

which you will find to be quite consistent with the contents of our letter of 17th ultimo to Mr. Voss.

We have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servants,
TAYLEUR, JAMISON, & CO.

The Hon. JOHN SLIDELL,
*Envoy Extraordinary and Minister
Plenipotentiary of the United States of America.*

[Enclosure in No. 13.]

CASA DE VDS., 23 de Diciembre de 1845.

MUY SEÑORES NUESTROS Y AMIGOS: En contestacion á su estimada de hoy, los advertimos que la orden por 60,000 pesos girada, por los señores ministros de la tesorería general, á nuestro cargo, y á favor de Don Emilio Voss, á buena cuenta del producto de los prestamos forzosos, ha sido devuelta por nosotros al mismo Sñr Voss, por no haber habido asignacion alguna del gobierno para su pago.

Saludan á Vds., con fino aprecio, sus mas atentos servidores, Q. B. S. M.,
MANNING & MACKINTOSH.

Señores TAYLEUR, JAMISON, y Ca., *Mexico.*

[Translation.]

AT YOUR HOUSE, December 23, 1845.

GENTLEMEN AND OUR GOOD FRIENDS: In answer to your esteemed communication of this day, we inform you that the order for \$60,000, drawn by the ministers of the general treasury upon us, and in favor of Don Emilio Voss, on account of the produce of the forced loan, has been returned by us to the said Mr. Voss, because there was no appropriation whatsoever on the part of the government for its payment.

Your most obedient, &c.,

MANNING & MACKINTOSH.

To MESSRS. TAYLEUR, JAMISON, & Co., of *Mexico.*

No. 14.

Mr. Black to the Minister of Foreign Relations.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Mexico, September 1, 1845.

The undersigned, consul of the United States of America, has the honor to transcribe herewith to his Excellency Manuel de la Peña y Peña, Minister of Foreign Relations and Government of the Mexican Republic, a communication dated the 29th ultimo, addressed to this consulate by William S. Parrott, esq., as follows:

"Having been requested by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States to furnish him with such information as I could obtain respecting the payments of Mexican indemnity corresponding to the quarters ending with the months of April and July, 1844, made by the government of Mexico to the agent of the government of the United States, and not doubting that the government of Mexico holds full acquittances for the said instalments, I have to request of you to solicit and obtain from the government of Mexico an attested copy of the receipt given by the said agent of the government of the United States, in discharge of the instalments aforesaid; he, the agent aforesaid, having failed to remit to the treasury of the United States the proceeds of the instalments in question."

The undersigned, in view of what is set forth in the preceding transcript, most respectfully requests that his excellency would be pleased, at as early an opportunity as convenient, to have transmitted to this consulate an authenticated copy of the receipt therein referred to, in order that the proper department of the Government of the undersigned may be made duly acquainted with the unequivocal facts in relation to the payments of the aforesaid instalments.

The undersigned avails himself of the occasion to present to his Excellency Manuel de la Peña y Peña, Minister of Foreign Relations and Government of the Mexican Republic, the assurance of his distinguished consideration and personal regard.

JOHN BLACK.

HIS EXCEL'Y MANUEL DE LA PEÑA Y PEÑA,

Minister of Foreign Relations and

Government of the Mexican Republic.

No. 15.

Mr. Black to Mr. Slidell.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Mexico, December 20, 1845.

SIR: At your request, I have the honor to communicate to you what passed between our late minister, the Hon. Wilson Shannon, and myself, in a conversation which took place in April last, in relation to the two instalments of Mexican indemnity due in the months of April and July of 1844, as follows:

On or about the month of April last I received a letter from a Mr. Saulnier, of Vera Cruz, written at the instigation of some of the claimants in the United States, requesting me to obtain from the proper authority in Mexico a certificate showing that the two instalments of Mexican indemnity, due in April and July of 1844, had been paid to the agent of the United States. This letter I showed to Mr. Shannon, at that time United States envoy, &c. near the Mexican government, and requested him to give me some information relating to these payments, in order that I might be able to give a proper answer to said letter. He then informed me "that the agent, Mr. Voss, had received bills from the Mexican government to a certain amount, and that these bills were received only conditionally,

and as security, and not to be considered as payment until the payment thereof should be verified; and he further said that, as yet, these bills were not paid, and it was not likely they would be paid very soon."

The foregoing is the information I received from Mr. Shannon at the time, which I see by my answer to Mr. Saulnier, dated April 17th, of the present year, which answer was built on what was told me by Mr. Shannon.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

JOHN BLACK.

To the Hon. JOHN SLIDELL,

Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America, Mexico.

No. 16.

Mr. Black to Mr. Slidell.

[Extract.]

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Mexico, December 29, 1845.

You will also be pleased to find a copy of a communication addressed by this consulate to the aforesaid minister, under date of the 20th instant, in relation to the two instalments of Mexican indemnity which became due in April and July of 1844. No answer, as yet, has been given to said communication, nor any acknowledgment of its receipt.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

JOHN BLACK.

To the Hon. JOHN SLIDELL,

Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America, Mexico.

No. 17.

[Enclosure in No. 16]

Mr. Black to the Minister of Foreign Relations.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Mexico, December 20, 1845.

The undersigned, consul of the United States of America, had the honor of addressing the Mexican government on the 1st of September last, in relation to the indemnity stipulated by the convention of January 30th, 1843, entered into between the United States of America and the Mexican republic.

And whereas no answer has been given to, nor notice taken of said note, by the Mexican government, the undersigned, at the request of certain citizens of the United States interested in the aforesaid indemnity, is under the necessity of again calling the attention of the Mexican government to this disagreeable affair, and, in their behalf, does hereby most re-

spectfully request of the Mexican government that it would be pleased to furnish the undersigned with the necessary information in relation to the alleged payments of the instalments due in April and July of 1844. That inasmuch as there appears to exist some misunderstanding in relation to said payments, he is desirous to be in possession of the facts in relation thereto; and especially, if such payments have been made, to whom, when, and in what manner they were made, in order that the persons interested may, without any further unnecessary delay, be made acquainted with all the facts in relation to the aforesaid instalments.

The undersigned avails himself of the occasion to renew to his excellency Manuel de la Peña y Peña, Minister of Foreign Relations, &c., the assurance of his distinguished consideration.

JOHN BLACK.

To his Excellency MANUEL DE LA PEÑA Y PEÑA,
Minister of Foreign Relations and Government
of the Mexican Republic.

No. 18.

Mr. Slidell to Mr. Black.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Mexico, January 6, 1846.

SIR: I have been instructed to make known, formally, to the government of Mexico, that the powers of Emilio Voss, esq., to receive, as the agent of the United States of America, the instalments of indemnity stipulated by the convention of 30th January, 1843, have entirely ceased, not only as regards all instalments due subsequently to the 30th April and 30th July, 1844, but as regards those two likewise, and that he is to be regarded as no longer possessing authority to receive moneys on account of the indemnity, nor on account of the United States in any shape.

As the Mexican government has refused to accredit me in my capacity of envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States, I cannot make the required communication. I have, therefore, to request that you, in the absence of any accredited diplomatic agent of the United States, will, in your official character, give the notice which I was instructed to give.

From the statements of Mr. Voss it would appear that, although he has never received any portion of the sum due by the Mexican government for the instalments of April and July, 1844, he has given a general receipt for the full amount, in exchange for certain securities placed in his hands. It is not to be supposed that Mexico will contend that the mere delivery to Mr. Voss of promises in the shape of securities which have been dishonored can have relieved her from the performance of her treaty obligations. From the position, therefore, in which the Mexican government finds itself placed by this transaction, together with the notification which you are requested to make, it will, if Mr. Voss's statement be correct, see the necessity of recovering possession of the unavailable securities given to him.

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

JOHN SLIDELL.

JOHN BLACK, Esq.,
Consul of the United States, Mexico.

No. 19.

Mr. Voss to Mr. Slidell.

MEXICO, January 6, 1846.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters of 20th and 31st ultimo. In the first you inform me that my powers as agent for the government of the United States have entirely ceased, not only as regards all instalments of the Mexican indemnity subsequent to those due in April and July, 1844, but as respects those two likewise. While expressing my entire acquiescence in this arrangement, I may be allowed to say, that after the exertions made by me to protect the interests confided to my care by the government of the United States, under circumstances of great difficulty, it would have been extremely gratifying to me, on this termination of my powers, to have received such an expression of their approbation of my past services as I consider myself in justice entitled to.

The letter which I now enclose, from Mr. T. Ducoing, (a highly respectable citizen of the United States,) confirms my statement of the conversation between Mr. Shannon and myself, respecting my arrangement with Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co. In conformity with your desire, I have requested those gentlemen to place the whole of the orders applicable to the payment of the arrears of the American claims due in April and July, 1844, at the disposal of Mr. Black, the American consul in this city. In your second letter you accompany copy of one from Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co., and call my attention to the apparent discrepancy between its contents and their unqualified offer to me on the 17th ultimo. My knowledge of the details of government transactions here, induces me to regard this difference as immaterial. The supreme orders for the payment of the several sums to Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co. exist in the treasury, and a communication from them to the Minister of Hacienda will transfer the right of recovery effectually to Mr. Black.

My arrangement with Tayleur, Jamison, & Co. was verbal. They were to receive immediately from the government \$110,000, viz: \$60,000 from Manning & Mackintosh, and \$50,000 from specie duties, which their own house would have liquidated. On this condition, they agreed to advance the amount required to complete the two instalments, and the American claimants would then have been placed at once in possession of their funds; but the government having immediately given counter orders, Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co. refused to make any advances, considering themselves bound to do so only in the event of the government fulfilling the primary conditions of its agreement with them. At the time, no doubt whatever was entertained that the agreement would be faithfully and fully complied with on all sides, in which case the claimants would no doubt have given me the highest credit for the measure; and though the result has not corresponded to my expectations, I feel satisfied that investigation will convince them, both of the purity of my intentions, and that their situation has been in no way prejudiced by my efforts on their behalf.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

EMILIO VOSS.

You having called my attention to the fact that Messrs. Manning & Mackintosh, in their letter of 23d ult. to Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co., mention that they returned the order of \$60,000 on their house, to me, I have the honor to state that said order was handed by me to Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co.

HON. JOHN SLIDELL,

Envoy Extraordinary, &c. of the United States of America.

No. 20.

[Enclosure in No. 19.]

Mr. Ducoing to Mr. Voss.

MEXICO, December 22, 1845.

DEAR SIR: Having been requested by you to state what passed in my presence between the minister of the United States of America (Mr. Shannon) and yourself, with respect to the two instalments due to the American claimants in April and July, 1844, I have merely to say that, on the occasion referred to, in September of that year, you stated to Mr. Shannon the very great obstacle then existing to the recovery of these instalments under the terms of the convention, and mentioned to him a plan by which the collection would be effected through an English house here, (Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co.,) and in my hearing Mr. Shannon fully concurred in, and approved of that plan.

Your friend and servant,

THEODORE DUCOING.

Mr. E. Voss, *Mexico.*

No. 21.

Mr. Slidell to Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co.

MEXICO, January 8, 1846.

GENTLEMEN: I should sooner have acknowledged the receipt of your letter of 2d instant, had I been in possession of the explanation which I had requested from Mr. Voss, respecting his arrangements with you for the collection of the instalments of indemnity due by the Mexican government to the American claimants on 30th April and 30th July, 1844. I have now received that statement from him.

Having called Mr. Voss's attention to the letter of Messrs. Manning & Mackintosh to you of 23d ultimo, by which it appears that the order on them for \$60,000 had been returned to him, he informs me that this order had been by him subsequently handed to you. As I am desirous of presenting to my government a full statement of the facts connected with this business, and as your letter of 2d instant, coupled with that of Messrs. Manning & Mackintosh, would seem to indicate that the order for \$60,000

had been mislaid while in possession of Mr. Voss, I would be pleased to have from you a confirmation of his explanation. Intending to proceed to Jalapa so soon as I can be furnished with an escort, I hope that you will excuse me for soliciting as early a reply as may be consistent with your convenience.

I am, very respectfully, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,
JOHN S. IDELL.

MESSRS. TAYLEUR, JAMISON, & Co., Mexico.

No. 22.

Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co. to Mr. Slidell.

MEXICO, January 9, 1846.

SIR: In reply to your letter of yesterday, inquiring whether the order for \$60,000 on Manning & Mackintosh, referred to in our previous letters on the subject of our arrangement with Mr. Voss, had been mislaid while in his possession, we beg to say that the order was in the first instance returned to him by those gentlemen, and, though afterwards in our possession, it was subsequently, on various occasions, in his; consequently, we are quite at a loss to say by whom it was ultimately mislaid. At the same time, we entertain no doubt that as soon as the existing government here has arranged the public offices, a duplicate of the order will be easily obtained, by which this question will be set at rest.

We have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servants,
TAYLEUR, JAMISON, & CO.

The Hon. JOHN S. IDELL,
Envoy Extraordinary, &c. &c. &c.

No. 23.

Mr. Slidell to Mr. Voss.

MEXICO, January 9, 1846.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant. I consider my agency in relation to the instalments of April and July, 1844, as limited to the ascertaining the facts connected with the alleged payment, and the revocation of your powers to receive moneys on account of those or any future instalments; I therefore do not feel myself called upon to respond to your suggestion, that you are entitled to receive an expression of the approbation of the government of the United States for your past services, or to express any opinion as to the propriety of the course pursued by you.

I have, through the consul of the United States, Mr. Black, given notice to the government of Mexico of the revocation of your powers to receive any moneys on account of the United States. In the absence of a statement from the officers of the Mexican treasury of all the facts of

the case, I am not prepared to take the steps suggested by you and Messrs. Tayleur, Jamison, & Co. I am not willing, until further advised, to do anything which may impair the unqualified obligation which I think those gentlemen contracted to advance, on the 27th of August, 1844, in cash, the sum of \$274,664 67; and I cannot but express my surprise that you should not have insisted, at the time, upon its immediate performance.

I am, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

JOHN SLIDELL.

To EMILIO VOSS, Esq., *Mexico.*

No. 24.

Mr. Black to Mr. Slidell.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Mexico, January 9, 1846.

SIR: Your communication of the 6th instant, relating to the cessation of the powers of Emilio Voss, Esq., as agent of the United States of America, to receive the instalments of indemnity stipulated by the convention of January 30, 1843, has been received; and, in compliance with your request, I have addressed a note, under date of the 7th instant, to his excellency the minister of foreign relations, &c. of the Mexican republic, transmitting therewith a copy of your aforesaid communication, thereby duly notifying the Mexican government on the subject, as required by you in said communication.

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

JOHN BLACK.

To the Hon. JOHN SLIDELL,

Envoy Extraordinary, &c. &c. &c.

P. S.—You will also be pleased to find enclosed, herewith, a copy of my aforesaid note of the 7th inst. to the minister of foreign relations, &c.

JOHN BLACK.

No. 25.

[Enclosure in No. 24.]

Mr. Black to the Minister of Foreign Relations.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Mexico, January 7, 1846.

The undersigned, consul of the United States of America, has the honor to transmit, herewith, to his excellency the minister of foreign relations, &c. of the Mexican republic, a copy of a communication addressed to this consulate by the Hon. John Slidell, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States of America, under date of the 6th

instant, relating to the cessation of the powers of Emilio Voss, esq., as agent of the said United States, to receive the instalments of indemnity stipulated by the convention of January, 1843, &c., as will more fully appear by reference to the aforesaid accompanying document. This communication will be considered as the required notification.

The undersigned avails himself of the occasion to renew to his excellency the minister of foreign relations, &c. of the Mexican republic, the assurance of his distinguished consideration.

JOHN BLACK.

To his Excel'y the MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, &c.
of the Mexican Republic.

Mr. Black to Mr. Shidell.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Mexico, January 9, 1848.

Sir: Your communication of the 6th instant, relating to the cessation of the powers of Emilio Voss, Esq., as agent of the United States of America, to receive the instalments of indemnity stipulated by the convention of January 30, 1843, has been received; and in compliance with your request, I have addressed a note, under date of the 7th instant, to his excellency the minister of foreign relations, &c. of the Mexican republic, transmitting therewith a copy of your aforesaid communication, thereby duly notifying the Mexican government on the subject as required by you in said communication.

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

JOHN BLACK.

To the Hon. John Shidell, Esq. Extraordinary, &c. &c.

P. S.—You will also be pleased to find enclosed, herewith, a copy of my aforesaid note of the 7th inst. to the minister of foreign relations, &c.

JOHN BLACK.

No. 25.

[Enclosure in No. 24.]

Mr. Black to the Minister of Foreign Relations.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Mexico, January 7, 1848.

The undersigned, consul of the United States of America, has the honor to transmit herewith, to his excellency the minister of foreign relations, &c. of the Mexican republic, a copy of a communication addressed to this consulate by the Hon. John Shidell, Esq. Extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States of America, under date of the 6th