

Andrew Jackson Donelson to Andrew Jackson, May 24, 1845, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>ANDREW J. DONELSON TO JACKSON.

New Orleans, May 24, 1845.

My Dear Uncle, I have just reached this place from Majr. Butlers, where I had gone, to learn particularly the state of your health. Nothing can so much afflict me as the fear that I may not find you alive when I return from Texas. I pray however that it may be otherwise, and that you may yet live to see the great question of annexation settled according to your wishes.

Whilst at Mr. Butlers I received intelligence that the British Minister to Texas, 1 had gone secretly to Mexico, to arrange a proposition from that Government intended to defeat the acceptance by Texas of our joint Resolution. A similar object has doubtless led to the mission of Smith to England at this crisis. 2 These intrigues have however, not deceived me. Mr. Buchanan was informed of them some weeks ago, but I did not suppose that the British Minister would depart clandestinely for Mexico, and thus subject his Government to the gross imputation of dictating terms to Mexico, as well as Texas. He told me he was coming to the United States: and he told many of the citizens of Texas the same thing. This in reality was the cause of my coming here, not that it was material for me to know whether he told the truth, but that I might be in a situation to learn what was passing in Mexico in consequence of his despatches to Mr. Bankhead. 3

1 Captain Elliot.

Library of Congress

2 Ashbel Smith had resigned the secretaryship of state in Texas to go on this mission.

3 Charles Bankhead, British minister of Mexico.

It is seldom we hear directly from Mexico at Galveston, and often our letters to the latter place from the United States are delayed from the want of regular communication. All however, is now told. We have at last the fullest proof of the direct interference of the British Governmt with the annexation question. Lord Aberdeens disclaim, Mr. Packenhams, and Mr. Elliotts, only showd the absence of fair dealing, and that disguise was only assumed to give the greater force to their machinations against both Texas and the United States. But Texas will be true to herself, she will scorn British *dictation* , and rally around “the star spangled banner” with as much alacrity as our own citizens.

Genl. Houston is expected here this evening, but he may postpone his visit in consequence of the recent intelligence from Mexico. By the return of the vessel in which he was to come I must go back to wait until the vote is taken on the question of annexation. I never took a trip so reluctantly, because it takes me so far from you and my family, at a time when my private business suffers so much from my absence, but chiefly because it throws a greater shade upon the hope of again seeing you.

I pray you to accept all that I can offer you, my prayers, for your prolonged life, and the assurance that the public duties enjoined upon me at this critical time will not be neglected.

With an affectionate remembrance of Andrew, Sarah, Mr. Adams, and all their children, I remain Yr. affectionate nephew