

Arnold

NEW ORLEANS
MAY 26
1836

Mr. Cornelius Wright
Sag Harbor
Long Island
N.Y.

to be
in the
month.

John A. Wright
May 1836

Quintana Roo
The Yucatan. May 15 1856

My Dear Uncle.

I presume that you have been looking for some time past for letters from me but owing to our disturbances there has been but little communication with any part of the U.S. An opportunity now offers and a business man and I hasten to embrace it. you of course are acquainted with our affairs generally as I perceive that the New York papers has plenty of Texas news but I will give you a more particular description and a little more accurate I will commence with the fall of the City of Mexico and follow it up to the present date. The Thermopylae of Texas was taken in the latter part of February after a siege of three weeks by the forces of St. Anna with an Army of 6000 Men. History does not record so gallant a resistance and so tragic an end. Not one of the defenders escaped to tell the dreadful tale. A Negro Man and wife were the sole survivors. 182 Men fell gloriously fighting for liberty but they exterminated the cruelty of the Savage for 521 were left on the field and 1000 wounded most of them mortally, after burning the bodies St. Anna marched his forces to Saltillo a strong fortress on the Rio Antonio. Wm. and wife Mamma. And commanded by Col. Haring he was ^{by Genl. Houston} ordered to evacuate the place and retreat to the Colorado. to join the main Army. his force consisted of 1800 Men. their retreat was cut off and they were surrounded by 2000 of the Enemy. who commenced an attack and after a well fought action of five hours. they handed off leaving 1000 Men dead on the field and 600 horses. They ordered reinforcements of 900 Men and camped on the field that night we had 9 Men killed and 20 Wounded and consequently we obliged to remain there that night in the morning we were completely surrounded ^{by them} and not one drop of water. proposals were made to them and articles of treaty entered into. and we surrendered as

as honorable prisoners of war on private property to be-
respected and to be sent to the United States our Army has
marched back to the fort and detained five days
when all were ordered out to march for the bay of
Copano and on the way the principal part of the
mainly Mapache. Not more than 20 escaped to tell
the horrid tale. It would seem natural to think that St
Anna's vengeance was nearly glutted by this time but he
took up the line of march for the Bay of Matamoros
and a total extermination of men women
and children our Army retreated towards the Trinity
St Anna following in hot-pursuit and the whole country
west of the Bay completely depopulated. On the 21st
St Anna's Army took a sudden determination to check
him in his mad career the two armies encamped 12
miles apart. St Anna commenced fortifying and
raising up entrenchments and making his position
strong as possible our Army attacked ~~him on the 21st~~
of the 21st of April at 4 P.M. with 500 men and in
19 minutes completely routed his whole line and in
one hour and 20 minutes gained one of the most
complete victories that was ever fought killing 500
and taking 800 prisoners. With St Anna at their head
and 42 officers ^{many of them} of rank. They had 38 officers killed
two of them Generals - one lost is killed and 15 wounded
St Anna is very anxious about his fate he is perfectly
willing to acknowledge our Independence cede us
territory to the east Bank of the Rio Grande and pay
the expense of the war if the Congress of Mexico will
ratify it I think he will escape with his head.
belong to the Guard Stations about his person and
have frequent opportunities of seeing him from his
appearance I should not think him a very smart
man he is six feet in height and well made
and rather prepossessing - but he has caused us
an immensity of trouble and made hundreds of poor

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men on crops are all cut off No cotton will be made this
year the Fairness are returning to their homes. And are under
mourning to make bread Many of the Merchants are
completely ruined. And are Bankrupt for thousands
but in him this consolation we have the finest country
on earth and our Land will soon be valuable. I do
not believe there ever was so great a large a field for
speculation as there is in Texas at this time. And
it is probably for grain. Corn has lost several hundred
cents but I am in hopes that I shall recover it for him.
It was done by the order of Government. I have presented
the claim and think it will be allowed. He will not
do for this country he is so completely unqualified for
business of any kind and so negligent in his disposition
that nothing can be done with him according to your
request. I have done all that was in my power to
and and shall continue to do so until he makes
up his mind then I shall advise him to return home
and leave the country at present and as well as
head from him.

I remain truly yours
Jno S. Wright

Quintanna Mouth of
The Brazos, May 15, 1836

My Dear Uncle,

I presume that you have been looking for some time past for letters from me but owing to our disturbances there has been but little communication with any parts of the U.S. An opportunity now offers and a leisure hour and I hasten to embrace it. You of course are acquainted with our affairs generally as I perceive that the New York papers has plenty of Texas news but I will give you a more particular description and a little more accurate. I will commence with the Fate of the Fortress of Bexhar and follow it up to the present date. The Thermopylae of Texas was taken in the latter part of February after a siege of their works by the forces of St. Anna with an army of 6,000 men. History does not record so gallant a resistance and so tragic an end. Not one of the defenders escaped to tell the dreadful tale. A negro man and wife were the sole survivors. 182 men fell gloriously fighting for liberty but they exterminated hundreds of the savage foe. 521 were left on the field and 1000 wounded most of them mortally. After burning the bodies St. Anna marched his forces to La Bahia a strong fortress on the San Antonio River and well manned and commanded by Col. Fanning [sic - Fannin] - he was ordered by General Houston to evacuate the place and retreat to the Colorado to join the Main Army. his force consisted of 487 men. their retreat was cut off and they were surrounded by 2000 of the Enemy who commenced an attack and after a well-fought action of five hours they held off - leaving 1000 men dead on the field and 600 horses. they ordered reinforcements of 900 men and camped on the field that night. he had 7 men killed and 40 wounded and consequently was obliged to remain there that night. in the morning he was completely surrounded by them and not one drop of water. proposals was made to them and articles of treaty entered into and he surrendered as honourable prisoners of war our private property to be respected and we were to be sent to the United States. Our army was marched back to the fort and detained five days when all were ordered out to march for the bay of Copona [sic - Copano Bay]. And on the way the principal part was inhumanely massacred. Not more than 20 escaped to tell the horrid tale. It would seem natural to think that St. Anna's vengeance was nearly glutted by this time but he took up the line of march for the Brazos swearing vengeance and a total extermination of men women and children. Our army retreated towards the Trinity. St. Anna following the hot pursuit and the whole country west of the Brazos completely depopulated. On the San Jacinto our army took a stand determined to check him in his mad course. thus the army encamped 12 miles apart. St. Anna

commenced fortifying and heaving up entrenchments and making his position as strong as possible. Our army attacked him ["with 1,500 men" crossed out] on the eve of the 21st of April at 4PM with 650 men and in 19 minutes completely routed his whole lines and in one hour and 20 minutes gained one of the most complete victories that was ever fought killing 690 and taking 800 prisoners. With St. Anna at their head and 42 officers many of them of rank. they had 38 officers killed, two of them Generals. Our loss is 7 killed and 15 wounded. St. Anna is very anxious about his fate. he is perfectly willing to acknowledge our independence, cede us territory to the west Bank of the Rio Grande and pay the expense of the war if the congress of Mexico will ratify it. I think he will escape with his head. I belong to the Guards stationed about his prison and have frequent opportunities of seeing him. from his appearance I should not think him a very smart man. he is six feet in height and well made and rather prepossessing but he has caused us an immensity of trouble and made hundreds of poor men. Our crops are all cut off. No cotton will be made this year. the Farmers are returning to their homes and are endeavoring to make bread. Many of the merchants are completely ruined and are Bankrupts [sic] for thousands but we have this consolation we have the finest country on Earth and our lands will soon be valuable. I do not believe there ever was so ["great" crossed out] large a field for speculation as there is in Texas at this time and will be probably for years. Cous. has lost several hundred Dols but I am in hopes that I shall recover it for him. It was done by the orders of Government. I have presented the claim and think it will be allowed. He will not do for this country. he so completely unqualified for business of any kind and so wayward in his disposition that nothing can be done with him according to your request. I have done all that was in my power to and shall continue to do so until he makes up his loss. then I shall advise him to return home [missing] up the country at present once was well [missing] from him.

I remain truly yours

Jno L. Sleight