

Chambliss

Washington City

12th February 1838

My Dear General,

Since my communication of the
instant to the Secretary of State, I have no
additional information of a satisfactory character
to communicate:—indeed, I have been requested
not to raise the hopes of my Government too much,
and this intimation was from Mr. Calhoun.
Subsequently, I have had a most intimate friend
of the Executive to say to me, that in the course
of two or three years, Texas would be in a better
condition without annexation than with it. I
consider this an ominous remark, coming from the
quarter it did. The intimations thrown out to
me about ten days since, which I have com-
municated in my two last despatches to the
Secretary of State may have been made with
the view of causing me to decline at the present
time my request for a recall, and thereby
cause more time within which to determine the
final course of the Executive on the question of
annexation. Be that as it may, I feel convinced
that unless this Government acts within a very
short time, our Commissioners to Great Britain
will have succeeded in making a treaty with
that Government, and increased delicacy and
embarrassment will be the result thereafter in
any action, which this Government may be disposed
to have on the subject of my extraordinary mission.
I therefore particularly request that your

Sam. Houston, President of the Republic of Texas.

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting

Know ye, That for the purpose of confirming between the Republic of Texas and the Government of the United States, ^{of advice} perfect harmony and good correspondence, and of removing all grounds of dissatisfaction, and of reposing especial trust and confidence in the integrity, prudence and ability of General Menuean Hurt, appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, of the Republic of Texas near the said Government of the United States, I have invested him with full and all manner of power and authority, for and in the name of the Republic of Texas to meet and confer with any person or persons duly authorized by the said Government of the United States, being furnished with like power and authority, and with him or them to agree, treat, consult and negotiate of and concerning Amity, Commerce, Navigation, Annexation and similar subjects connected therewith and to conclude and make a treaty or treaties, convention or conventions, touching the premises, transmitting the same to the President of the Republic of Texas for his final ratification by and with the advice and consent of the Senate of the Republic of Texas.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the seal of the Republic of Texas to be hereunto affixed. Given under my hand at the City of Houston the day of _____ and of the Independence of the Republic of Texas the

Executive, cause the Secretary of State to forward me a recall as early as practicable, with the discretionary power of leaving here or not immediately after its receipt, as may be most judicious in advancing the interests of the annexing question. I believe that I could cause more action and a fuller development by this Government on the question in three days with the possession of a recall than I have a hope of doing in as many months without it, and even if I were allowed to depart and no action is had upon the question at the time of my application for passports, I believe that the circumstance of my departure will produce an exhibit of feeling in the Southern States demanding it; whereas if I remain here and the treaty or a treaty with Great Britain or ~~and~~ France should be made, it will be impossible to create a similar sensation. The ground which will be taken, if I leave here is, that after making an appropriate proposition for the connexion of the two countries, I have been coldly repulsed to and driven as it were from the further prosecution of the ardent desire of my Government &c &c.

In the step I propose to take, I see much to be gained and nothing to lose. I hope you may view it in the same light. I have no doubt in my own mind that it is the most judicious diplomatic move I can make to accomplish the great object.

I herewith send to you a copy of a

Since writing this letter Dr. Smith has arrived in good health. N.Y.