

TROUBLES ON TEXAS FRONTIER.

---

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

COMMUNICATING,

*In compliance with a resolution of the House, information in relation to the troubles on the Texas frontier.*

---

MAY 5, 1860.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

---

WAR DEPARTMENT, *May 3, 1860.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the papers called for by the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 26th ultimo, by which the Secretary of War is requested "to communicate to the House all documents received in his office in relation to the troubles on the Texas frontier, since his last communication to the House on this subject."

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*

Hon. WILLIAM PENNINGTON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

---

*List of papers relating to disturbances on the Texas frontier, accompanying letter from Secretary of War of May 29, 1860:*

1. Major Heintzelman to Colonel Lee, March 1, 1860.
2. Colonel Lee to the Adjutant General, March 15, 1860.
  - a. From Major Van Dorn, March 8.
3. Major Heintzelman to Colonel Lee, March 18, 1860.
  - a. From Captains Stoneman and Ford, March 18.
  - b. Reply, March 19.
4. Colonel Lee to the Adjutant General, March 20, 1860.
5. Major Heintzelman to same, March 25, 1860.
6. Same to Colonel Lee, March 25, 1860.

7. Colonel Lee to the Adjutant General, April 11, 1860.
  - a. To Governor Trevino, April 2.
  - b. To Mr. Zepeda, April 7.
  - c. From same, April 8.
  - d. To same, April 9.
  - e. To Captain Brackett, April 9.
  - f. From Mr. McKnight, April 11.
  - g. To same, April 11.
8. Governor Houston to Mr. Floyd, April 14, 1860.
  - a. Captain Ford to Major Heintzelman, February 4.
  - b. Reply, same date.
  - c. Captain Ford to Major Heintzelman, February 6.
  - d. To Mr. Angeielis, February 9.
  - e. From Major Tobin, March 24.
9. Colonel Lee to the Adjutant General, April 17, 1860.
  - a. From Mr. Zepeda, April 10.
  - b. Translation of the above.
  - c. To General Garcia, April 12.
  - d. From same, April 14.
  - e. Translation of the above.
10. Mr. Hemphill to Mr. Floyd, April 26, 1860.
  - a. From Mr. Cave, April 13.

---

1. *Major Heintzelman to Colonel Lee.*

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,  
*Fort Brown, Texas, March 1, 1860.*

SIR: In compliance with the instructions contained in your letter of January 7, 1860, I have the honor to make the following report:

In compliance with Special Order No. 103, headquarters department of Texas, San Antonio, November 12, 1859, I repaired to San Antonio and reported to the commanding general for instructions.

I was directed to proceed towards Brownsville and disperse any hostile parties I might meet, &c. From accounts received soon after, the reports were believed to be greatly exaggerated, and the expedition was broken up. But I was directed to proceed to Brownsville and make full inquiries there and on the frontier above.

I reached Brownsville on the night of the 5th of December.

Juan Nepomosina Cortinas, (or Cortina,) the leader of the banditti who have for the last five months been in arms on the Lower Rio Grande, murdering, robbing, and burning, is a ranchero, at one time claiming to be an American, and at another a Mexican, citizen. At the time General Taylor arrived on the banks of the Rio Grande, he was a soldier in General Arista's army. He has been for years noted as a lawless, desperate man.

Ten years ago he was indicted for murder, and the sheriff attempted to arrest him, which made him for a long period keep out of the way until the witnesses were gone. In 1854 he again began to be seen about; but no effort was made to arrest him until in the spring of

1859, when he was indicted for horse stealing, and he has since been a fugitive from justice. When he came to town he was always well armed, or had some of his friends around him, making it dangerous to interfere with him. His principal business has been dealing in stock, purchasing or stealing, as was the most convenient. He had great influence with his class of the Mexican population, and thus, as he controlled so many votes, was courted at elections by politicians.

He has a ranch called San José, a few miles from town, and whenever there was any danger of arrest he would retire to this place and keep himself surrounded by a band of outlaws, as desperate as himself. Leading this lawless life, he and those around him made numerous enemies. On the 13th of July last he was in Brownsville with some of his rancharo friends, when a man who was formerly a servant of his was arrested by the city marshal for abusing a coffee-house keeper. Cortinas attempted to rescue the man; he fired twice on the marshal, the second shot wounding him in the shoulder, and rescued the prisoner. He mounted his horse, took the prisoner up behind him, and with his friends around him rode off defying the authorities to arrest him. He escaped to Matamoras, and there was treated with consideration and lauded as the defender of Mexican rights.

For this an effort was made by the sheriff to arrest him. A party was got up, but they did not succeed in getting what they considered a sufficient force and the posse never started. Several of the men who were active on this occasion were known to Cortinas, and they were marked.

It has been reported that he held a captain's commission in the Mexican army. He at one time was a lieutenant under General Garcia, but was detected selling the horses given to him for a remount, and was dismissed. Since these troubles commenced he has offered his services with fifty men to General Garcia, but they were declined.

He probably held some commission in the custom-house or maritime guards. Under this pretext he recruited men and purchased arms. Don Miguel Tigerino, his first cousin, on the 28th of September, said in Brownsville to some of his friends that he "was a desperate, contrary, fellow. When every one thought that he had started for the interior he turned up suddenly in Brownsville." He no doubt, when he came over here, intended to kill all his enemies that he could catch, and then go into the interior.

Before daylight on the morning of the 28th of September Cortinas entered the city of Brownsville with a body of mounted men, variously estimated at from forty to eighty, leaving two small parties of foot outside—one near the cemetery, the other near the suburb of Framireño. The citizens were awakened by firing and cries of "Viva cheno Cortinas!" "Meusau los Gringos!" "Viva Mexico!" The city was already in his possession, with sentinels at the corners of the principal streets and armed men riding about. He avowed his determination to kill the Americans, but assured Mexicans and foreigners that they should not be molested. Thus was a city of from two thousand to three thousand inhabitants occupied by a band of armed bandits, a thing till now unheard of in these United States.

He made his headquarters in the deserted garrison of Fort Brown, and sent mounted men through the streets hunting up their enemies. He broke open the jail, liberated the prisoners, knocked off their irons, and had them join him. He killed the jailer, Johnson, a constable named George Morris, young Neale in his bed, and two Mexicans; was after Glaseche, the wounded city marshal, and others. One of his men was killed by the jailer, in the attack on the jail.

Cortinas himself rode up to a store on the levee and called for spirits of turpentine. A few minutes after this, General Caravajal made his appearance on the levee, and said that he would try and put a stop to all this, and seeing Don Miguel Tiguino on the opposite bank of the river, called to him to cross over to this side instantly. This he did, on horseback, accompanied by Don Agassito Longosia. General Caravajal then sent for Cortinas, and, after a talk with him, he with his men, mounted and on foot, numbering about sixty, marched along the levee out towards his mother's rancho, about nine miles above the town.

His party did not make any attempt to plunder or rob, but were active in looking for the persons who had assembled to accompany the sheriff to arrest him, or for those who could be witnesses against him for former offences. Two of those killed had personal enemies amongst Cortinas's men.

His sole object appeared to be revenge, but his men were getting liquor, and the consequences were only prevented by the exertions of the gentleman above named and the Mexican consul, Don Manuel Tresiño, in inducing him to leave the town. There were but thirty or forty native Americans in the place, and they mostly unarmed, and being taken completely by surprise, no effort was made to oppose him. There are said not to be over eighty American citizens, native or naturalized, in the two counties of Cameron and Hidalgo. Many of the foreigners in Brownsville refused to give any aid in its defence.

Two days after (30th of September) Cortinas issued his first proclamation, in which he bid defiance to law, and assumed to protect those whom he alleged had been injured on account of their Mexican origin, and accusing the lawyers of despoiling them of their lands.

After leaving Brownsville he encamped at his mother's rancho, and was there joined by stragglers from town, and Mexicans from the neighboring ranches. Several of the citizens of Matamoras and Brownsville now visited his camp, and had interviews with him. He appeared only to wish to have time to cross his property, stock, &c., into Mexico. He took his time, without being molested, and then crossed with his men. He and his men stayed about Matamoras publicly, unmolested by the authorities.

About the 12th of October, several days after he left this side, the sheriff, with a posse, started up the river to visit his rancho, and to reconnoitre the country. They caught Thomas Cabura, said to have been Cortinas's second in command, on the 28th of September, and brought him in a prisoner. When Cortinas, who was in Matamoras, heard this, he told some of the most influential men there that if the citizens of Brownsville did not immediately release Cabura, that he would "lay the town in ashes, &c." A prominent merchant in

Matamoras came over at 11 o'clock p. m., at the request of those Mexican gentlemen, to persuade the people of Brownsville to comply with his demand, whilst an express awaited, on the other side, their answer, to carry it to Cortinas. His demand was refused, but he was informed that the man was in the hands of the sheriff, to be dealt with by the laws of the country.

The night after the arrival of Captain Tobin's company Cabrera was found hung.

Cortinas, with forty men, crossed the river the same night. He received their answer, and took up his old quarters, at his mother's rancho. Here he collected men and arms, and prepared to carry out his threats, occasionally sending threatening communications to the authorities. His men would make their appearance on the outskirts of the town in open daylight; but the citizens had now organized and armed, and kept a guard day and night.

Some Mexican troops, who had been called over about the 30th of September, and who had returned home when Cortinas recrossed to the Mexican side, were now invited over again. About seventy-five men came over, with a piece of artillery, to join an expedition which the citizens were preparing for the purpose of attacking Cortinas. They were of the National Guards, of Matamoras, under the command of Colonel Loranco and Don Miguel Tigerino, who accompanied the expedition as a volunteer.

There were about twenty Americans, under Captain Thompson, and forty Mexicans, from the town and ranches below, under a Mexican called Portillo, all mounted. They took along a four-pounder howitzer.

The expedition started on the 22d of October, met the enemy nine miles from town on the 24th, routed him from his first position, and followed him up as he retreated into the chaparral, from which, without being seen, he kept up a constant fire. Here the Mexican gun stuck in the mud, and on the second discharge it was dismounted, and was then abandoned. The advance fell back. The other gun, with its ammunition, was also abandoned, but, it is said, not until it was thrown into the river. However, both the guns were in Cortinas's camp that night. The flight now became general, all being anxious to be the first to reach Brownsville. The Mexican troops had four men wounded, and brought up the rear. One Mexican with Portillo was also badly wounded. Two men of Cortinas's—all that he lost—were killed by the Mexican troops.

The Mexican troops had but from eight to twelve rounds of ammunition, and they did not retreat until it gave out. They are accused, but I think most unjustly, of having fired blank cartridges, and that the cap squares were loosened to dismount the gun.

Cortinas now had two pieces of artillery, and was much emboldened by his success. Large reinforcements joined him, some voluntarily, others he compelled from the neighboring ranches. He commenced levying contributions of arms, horses, beef cattle, corn, everything that he wanted for his men, sometimes giving receipts for what he took.

He intercepted all the mails to and from this place, except the

Point Isabel, by capturing the mail riders, cut open the mail bags, and had the letters read to him ; he cannot read or write. Once he sent in the letters opened, with a note apologizing to the postmaster, "as it was a matter of necessity for him to know what steps were taken against him." By this means he knew more of what was going on outside of Brownsville than its citizens.

He knew when the rangers with Captain Tobin were expected, and made arrangements to intercept them. Glaseche, however, went and guided them in about midnight, without their meeting any one. The same night Cortinas was known to be hovering about town, and Tobin's men were received with a shower of grape, fired at them before they were recognized. This was the 10th of November.

About eight days after, thirty men were sent under Lieutenant Littleton, towards the arroyo Colorado, to meet Captain Donaldson's company. He missed Donaldson, but on the Palo Alto prairie fell into an ambuscade prepared by Cortinas, and lost three men killed and one wounded and a prisoner. The next day, when a party went out to bring the dead they found this man murdered and all the dead mutilated. They went to Santa Rita, seven miles from here, to attack Cortinas, but knowing that he had artillery, and thinking he was too strong, they only made a demonstration and returned to the city. All this only served to give Cortinas and his followers confidence. He now believed that he could stand his ground against the whole State of Texas.

In the meantime more volunteers arrived. On the 22d of November the rangers under Captain Tobin, numbering about two hundred and fifty men, including in this Captain Kenedy's company of citizens from Brownsville, the Indianola company, and a 24-pounder howitzer in charge of Lieutenant Langdon, United States artillery, who volunteered, again started out to exterminate Cortinas. On the 24th Captain Tobin had his whole force collected at Santa Rita, seven miles above town. Here he left the 24-pounder and about sixty men, and advanced with the main body of his force to make a reconnoissance. The advance, when near the intrenchment, two miles above Santa Rita, was fired upon by both cannon and small-arms. The fire was returned. Captain Tobin now gave the order to fall back and wait for the artillery, but the whole force fell back to Santa Rita. Here there was another council and a misunderstanding, and the next morning sixty men started back to town. The next day (25th) Captain Tobin again advanced, but when near the barricades there was another consultation, and it was decided to be imprudent to risk an attack, and the whole force marched back to Brownsville.

It was a wise decision. In their disorganized condition an attack would have brought certain defeat. About a month before this the streets of Brownsville were barricaded.

Cortinas was now a great man ; he had defeated the "Gingos," and his position was impregnable ; he had the Mexican flag flying in his camp, and numbers were flocking to his standard. When he visited Matamoras he was received as the champion of his race—as the man who would right the wrongs the Mexicans had received ; that he would drive back the hated Americans to the Nueces, and

some even spoke of the Sabine as the future boundary. The lower order of Mexicans hate Americans, and the educated classes are not always exempt from this feeling. This is well shown from the difficulty we had in obtaining information. When his force and all his movements were well known in Matamoras, with daily intercourse with his camp, we were answered with vague and exaggerated accounts. Men who have lived here for years, and are united to Mexican women, could learn nothing reliable.

A party of forty men, under Santo Cadena, joined him from Agua Leguas, in Nueva Leon, remained until they were loaded with plunder and then returned to their homes. Another party of sixty convicts escaped from prison at Victoria, in Tamaulipas, armed themselves, and, after a fight with the authorities, marched through the country to the Rio Grande, and joined him. Affairs remained in this state until we arrived here on the night of the 5th of December.

I entered the town that night with Captain Stoneman's company "E," 2d cavalry, forty-six men, and "L" and "M" companies, 1st artillery, sixty-six men, and five men of the 1st infantry—in all, five officers and one hundred and seventeen men. In Fort Brown, were Captain Rickett's company, 1st artillery, of forty-eight men.

On our march from the Nueces to the arroyo Colorado we only met two Americans and a Mexican cart; all travel had ceased for some time. At the arroyo we first learned to a certainty that Captain Tobn was in Brownsville, but that he had not dislodged Cortinas, and got the most exaggerated accounts of the latter's forces.

The morning after our arrival I endeavored to get information as to the number, position, and objects of Cortinas; every one appeared to be as ignorant of these matters as I was; accounts ranged as high as fifteen hundred men. I finally satisfied myself that he could not have over three hundred and fifty men, and that he occupied a fortified position across the river road, about nine miles above town, and that his works were armed with two pieces of artillery. As to his objects no one knew.

Captain Tobin informed me that he had about one hundred and fifty rangers, and placed himself under my command; I wished him to send out parties to reconnoitre their position; several went, but none of them ever got near enough to give me any information. At 1 o'clock a. m., the 14th of December, we marched out of Brownsville with one hundred and sixty-five officers and men of the regular army, and one hundred and twenty rangers; half an hour before day I halted a mile and a half from the point where I was told his intrenchment was.

I was desirous of having a reconnoissance made before proceeding further; the rangers were so thoroughly stampeded by their previous expedition that it was only after much difficulty and delay that I could get any one to go, and then only by Judge Davis, who had been out with them before, volunteering to go with them; we advanced and found that the intrenchment had been abandoned apparently for a week; it consisted of a heavy breastwork of ebony logs and earth mixed with brush across the road, with two embrasures and a ditch in front; about one hundred yards beyond another had been com-

menced to face the other way ; the first was badly located and could easily have been turned.

After a short delay in clearing a road around these obstructions the march was resumed. About three miles further, where the road is straight and passing through a very dense chaparral with ebony trees, our attention was attracted by the waving of a flag six or seven hundred yards in advance, with a few men about it. In a moment more a burst of smoke and a round shot down the road informed me that the enemy was before us. Until this event the general impression was that Cortinas would not dare fire upon the United States troops.

I immediately ordered the guns unlimbered and the fire returned. The rangers seeing with how much coolness the regular troops stood the fire of the enemy regained confidence, and were finally induced to advance to the attack. With the aid of "L" and "M" companies, 1st artillery, they took the enemies' camp, at Vicente Guenais, a few hundred yards beyond, capturing some provisions and arms. The pursuit was continued about two miles further. Some horsemen made their escape across the river into Mexico. Where the enemy was posted the chaparral was so dense that but a small portion of the force was engaged. This was one of Cortinas's principal camps, and had been long occupied, but he was not in it. The infantry were commanded by Pancho Balli, and the artillery by Antonio Juarez or Jantes, and in all about sixty men. The resistance they made was quite trifling. We had two men of the artillery slightly wounded, and a ranger mortally. The enemy lost eight.

Here, whilst we halted to refresh the men and animals, Major Ford came up with fifty-five men. He heard the firing in the morning, and rode forty miles, *via* Brownsville, to join us.

A rain set in, and continuing, the next morning we returned to town. I had learned that Cortinas was behind us, back in the country, and would probably come in on the river. We reached town without meeting any of the enemy.

I was, on my return to town, informed that Cortinas was on his way to attack Point Isabel and burn the custom-house, full of valuable goods, and that he had also large parties towards the arroyo Colorado. I sent out three strong parties, but in a few days they returned without meeting any one. I was now satisfied that he had concentrated his whole force, and was retiring up the river to lay waste the country.

I started on the 21st of December with all the force I could collect, amounting to one hundred and fifty regulars and one hundred and ninety-eight rangers. I had information that was deemed reliable that Cortinas had fortified himself at the Baston, thirty-five miles from town, in Mr. Neale's brick house, loop-holed and surrounded by corrals. We came in sight of the Baston at twelve o'clock, m. on the 23d, found the fences, corrals, and jacales burned, the house sacked, and the enemy gone.

The next place I was told that we should certainly meet him was in a bend of the river a mile beyond—Edinburg. We reached Edinburg on Sunday, the 25th of December. Although we met several Mexicans from Reynosa, Mexico, not one could tell us anything about him, except that he had left after plundering the custom-house, post office,



&c., which we could see ourselves. His next position was a cane-brake, a few miles beyond Edinburg; but when we arrived he had left.

The next day I learned that Cortinas was occupying Ringgold barracks and Rio Grande City, with his troops encamped on the plaza. Major Ford, who was in advance here, sent Colonel Lockridge with the information. I determined to surprise him by a night march. As our march was most of the way in full view from the Mexican side of the river, we went into camp at the usual time and in the usual manner. At midnight we resumed our march in silence, and an hour before daylight were three miles from Rio Grande City. Here our spies met us with the assurance that he was still encamped in Rio Grande City.

I now made the arrangement for Ford's and Henon's companies, eighty-five men, to make a detour, and get on the road to Koma, above the city, and Captain Tobin, with Tomlinson's and Hampton's companies, one hundred and thirteen men, to move in advance of our right flank, whilst the regulars, giving the rangers half an hour's start, would advance with the artillery along the road, and attack him in front.

We advanced in this order, but when we reached the barracks some ranger rode up and reported that Major Ford could not get beyond on the road, and had commenced the attack in front. On entering the town, I learned that most of his men had encamped about half a mile beyond. Here he had been attacked by Ford, who was supported by Captain Tobin, with his, Tomlinson's, and Hampton's companies. The enemy made a vigorous resistance, but as soon as he saw the regular troops, with the "white-topped wagons," rise the ridge back of the town, he gave way. He here abandoned his provisions, half-cooked breakfast, and a baggage cart, but carried off his artillery.

I ordered up more troops, but the men, fatigued by a march of forty miles since the morning before, could not overtake the advance, and were sent after those who had escaped into the chapparal. At this time a dense fog set in, enabling many of the enemy to escape into the thick chapparal which lined the whole road. I rode forward, and found the ranger companies all broken up, and strewed along the road, with most of the officers in advance. I soon overtook Major Ford, and gave directions to press the pursuit, as our victory would not be complete if they succeeded in carrying off their guns. After a pursuit of more than nine miles, we captured both his guns, loaded. There was no more attempt made at resistance, and here the last dispersed.

Within a few minutes after the capture of the second gun, the men on foot and guns and all our wagons were up. They had made a march of nearly fifty miles in twenty-five hours, thirty of them without stopping for water. There was not a straggler from the regular troops.

The defeat was complete. We captured his guns, ammunition and baggage carts, provisions, everything he could throw away to lighten his flight, and entirely dispersed his force.

We had sixteen rangers wounded, mostly very slight cases. Cor-

tinas had between five and six hundred men, and his loss was about sixty killed and drowned in the river. Most of them who escaped got across the river into Mexico, and without arms. He fled to Grunoro, where he made his appearance next day. He afterwards was seen at Mier Camargo, Keynosa, and so continued down the river, collecting his stragglers. Many small parties were seen on the Mexican side of the river, but generally unarmed. I sent Captain Stoneman's company the same evening to Koma for its protection. Captain Dawson, with "L" and "M" companies, first artillery, left on the 29th of December to garrison Fort Brown. I went to Koma, and remained until the 15th of January, 1860, then returned to this place to collect, in compliance with instructions, the names of the killed and amount of damage done by Cortinas.

A difficulty about the organization and command of the rangers created much embarrassment and delay. An election was held, and Tobin was elected major. I endeavored to have the rangers distributed along the river in small parties to prevent the reorganization of the enemy's forces, but my orders were never fully carried out.

Two commissioners of the State of Texas, Messrs. Navarro and Taylor, now arrived in Brownsville, to inquire into the causes of this disturbance, and authorized to reorganize the rangers. They mustered all out of service, and then mustered in Ford's and Littleton's companies.

I was called upon by the commissioners to say what force of rangers would be sufficient for the protection of the frontier. With but one company of cavalry I was of the opinion that the two then in service would be sufficient. They were placed under my command.

I placed Captain Stoneman's cavalry and Ford's and Littleton's companies of rangers on the river between here and Rio Grande City, with orders to keep out small parties. Cortinas's men were very active at this time crossing over and driving stock into Mexico.

Cortinas, soon after his defeat at Rio Grande City, established a camp at La Bolza, thirty-five miles above here, with the avowed object of attacking the steamboat *Ranchero*, on her return from the towns above. This being her first trip since last September, it was well known that she would have a valuable freight. Her whole cargo was valued by the officer of the boat at \$200,000.

During his stay at La Bolza Cortinas recruited men, procured arms, ammunition, and supplies. He crossed at Las Rusias to the American side of the river, intercepted the United States mail carrier, cut open the mail bags, and rifled them of their contents. He threatened the carrier with death for serving the Americans, and only spared him because the contractor is a Mexican. He was taken to La Bolsa and there kept until he made his escape in the confusion of the fight of the 4th of February. At La Bolsa a frequent subject of conversation was the intercepting and robbing of the steamboat. During the time Cortinas was in constant communication with the inhabitants of Matamoras and other towns on the river.

On the 31st of January I called, with one of the Texas commissioners and the American consul, on General Garcia, the Mexican commander of the line of the Brazos. He showed us the instructions

he had to coöperate with the United States forces in arresting Cortinas and dispersing his bands. He told us that he had sent out but could not learn where Cortinas was to be found. We had known for near a month past that he was at La Bolsa.

On the 4th of February, near La Bolsa, Cortinas's men fired from the Mexican side of the river on a party of Captain Ford's men, mortally wounding one, and also a few minutes after, on the steamboat; to repel this attack, and to protect the lives and property on board the boat, it was advisable to cross into Mexico; Captain Ford, with Major Tobin and Captain Tomlinson, crossed with forty-nine men, attacked Cortinas in his camp, and after a sharp skirmish drove him out of it. Cortinas is said to have had about two hundred men, and that his loss was twenty-nine killed and forty wounded. We had but two men slightly wounded. Captain Stoneman, who was a few miles below, hastened up with his company, and before daylight the next morning we had over two hundred men on the ground.

At 10½ o'clock p. m. an express reached me with a report of what had occurred. The town was wild with excitement; people declared that war had commenced. A party got together with the object of crossing at this ferry and seizing the ferryboats, which are kept at night on the Mexican side in charge of a guard. As there has been, for some time past, considerable alarm of an invasion of filibusters and rangers, a strong Mexican guard has been kept at the ferry.

Some gentlemen who met them came and told me as I was returning to the garrison. I found the party armed on the bank of the river; I had but little difficulty in convincing them of the folly of such an act; that it would only complicate affairs; that the boats were now in our power, but that we were not prepared nor authorized to occupy Matamoras.

The next morning I addressed a note to General Garcia, informing him of what had occurred, and calling upon him now to co-operate with me in arresting Cortinas. I knew that he had received an express an hour or two earlier than we, and that from eighty to a hundred men had left the same night, but it was believed more to aid Cortinas than to arrest him. The object of my note was more to learn the feelings of the Mexican authorities than from any expectation of any action on their part towards arresting Cortinas. He had too many friends in Matamoras, and I doubt whether they had the power, if they had the inclination, to arrest him.

A few hours brought me a reply, in which General Garcia informed me that he had sent out a portion of the rural police, and would send more as soon as they could be organized, and asking me to withdraw our troops. Don Miguel G. Cabezas, the second alcalde, and Don Manuel Treviño, the Mexican consul, brought the letter, and were authorized to give me explanations.

I learned from these gentlemen that about forty men of the police force had gone, and that more would leave in the afternoon and evening. More went, as promised. In the conversation with them I impressed upon them the absolute necessity for the most prompt and energetic measures on their part to arrest this man, for if he was permitted to go on, the most grave consequences would follow. As we

had accomplished our object, and as I did not wish to continue this cause of irritation, I sent orders for the troops to recross, which they did the next day, after an interview with the commander of the police force.

When Captain Ford came in sight of the police force there was a large number of armed men around. Some sixty of these withdrew to our side. These men the police force would not vouch for. They were evidently Cortinas's men.

The prudence of Captain Ford and the good order he had observed, together with his prompt withdrawal, have quieted down the excitement. After the flight at La Bolsa, some one along, but not of his command and contrary to Captain Ford's orders, set fire to the jacales and fences, and they were consumed. On the 7th of February Inaquin Arguilles, who succeeded General Garcia in the command, addressed me a note making reclamations for the burning of these jacales, as some compensation for the violation of their territory. In my reply I justified the act, as they had failed in their international obligations in permitting Cortinas, after having been driven from our soil, to occupy their territory, recruit, arm, and equip his men, and occupy those jacales for weeks, for the avowed object of attacking this steamboat engaged in lawful traffic, &c. To this I have received no reply.

A few days after his defeat at La Bolsa we again heard of Cortinas, with from forty to sixty men, encamped near a rancho called "La Mesa," about six miles further from the river and nearly opposite his old place.

Captain Ford took post on our side of the river, nearly opposite, and was getting minute information as to the localities, with the intention of surrounding his camp. A few days ago he broke up this camp and went up the river, it is supposed by some, to Camargo, and by others for the interior. Linaus and Cadruta are mentioned. He has evidently left this frontier. His brother says that he intends to join the Indians. His mother and a brother are desirous to return to this side of the river and to reoccupy their ranches. This has strengthened me in the belief that he has left permanently.

In reviewing the events of the past five or six months, I arrive at the following facts:

Cortinas has been an outlaw and fugitive from justice for the last ten years. Some politicians found that he could influence a large vote amongst his countrymen, and during an election he was courted. Thus there was never any great effort made to bring him to justice. His mother owns ten leagues of land in a body near town, much of it covered with a dense chapparal. A few miles back from his house, near the river, he built a rancho called San José, which is arranged for a secure retreat, where it would be difficult to surprise any one. This was an asylum for horse and cattle thieves, robbers, and murderers, for those whose enemies would not permit them to live on the Mexican side of the river, or who dared not show themselves in the thickly settled parts of this State.

In Brownsville there were several persons who had made themselves obnoxious to him and his associates. His first object in coming here

was, no doubt, revenge to get rid of these. Then he would have gone off into the interior with some of his friends, in a government employment, until his deeds were forgotten. But the arrest of Cabrera, as he was ready to leave, kept him back. He recrossed the river to rescue Cabrera, and punish those who held him in custody. The idle and the dissolute flocked around him, lured by the prospect of plunder. He soon gained notoriety, and the affair grew beyond his control. The hatred of Americans on the frontier, amongst all classes of Mexicans, brought him men and means. Our side of the river furnished some horses and beef, with but few arms. Most of his arms, ammunition, and supplies to maintain his forces for so many months, came from Mexico, and principally from Matamoras. Most of his men were "pelados" from the towns and ranches along the Rio Grande. On the Mexican side he always found a market for his plunder. At Rio Grande City, in an ammunition box which we captured, were orders in which he is styled "General en Gefe," and he went about with a body guard.

The whole country from Brownsville to Rio Grande City, one hundred and twenty miles, and back to the Arroyo Colorado, has been laid waste. There is not an American, or any property belonging to an American, that could be destroyed in this large tract of country. Their horses and cattle were driven across into Mexico, and there sold, a cow, with a calf by her side, for a dollar.

At Rio Grande City, in answer to the complaints of his men that he had not fulfilled his promises, he told them that they should the next day have "manos libres" from ten to twelve. Our unexpected arrival saved the city from being sacked and burned, and the few Americans left from murder.

Rio Grande City is almost depopulated, and there is but one Mexican family in Edinburg. On the road this side I met but two ranchos occupied, and those by Mexicans. The jacales and fences are generally burned. The actual loss in property can give but a faint idea of the amount of the damage. The cattle that were not carried off are scattered in the chapparal, and will soon be wild and lost to their owners. Business, as far up as Lerido, two hundred and forty miles, has been interrupted or suspended for five months. It is now too late to think of preparing for a crop, and a whole season will be lost.

*The amount of the claims for damages presented is three hundred and thirty-six thousand eight hundred and twenty-six dollars and twenty one cents; many of them are exaggerations, but then there are few Mexicans who have put in any.*

There have been fifteen Americans and eighty friendly Mexicans killed. Cortinas has lost one hundred and fifty-one men killed; of the wounded I have no account.

The severe punishment that this people have received it is to be hoped will long deter any one from another such undertaking. A small garrison in Fort Brown would have prevented a thought of such a thing. No people care less for the civil, and are more afraid of the military power.

His idea and that of his dupes was that this was in the nature of a Mexican pronunciamiento; that he would, when he became formidable,

be bought off by the authorities; that his men would return unmolested to their homes, and soon all be forgotten.

The citizens of Brownsville are not entirely guiltless. Had they performed their civil duties, and brought this man to justice in the first part of his career, or had they even have had a military organization, the morning of the 28th of September Cortinas would have been shot down or arrested.

It will be a long time before the ill-feeling engendered by this outbreak can be allayed. It is dangerous for Americans to settle near their boundary. The river is narrow, and now low, and easy to cross. A robbery or murder is committed, and in a few minutes the criminal is secure from pursuit. Both banks must be under the same jurisdiction. It will at once add to the value of the lands and promote settlement. The industrious, enterprising, active race on one side cannot exist in such close proximity with the idle and vicious on the other without frequent collisions.

The class of the Mexican population (pelados) who joined Cortinas, are an idle, thriftless, thieving, vicious people, living principally on jerked beef and corn, a frijole as a luxury. The climate is such that they require but little in the way of clothing, or to shelter themselves from the weather, and the soil produces spontaneously much that they live upon. When they have enough to eat they only work on compulsion, which the system of peonage furnishes on the Mexican side of the river.

For the protection of the frontier, I think that it will be necessary to station at least one company of infantry at Fort Duncan, one at Fort McIntosh, one at Fort Ringgold barracks, and two at Fort Brown. Until there is a more stable government on the other side, I would keep two companies of cavalry in the field, between Ringgold barracks and Brownsville.

My thanks are due to the officers and men of the regular army, and to those of the rangers for their cheerful and efficient aid during the last four months. I also am much indebted for valuable information to Judge Haris, Mr. Yturia, Mr. Cummins, and Mr. Galsan.

The accompanying lists give the names of the killed and the accounts of damages with the claims. I also add a few letters which, with my previous reports, will give you a full history of what has occurred. The two field returns give the names of the officers engaged on the 14th and 27th of December, 1859.

Respectfully submitted,

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

*Major 1st Regiment Infantry, Com'dg Brownsville Expedition.*

Captain JOHN WITHERS,

*Ass't Adj't Gen., U. S. A., San Antonio, Texas.*

## 1 a.

*Lista de los animales que yo el abajo firmado Ciudadano Español he perdido por la Ynsurreccion de D. Juan N. Cortinas los cuales estaban en el punto.*

*Llamado Rancho Biejo en este Condado Asaber.*

28 Bacas Gordas, á \$15.....	\$420 00
10 Bacas con crias, á \$18.....	180 00
14 Novillos y baguillas de 2 á 3 años, á \$12.....	168 00
8 Novillos y baguillas de 1 á 2 años, á \$10.....	80 00
4 Caballos, á \$25.....	100 00
	<hr/>
	948 00
	<hr/> <hr/>

DIMAS BARREDA.

BROWNSVILLE, Enero 26 de 1860.

## 1 b.

Estimate of losses and damages sustained by the undersigned from Cortinas and his force, in Cameron county, State of Texas, during the months of October, November, and December, 1859, and January, 1860:

Loss sustained by the burning of his ranch, including eight buildings and outhouses, the fencing of six hundred acres, and all other improvements of said farm.....	\$5,000
Amount of farming tools destroyed and carried off.....	200
Amount of furniture destroyed.....	150
Five hundred bushels of corn taken by him, worth \$2 per bushel.....	1,000
Four hundred and fifty head of goats driven off and destroyed, and worth \$1 per head.....	450
Eight yoke of oxen, worth \$40 per yoke.....	320
Ten head of other horned cattle, worth \$15 per head.....	150
Six head of horses, worth \$50 per head.....	300
Damages sustained from a deprivation of the use and enjoyment of said property, his employés having been driven away and the land deserted.....	10,000
	<hr/>
	17,570
	<hr/> <hr/>

I certify that the above estimate is substantially correct, but does not include the losses and damages sustained by Henry Meaver, who was living upon my land at the time of the loss of the property, and who barely escaped with his life.

E. BASSE.

BROWNSVILLE, January 23, 1860.

## 1 c.

Statement of the actual losses sustained by C. T. A. Bean, by the depredations of the Mexican forces under command of Juan Nepomovina Cortinas, in Cameron county, Texas, in the months of October, November, and December, 1859, viz:

Thirty-two dairy cows, at \$20.....	\$640
Seventy head of stock cattle, at \$12.....	840
Two work oxen, at \$25.....	50
	1,530
	1,530

R. J. BEAN, *Agent.*  
For C. T. A. BEAN.

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, *February 4*, 1860.

## 1 d.

MON CHER M. HASSLAUER: Je serais heureux si a la reception de la presente vous et votre famille jouissez d'une bonne sante que Je vous desire tant-qu' a ma famille et a moi nous somme on ne peut mieux. L'on vient de me dire que le gouvernement U. S. payait le depredation et vols commis par Cortiner et les sieu, si cela Était Je vous prier Mon cher M. Victor si su ne vous contrarisait pas trop de vous en informer et de donner a qui de droit mes reclamations pour deux chevaux, une vache, un fusil a deux coups, et une carabine, le tout estimé cent vingt-cinq piastres (\$125.) Dans le cas on ma presence serait necessaires faites le moi savoir si Je ne vais pas c'est mes occupation qui me detiennet. Mes brebis mette bas en ce moment et Je ne puis guère m'absenter des domestique

Je vous prie de faire mes compliment à l'amis Mallet, Bertrand, Waters, et autre, et complez moi de vos amis.

L. BESSAUD.

## 1. e.

List of property supposed to be stolen and destroyed by Cortina and his men from Israel B. Bigilow up to the 25th of January, 1860:

200 head of cattle, \$8.....	\$1,600 00
100 head of cattle, \$15.....	1,500 00
4 head of horses, \$100.....	400 00
1 horse.....	25 00
2 saddles, \$15.....	30 00
Property of different kinds at my ranch.....	200 00
	\$3,755 00
	\$3,755 00

ISRAEL B. BIGILOW.

JANUARY 28, 1860.



## 1 f.

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, COUNTY OF CAMERON,  
January 28, 1860.

*A list of property stolen by Nepomocina Cortina and his men, from John R. Blandford, of Cameron county, Texas:*

1 horse, saddle, and bridle.....	\$75 00
1 rifle gun.....	30 00
1 bed, bedding, and wearing apparel .....	25 00
	<hr/>
	130 00
	<hr/> <hr/>

JOHN R. BLANDFORD.

## 1 g.

List of the loss of property sustained by the undersigned by the banditti, headed by Juan Nepomocina Cortinas, to wit:

8 horses, valued at \$50 each.....	\$400
14 beeves, valued at \$20 each.....	280
250 head of breeding cattle, valued at \$7 50 each.....	1,925
2 oxen and ox-cart, valued at.....	100
5 saddles, valued at \$20 each.....	100
1 double barreled shot gun.....	20
2 holster pistols, valued at \$7 50 each.....	15
General loss of not being able to attend to the stock for about three months.....	500
	<hr/>
	3,340
	<hr/> <hr/>

JAMES G. BROWN.

## 1 h.

ROMA, STARR COUNTY, TEXAS, January 26, 1860.

DEAR SIR: The undersigned, citizens of the town of Roma, in the county of Starr, State of Texas, doing a mercantile business under the name and style of M. Bustamante & Co., beg leave to represent, that on or about the last day of September, 1859, Myers Levy, one of the partners in said firm, and one of the undersigned, arrived at the city of Brownsville, in the county of Cameron, in the State of Texas, with fifteen (\$15,000) thousand dollars worth of merchandise, purchased in New Orleans, in the State of Louisiana, in transit for their commercial house in the town of Roma. That in consequence of a large in-

vading army, commanded by one Juan Nepomocina Cortinas, investing said city of Brownsville, and having full and complete possession of all the roads leading thereto, and complete control of the Rio Grande, so as to prevent land transportation or river navigation, your deponents were compelled to keep their merchandise in said town of Brownsville at an enormous expense, until about the fifteenth day of December, 1859; say two months and fifteen days.

That finally, on the said fifteenth day of December they were forced, in order to meet their liabilities in New Orleans, to transport said fifteen (15,000) thousand dollars worth of merchandise to Monterey, in the State of New Leon in the Republic of Mexico, and there make forced sales at great sacrifice, in order to raise the means to meet their said liabilities in New Orleans.

That the authorities of Mexico took the advantage of the necessity which compelled your deponents to cross their goods to Mexico, and compelled them to pay large amounts of money which under ordinary circumstances would not have been exacted.

That on the 20th day of December, 1859, your deponents had on hand at their mercantile house in the town of Roma, goods, hides, wool, and specie, to the amount of fifteen (\$15,000) thousand dollars.

That on the near approach of the said invading army, commanded by the said Juan N. Cortinas, your deponents were compelled to move the said goods, hides, wool, and specie, to the town of Mier, in the Republic of Mexico, at a very large expense, to prevent the same from falling into the hands of the enemy.

That at the same time your deponents were compelled to fly to the town of Mier to save their lives, and consequently their business was and is completely broken up.

We therefore beg leave to lay our losses, consequent upon the recent invasion of said Cortinas and his army, at *five (\$5,000) thousand dollars.*

And as evidence of the justness of our claim, we respectfully beg leave to refer you to the following certificate of gentlemen and merchants of the town of Roma, who are cognizant of the facts.

Very respectfully, your obedient servants,

M. BUSTAMENTE & CO.

Major S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

*United States Army, commanding Ringgold Barracks.*

---

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *county of Starr:*

We, the undersigned citizens and merchants residing in the town Roma, in said State and county, do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with the business of Messrs. M. Bustamante & Co., and that the above declaration set fourth by them is true in every particular.

We further certify that the amount of five thousand dollars, (\$5,000)

in our opinion, will not cover the losses sustained by them consequent upon the recent invasion of Cortinas and his army.

Given under our hands this 26th day of January, A. D. 1860.

NOAH COX.

DODDRIDGE & JACOBS.

Witness: JACK R. EVERETT.  
JOHN LEVY.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *county of Starr:*

Before me, Peter Dowd, clerk of the county court of Starr county, personally came Jack R. Everett, one of the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing instrument of writing, who being duly sworn according to law, declared that he was present, and saw the above named parties sign this instrument of writing, for the purposes and considerations therein set forth, and that he was requested to sign the same as a witness.

In testimony whereof I hereunto subscribe my name and affix the seal of the county court on this 26th day of January, A. D. 1860.

PETER DOWD, *Clerk C. C. S. C.*

1 i.

RIO GRANDE CITY, *January 28, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: I see from a notice of Major L. S. Heintzelman, that all persons who have sustained damages from Cortinas or his command, are requested to present them to him or to the commander at Ringgold barracks on or before the 31st day of January, 1860. I therefore respectfully represent that Cortinas took me prisoner about the 25th day of October last, and after keeping me in confinement ten days he released me, taking from me my horse, saddle, and bridle, one six shooter, one Sharpe's rifle, one bowie knife, and six dollars in cash. He also took from my ranch one gentle ox. The damages sustained by my imprisonment was much more than the value of the property taken from me to say at least one thousand dollars.

I will also represent to you that I also received a heavy damage from the occupation of the Texas Rangers of my ranch near Brownsville. They burnt up my pens and fences for fire-wood, and one horse by accident. They also used a few hogs and goats and fifty barrels of sweet potatoes, and for which the commander refuses to pay me, although entreated to do so, and he cannot deny that the above articles were used, and that they took possession of my ranch and made use of my property without my consent.

I estimate the value of the property taken by Cortinas at fully two hundred dollars, and the value of property destroyed by Tobin's command at fully one thousand dollars, all of which are respectfully submitted by your obedient servant,

F. M. CAMPBELL.

P. S.—It is notorious that Tobin bought no wood for the use of his men, although it could have been bought at a moderate rate.

CAMPBELL.

Captain J. B. RICKETTS,  
*Commander at Ringgold barracks.*

1 j.

*List of property stolen or destroyed by Juan Nepomosina, and his men, belonging to Gabriel Catsell, of Brownsville, Texas, and situated on his rancho called the "Saus," in Cameron county, Texas.*

170 stock cattle, worth \$7 each.....	\$1,190 00
5 horses, worth \$100 each.....	500 00
Corn, arms, saddle, bridle, &c., stolen, worth .....	100 00
	<hr/>
	1,790 00
	<hr/> <hr/>

STATE OF TEXAS, county of Cameron :

On this twenty-fourth day of January, A. D. eighteen hundred and sixty, personally appeared before me Henry Lyman Howlett, a notary public in and for the county and State aforesaid, duly commissioned and sworn, Gabriel Catsell, to me well known, who being by me duly sworn according to law, deposes and states on his oath that the above is a true list of property lost by this deponent—stolen or destroyed by one Juan Nepomosina Cortina and his men—amounting to seventeen hundred and ninety dollars.

G. CATSELL.

In testimony whereof I hereto set my hand and affix my notarial seal at my office in the city of Brownsville, in said county, this [L. s.] 24th day of January, A. D. 1860.

H. L. HOWLETT,  
*Notary public.*

1 k.

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, *January 31, 1860.*

SIR: In compliance with your notice to the citizens of the Rio Grande valley, requesting all who have lost property during the disturbance of the last few months to present a list and valuation of such lost property, permit me to state that I have lost as follows, to wit :

75 head of cows and beeves, valued at \$15 each.. ..... \$1,125 00

The above named stock was all taken by Cortinas, or the men under his command.

Respectfully submitted by yours, very truly,

Major S. P. HEINTZELMAN,  
*United States Army.*

## 17.

*Statement of the actual losses suffered by Albert Champion, by the deprecations of the Mexican forces under command of Juan Nepomosina Cortinas, in Cameron county, Texas, in the months of November and December, 1859.*

700 head of horned cattle, (of which about 350 were large fat steers;) the steers worth \$20 each, and the others \$15 each; total value.....	\$12,250 00
12 horses, worth \$60 each.....	720 00
7 mares with colts, \$25.....	175 00
1 jack.....	200 00
150 goats, at \$1 50.....	225 00
Farming tools.....	200 00
20 work oxen, valued at \$25.....	500 00
3 carts, valued at \$75.....	225 00
Increase of stock cattle for the last twelve months; say 250 calves, valued at \$5.....	1,250 00
60 bushels of corn, valued at \$2.....	120 00
Loss at stock farm.....	<u>15,865 00</u>

I am mail contractor on the route from Brownsville to Brazos St. Jago. On the 4th November, 1859, my mail carrier was intercepted by a part of Cortinas's force, and they took from him one mule, saddle and bridle, and one six-shooter, my property, worth.....	\$125 00
On the 7th November, 1859, they took my mail carrier and horse, saddle, bridle, and six-shooter, worth.....	125 00
Afterwards they took eight of my best horses used in mail service, valued at \$75.....	600 00
Also two mules, valued at \$100 each.....	200 00
Loss in mail service.....	<u>1,050 00</u>

## RECAPITULATION.

Amount of loss at stock farm.....	\$15,865 00
Loss on mail service.....	1,050 00
Total.....	<u>16,915 00</u>

I have sustained considerable further losses by extra expenses in the mail service, loss of time in services of my employés, and the wages of my men, &c.; the amount of which I cannot now state.

ALBERT <sup>his</sup> + CHAMPION.  
mark.

Witness:

F. CUMMINGS.

BROWNSVILLE, Texas, January 25, 1860.

## 1 m.

*Statement of the actual losses suffered by Nicholas Champion, by the depredations of the Mexican forces under command of Juan Nepomosina Cortinas, in Cameron county, Texas, in the months of October, November, and December, 1859.*

Five hundred head of horned cattle, of which 200 were good beef cattle, worth \$20 each, and the other 300 were stock cattle, worth \$15 each; total value of cattle.....	\$8,500 00
Twelve horses, at \$60 each.....	720 00
Thirteen mares, at \$25 each.....	325 00
One stallion.....	70 00
Two hundred goats, at \$1 50 each.....	300 00
Increase of stock for last twelve months, viz: 150 calves, at \$5 each.....	750 00
Sixty bushels of corn, at \$2 per bushel.....	120 00
Total.....	10,785 00

NICHOLAS <sup>his</sup> + CHAMPION.  
mark.

Witness: F. CUMMINGS.

BROWNSVILLE, Texas, January 25, 1860.

## 1 n.

*Statement of the actual losses suffered by Peter Champion, by the depredations of the Mexican forces under command of Juan Nepomosina Cortinas, in Cameron county, Texas, in the months of October, November, and December, 1859.*

Twenty-six horses, worth \$60 each.....	\$1,560 00
Sixty mares, worth \$25 each.....	1,500 00
Cash taken from him.....	53 00
Dry goods, groceries, and furniture taken from his house..	800 00
Garden crops and fruit trees destroyed.....	400 00
Damage to house and destruction of fences.....	500 00
Forty hogs and pigs, at \$6 each.....	240 00
One hundred goats, at \$1 50 each.....	150 00
Fifty sheep, at \$2 each.....	100 00
One hundred and eighty bushels of corn, at \$2 per bushel..	360 00
Ten hives of bees, at \$5 each.....	50 00
One English double-barrelled gun.....	60 00
One rifle.....	30 00
One dragoon pistol.....	8 00

Sixteen work oxen, at \$25 each.....	\$400 00
Farming tools.....	250 00
Two carts.....	150 00
Five hundred horned cattle, of which about 200 were good beef cattle, worth \$20 each, and the other 300, at \$15 each; total value of cattle.....	8,500 00
Increase of cattle last year not branded: 160 calves, at \$5 each.....	800 00
Forty-five colts, at \$12 each.....	540 00
Two stallions.....	175 00
Poultry, 220 chickens and 6 turkeys.....	53 00
Total.....	<u>16,679 00</u>

I have been driven from my house and farm and compelled to take my family to Point Isabel and rent a house; am prevented from planting my farm, and all my business broken up, which has caused me great loss and damage, which I cannot now accurately state.

PETER <sup>his</sup> + CHAMPION.  
mark.

Witness: F. CUMMINGS.

BROWNSVILLE, Texas, January 25, 1860.

*List of property stolen or destroyed by Juan Nepomosina Cortinas and his men, belonging to Nicholas Chano, at the ranchos called, one the "Rodes," and the other "Los Prietos."*

39 horses, worth \$50 each.....	\$1,950 00
200 beef cattle, worth \$15 each.....	3,000 00
400 stock cattle, worth \$7 each.....	2,800 00
1 double-barrelled shot-gun, cost.....	25 00
4 muskets, cost \$8 each.....	32 00
3 saddles, cost \$15 each.....	45 00
1 mule harness, cost.....	9 00
2 cargoes corn, at \$12 each.....	24 00
	<u>7,885 00</u>

BROWNSVILLE, Texas, January 25, 1860.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, County of Cameron:

Be it remembered that on this twenty-fifth day of January, A. D. eighteen hundred and sixty, personally appeared before me, Henry Lyman Howlett, a notary public in and for said county and State, duly commissioned and sworn, Nicholas Chano, to me well known, who, being by me duly sworn according to law, deposes and states on his oath: That he, deponent, has suffered damage by the depredations

committed by one Juan Nepomosina Cortinas and his men to the amount of seven thousand eight hundred and eighty-five dollars, as per annexed list of property *stated*, which list deponent here affirms to be true and correct.

N. CHANO.

In testimony whereof I hereto set my hand and affix my notarial seal, at my office, in the city of Brownsville, in said county, this 25th day of January, A. D. 1860.

H. L. HOWLETT, *Notary Public*.

BROWNSVILLE, *Texas*, February 6, 1860.

DEAR SIR: In compliance with your notice to all who had suffered loss at the hands of Cortina and his force, requesting them to present to you a list and valuation of such property, permit me to state that I have lost as follows:

60 head of stock cattle, valued at \$10 each.....	\$600 00
1 horse.....	75 00
	<hr/>
	675 00
	<hr/> <hr/>

The property above named was all taken by Cortinas or his force.  
PETER COLLINS.

Major S. P. HEINTZELMAN, *U. S. A.*

ROMA, STARR COUNTY,  
*Texas*, January 26, 1860.

DEAR SIR: The undersigned, a merchant and citizen of the town of Roma, in Starr county, in the State of Texas, begs leave to represent that he has been for many years a partner in the mercantile house in the town of Roma, known as the firm of Stadeker & Mecklinberger; and as Stadeher, Mecklinberger & Cox, respectively; that the said firm of Stadeker, Mecklinberger & Cox have had wool, lead, and specie to the amount of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) on hand at Roma for shipment since about the last of September, 1859, but were unable to make such shipment on account of road and river being infested by a large invading force under command of one Juan Nepomosina Cortinas; that the failure to get said wool, lead, and specie to New Orleans and New York in time to take up the notes of said firm caused them to pay a very heavy interest in order to raise the required amounts; in the meantime, trusting in a speedy rout of said invading force, and hoping to get the said wool, lead, and specie to market, some of the latest notes due by the firm were protested, causing your deponent's credit, individually, to suffer to the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.)

That the said firm of Stadeker, Mecklinberger & Cox was dissolved



by limitation on the 31st day of December, 1859, and hence deponent puts in this his claim for and on his individual account.

That during a long series of years—to wit, years that the said firm of Stadeher & Mecklinberger and the firm of Stadeher, Mecklinberger & Cox were engaged in business in the town of Roma—all their liabilities were promptly paid until the instance above referred to.

That your deponent, as one of the late firm of Stadeher, Mecklinberger & Cox, was compelled to leave his place of business and seek safety, with the funds on hand belonging to said firm, in the town of Mier, in the republic of Mexico, on account of the near approach of the said invading army, under command of said Cortinas, to Roma, thereby causing him much extra expense and great loss of time, to wit, the sum of five hundred dollars, (\$500.)

That your deponent was chairman of the committee of safety in said town of Roma, appointed by the American citizens of the place, to keep up a guard, keep out spies on the movements of said Cortinas and his men, to pay all persons thus employed, and to furnish Captain Thomas J. Dergan with money and equipments to proceed to the interior of the State of Texas to call on our fellow-citizens for aid. That in the discharge of these duties he incurred an expense (in cash paid out or for which he is personally bound) to the amount of five hundred dollars, (\$500,) making your deponent's losses, altogether, the sum of six thousand dollars, (\$6,000.)

Your obedient servant,

NOAH COX.

Major S. P. HEINTZELMAN, U. S. A.,  
*Commanding Ringgold Barracks, Texas.*

N. B.—As evidence of the justness of my claim, I beg leave to refer you to the following certificate of gentlemen and merchants fully cognizant of all the facts.

NOAH COX.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Starr:*

We, undersigned merchants and citizens of the town of Roma, in said State and county, do hereby certify that all the facts set forth in the above declaration, made by Noah Cox, are familiar to us, and are strictly in accordance with truth.

We further certify that the sum of \$6,000 (six thousand dollars) will not cover the losses sustained by him by reason of the recent invasion of Cortinas and his army.

Given under our hands at the town of Roma, State and county aforesaid, this 26th day of January, 1860.

M. BUSTAMENTE & CO.  
JOHN LEVY.

Witness:

JOHN MARTIN,  
JACK. R. EVERITT.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Starr:*

Before me, Peter Dowd, clerk of the county court of Starr county, personally came Jack R. Everitt, one of the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing instrument of writing, who, being duly sworn according to law, declared that he was present and saw the above-named parties sign this instrument of writing for the purposes and considerations therein set forth; and that he was requested to sign the same as a witness.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto sign my name and affix the seal [L. s.] of said county on this 26th day of January, A. D. 1860.

PETER DOWD,  
*Clerk C. C. S. C.*

1 r.

I, John S. Cross, administrator of the estate of William K. Hervy, deceased, make out a list of the losses sustained by said estate, caused by Cortinas, from the 28th of September, 1859, up to the present date:

Supposed to be one hundred and fifty head of cattle, worth \$7 50 per head.....	\$1,125 00
Four head of horses, worth \$50 each.....	200 00
General loss, not being able to have the use of the cattle that still remained, and loss of time of hunting for what remained, to the amount of.....	100 00
	<u>100 00</u>

JOHN S. CROSS.

JANUARY 28, 1860.

1 s.

ROMA, STARR COUNTY, TEXAS,  
*January 26, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: The undersigned respectfully begs leave to represent that he is a citizen of the State of Texas, and county of Starr; that on the twenty-seventh (27th) day of December, 1859, one J. Nepomocino Cortinas, commander of the army which recently invaded this State and county, did, in person, aided by some twenty or thirty of his retreating forces, take a horse from your deponent at the Saus rancho, and also known as Peter Dowd's rancho; that said horse was well worth seventy-five dollars, (\$75,) for which amount this claim is respectfully presented.

Respectfully, your obedient servant, &c., &c.,

ALCARIO <sup>his</sup> + CRUZ.  
<sub>mark.</sub>

Major S. P. HEINTZELMAN,  
*U. S. A., Commanding Ringgold Barracks.*

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Starr :*

I do hereby certify that I was present at the Saus rancho on the 27th day of December, 1859, when one Juan Nepomocino Cortinas and some twenty or thirty of his men came to said rancho and then and there carried off a horse belonging to Alcario Cruz, of the value of \$75.

Given under my hand this 26th day of January, A. D. 1860.

Witnesses :

J. B. JACOBS.

JACK R. EVERITT.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Starr :*

Before me, Peter Dowd, clerk of the county court of Starr county, personally came Jack R. Everitt, one of the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing instrument of writing, who, being duly sworn according to law, declared that he was present and saw the above-named parties sign this instrument of writing for the purposes and considerations therein set forth, and that he was requested to sign the same as a witness.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name, and affix the seal of said county on this 26th day of January, A. D. 1860.

PETER DOWD,

*Clerk of the County Court of Starr County.*

1 t.

RINGGOLD BARRACKS, *January 30, 1860.*

SIR: The undersigned would respectfully represent that on the entrance of Cortinas to Rio Grande City, on the 24th of December last, he was possessed of the following property, which was all taken or destroyed by Cortinas and his party :

Fence around 300-acre field, made at a cost of fifteen hundred dollars, burned by Cortinas.....	\$1,500 00
Damage caused to buildings in Ringgold barracks.....	2,500 00
House and kitchen furniture.....	210 00
Hay used and destroyed, about four tons, at \$20.....	80 00
Clothing.....	100 00
4,000 feet of lumber, at \$60 .....	240 00
14 horses, at \$20.....	280 00
13 ploughs, at \$10.....	130 00
40 hoes, at \$1 50.....	60 00
37 axes, at \$2.....	74 00
40 sets harness, at \$4.....	160 00
6 ox yokes, at \$2.....	12 00
3 log chains, at \$5.....	15 00
4 sets carpenter's tools, at \$80.....	320 00

12 mattocks crowbars, at \$3.....	\$36 00
I estimate the damage I have sustained by the burning of my fence and robbing of my farming utensils at two thousand dollars.....	2,000 00
Total.....	<u>7,717 00</u>

Proofs of the above losses will be presented when required.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. CLAY DAVIS.

Major HEINTZELMAN,  
*United States Army.*

1 u.

RIO GRANDE CITY,

*Starr County, Texas, January 31, 1860.*

*Amount of losses and damages sustained by the undersigned in his mercantile affairs and property during the foray committed by the robber gang under the command of Nepomocino Cortinas, including the amount taken from me by force, in merchandise and cash, on the 25th and 26th ult. to say:*

Amount of merchandise taken and damaged, about.....	\$1,300 00
Amount of cash taken and damaged on account, about.....	1,200 00
Amount of damage for goods retained at Brownsville for want of safe conveyance to a market.....	5,200 00
Amount of expenses incidental for safe and mutual protection.....	300 00
	<u>7,900 00</u>

The above damages I will endeavor to prove satisfactory in due time, before the Court of Claims, at Washington, D. C., against the government of the United States, when required.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN DECKER.

Major HEINTZELMAN,  
*United States Army, Ringgold Barracks, Texas.*

1 v.

ROMA, STARR COUNTY, TEXAS, *January 26, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: We, the undersigned merchants, doing business in the town of Roma, in the county of Starr, State of Texas, under the name and style of Doddridge & Jacobs, beg leave to represent that, during

the latter part of September and first part of October, 1859, we purchased in the city of New Orleans, in the State of Louisiana, merchandise to the amount of seventy thousand dollars, (\$70,000,) which merchandise was duly shipped and arrived at the city of Brownsville, in the county of Cameron, in the State of Texas, early in the month of October, in transit for our house in the town of Roma, but it was impossible to remove them from Brownsville on account of a large force of Mexican invaders, commanded by one J. Nepomosina Cortinas, who infested the roads, and rendering it dangerous for the steamer Ranchero to proceed up the Rio Grande, whereby your deponents were unable to dispose of said seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) worth of merchandise, and were at an enormous expense at the city of Brownsville, and our Mr. Doddridge was deprived of the time our great interest demanded in and about the said merchandise at Brownsville, having had to serve as a citizen soldier to protect the town from the assaults of said Cortinas and his men for more than two months.

That during the time our said seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) worth of merchandise was so delayed, "to wit:" nearly three months at Brownsville, by reason of the said invasion, we could have sold the same at a profit of 20 per cent., whereas not being able to sell or dispose of the same and remit to our creditors in New Orleans has damaged our credit to a very large amount.

That since the 10th day of September, 1859, we have had on hand at our store in Roma thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) worth of hides, wool, and specie; and not being able to remit the same to our creditors in New Orleans, for the reason of the said invasion and infestation of the roads and river by said J. N. Cortinas and his men, our credit has suffered to a large amount.

That we were compelled to remove the said thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) worth of wool, hides, and specie, and ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) worth of dry goods and groceries, at an enormous expense, to the town of Mier, in the republic of Mexico, for security, and to prevent the same from falling into the hands of the enemy.

Therefore your deponents make this their claim for losses sustained by the said invasion of said J. N. Cortinas and his men, "to wit:" *the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, (\$15,000;)* and as evidence of the justness of our claim, we beg leave to refer you to the following certificates from gentlemen and merchants cognizant of the facts, and who have examined our invoices as to the amount of merchandise bought in New Orleans in the months of September and October, 1859, and other facts.

Your obedient servants,

DODDRIDGE & JACOBS.

Major S. P. HEINTZELMAN, *U. S. A.,*  
*Commanding Ringgold Barracks.*

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Starr :*

We the undersigned, merchants and citizens of the town of Roma, in said State and county, do hereby certify that we have examined the original invoices of merchandise bought by Messrs. Doddridge & Jacobs, in the city of New Orleans, from various merchants, during the

months of September and October, 1859, and find the amount to be seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) and upwards.

We further certify that the amount and value of wool, hides, and specie held in store by the said Doddridge & Jacobs, which they were unable to ship on account of the recent invasion of Cortinas and his men, was thirty thousand dollars, (\$30,000.)

We further certify that the amount of wool, hides, and specie shipped or transported to Mier, in the republic of Mexico, for safety, by the said Doddridge & Jacobs, was *thirty thousand dollars*, (\$30,000.)

We further certify that the amount of dry goods and groceries, sent to *Mier* for safety by the said Doddridge & Jacobs, was *ten thousand dollars*, (\$10,000.)

We further certify that the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) falls far short of the actual losses sustained by said Doddridge & Jacobs, consequent upon the recent invasion of Cortinas and his men.

Given under our hands this 26th day of January, A. D. 1860, at Roma, Starr county, Texas.

NOAH COX.  
BUSTAMENTE Y CO.

Witnesses :

JOHN J. FORD.  
JACK R. EVERITT.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Starr :*

Before me, Peter Dowd, clerk of the county court of Starr county, personally came Jack. R. Everitt, one of the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing instrument of writing, who, being duly sworn according to law, declared that he was present and saw the above-named parties sign this instrument of writing for the purposes and considerations therein set forth, and that he was requested to sign the same as a witness.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name and affix [L. s.] the seal of said county on this 26th day of January, A. D. 1860.

PETER DOWD,  
*Clerk C. C. S. C.*

I w.

*Statement of loss sustained by me, Antonio Dodier, in cattle, sheep, and horses, by Juan N. Cortinas, or by those under his command, during his late operations on the Rio Grande and vicinity :*

About 60 head of cattle.....	\$420 00
100 head of sheep.....	100 00
10 horses, at \$15.....	150 00
	670 00
	670 00

ANTONIO DODIER.

BROWNSVILLE, *January 28, 1860.*

## 1 x.

*List of property stolen by Nepomocina Cortinas and his men from Manuel Domingos, of Cameron county.*

One horse of the value of.....	\$75 00
38 head of cows, at \$15.....	570 00
	<u>645 00</u>

MANUEL DOMINGOS.

## 1 y.

*Statement of loss sustained by John A. Finn, in cattle taken by Juan N. Cortinas, or those under his command, during his late operations on the Rio Grande and vicinity.*

224 head of horned cattle, at \$7.....	\$1,568 00
Besides the above loss, my blacksmith shop has been closed for the last three months, by which I have sustained loss to the amount of.....	700 00
Also, about 80,000 brick were taken to build barricades in Brownsville to defend against Cortinas. These were worth to me the sum of.....	200 00
	<u>2,468 00</u>

J. A. FINN.

BROWNSVILLE, Texas, January 28, 1860.

## 1 z.

RIO GRANDE CITY,  
January 28, 1860.

SIR: The undersigned, G. W. Foster, would respectfully represent: That on or about the 25th of December, 1859, he was possessed of the following property, which was taken by one Juan N. Cortinas and party, proofs of which will be produced when required:

7 head of horses and mares, at \$50.....	\$350 00
2 saddles, bridles, and blankets.....	50 00
	<u>400 00</u>

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. W. FOSTER.

Major HEINTZELMAN, U. S. A.

## 1 aa.

Lista de los efectos siguientes que D. Mates Franco, Ciudadano Español, lenia depositados en el rancho de las Rusias, en la Casa de D. Julian Flores con el fin de abrir allí un establecimiento de Abarrotes, ala Saron que estalló la insurrección, de D. Juan N. Cortinas, Cugas Ocurrencias le privaron efectuarlos, teniend que permaneur en esta Cindar sin poder volver al rancho, el cual fue attanado por las fuerzas Cortinas mas perdiendo toil le que allí temá listo pa. el fin indicada.

## A. SABER.

1	Gruesa de Carajas finas, en.....	\$28 00
14	Cajas Lraves 2mtidos franceses, \$4 25.....	59 50
7	Cajas Vino frances, \$4.....	28 00
1	barrél Conac frances con 31 galones, \$2 80.....	86 80
3	“ Brandy con 121 galones, 48c.....	58 08
2	“ Wisgny con 80 galones, 44c.....	35 20
1	“ Ginetra con 37 galones, 47c.....	18 33
1	Hiracal de Loza Lurtria con 68 Ducs en.....	64 00
1	barrel Azircar blanca motria con 220 <sup>th</sup> , 14c.....	30 80
2	“ us Colorado con 250 <sup>th</sup> smo 500 <sup>ms</sup> , 10½c.....	52 50
1	“ Arroz 212 <sup>th</sup> , 7c.....	14 84
12	qnmtates tabaco, \$16.....	192 00
11	Lacos de Cafe con 1760 <sup>th</sup> enpmts, 13c.....	228 80
12	Cajar de Javin, \$5 25.....	63 00
4	Cajar Almidon con 192 <sup>th</sup> enpnito, 8c.....	15 36
4	Cajar Velas con 40 <sup>th</sup> ima 160 <sup>th</sup> , 25c.....	40 00
1	Cajar Sardinias con 100 medias Latas, 20c.....	20 00
6	Barrites Harina, 9c.....	54 00
2	Cajar Achas, \$12 50.....	25 00
5	Dnas Azadones, \$12.....	60 00
2	barriles Mansica con 220 <sup>th</sup> uno 440 <sup>th</sup> , 14c.....	61 60
5	Dnas Zapatos para hombre, \$15.....	75 00
20	Cargas Mair, \$6.....	120 00
4	Dnas Cuberados pa Crballe, \$4.....	16 00
1	Dna frenos mepcanos en.....	18 00
6	Cargas Piloncillo, \$18.....	108 00
25	lbs. Clavo de Espicira, 50c.....	12 50
6	lbs. Anil, \$1.....	6 00
4	Cajas fidens, \$2 75.....	11 00
2	Cajas Fallarin, \$2 75.....	5 50
4	Cajas Pasas de Malaga, \$4.....	16 00
1	Cuirete Manleguella con 100 <sup>th</sup> , 25c.....	25 00
2	Sacos de Sal moliva, \$4.....	8 00
2	Cajas Azucar candy, \$11.....	22 00
2	Dnas Eseobas, \$3 50.....	7 00
2	Cajas Vasos con la Dinan enpnt, \$1.....	12 00
2	Dnas pomos Vanos de Cristal, 75c.....	18 00
2	Dnas Zapates pa. tra, \$3 75.....	7 50
500	Puntes Hollas de Heero, 10c.....	50 00



2 Sacos de Muricion, fina, \$2 25.....	\$4 50
2 Sacos de portas, \$2 75.....	5 50
2 Cargas frijol., \$12.....	24 00
50 lbs. Ploma en Varillas, 10c.....	5 00
50 lbs. Pimenta Negra, 16c.....	8 00
25 lbs. Hins, 30c.....	7 50
25 lbs. Conino, 30c.....	7 50
2 lbs. Romen, 75c.....	1 50
2 lbs. Alhucema, 75c.....	1 50
2 lbs. Organo, 62½c.....	1 25
1 Rosa de Castilla.....	1 00
4 lbs. Chigurte blanco, 75c.....	3 00
1 Caja con 25 panos de polrora, fina, 62½c.....	15 62
5 Millares Cajunts a juneva de agua, \$1 75.....	8 75
5 Millares Cajunts de Sombrerito, \$1 75.....	8 75
Ymportante.....	<u>1,876 68</u>

MATEO A O.

BROWNSVILLE, Inero 27 de 1860.

1 a b.

*List of property stolen from Pedro Garcia by Nepomocina Cortinas and his party in Cameron county.*

2 horses of the value each \$60.....	\$120 00
1 American mule.....	100 00
	<u>220 00</u>

PEDRO GARCIA.

1 a c.

*List of property stolen by Nepomocina Cortinas from John Gholson, of Cameron county, Texas.*

5 mules, at \$60.....	\$300 00
3 mares, at \$25.....	75 00
4 horses, at \$35.....	140 00
Household furniture and clothing of the value of.....	350 00
One half-blood American horse.....	75 00
	<u>940 00</u>

JOHN GHOLSON.

JANUARY 28, 1860.

H. Ex. Doc. 81—3

## 1 a d.

*List of the loss of property sustained by the undersigned by the banditti headed by Juan Nepomocina Cortinas, to wit :*

300 bushels of corn, valued at \$1 50 per bushel.....	\$450 00
125 head of beeves, valued at \$15 per head.....	1,875 00
11 horses, valued at \$50 each.....	550 00
1 Mississippi rifle, at \$12.....	12 00
3 six-shooting pistols, at \$25 each.....	75 00
1 trunk full of summer clothing.....	50 00
General loss of not having been able to attend to my farm and stock ranche.....	700 00
	3,712 00
	3,712 00

ADOLPHUS GLAWECKE.

BROWNSVILLE, January 23, 1860.

## 1 a e.

*Account of property lost and destroyed by Nepomocina Cortinas and his gang, belonging to Miguel Gonzalos.*

Eighty-five head of cattle, \$7 per head.....	\$595 00
Twenty-two head of horses, mares, and mules, \$50 per head.....	1,100 00
Twenty-five head of hogs, \$5 per head.....	125 00
Twenty-four head of goats.....	30 00
Two horses.....	150 00
Two saddles, bridles, and blankets.....	30 00
One double-barrelled shot gun.....	15 00
One rifle.....	25 00
One carbine.....	8 00
Five ploughs, \$10 each.....	50 00
One do.....	14 00
Six ox-yokes, \$2 each.....	12 00
Two log-chains.....	6 00
	2,160 00
	2,160 00

MIGUEL GONZALOS.

1 a f.

BROWNSVILLE, *Texas, January 23, 1860.*

SIR: I compliance with your notice to all persons who have lost property during the late disturbances, requesting them to present to you a list and valuation of such property, permit me to state that I have lost as follows, to wit:

At the stands on mail route from Corpus Christi to this place, twenty-two horses; on the road taken from Carrier's, on the same route, six horses; at the stands on mail route from Corpus Christi to Rio Grande City, eight horses; on the road taken from Carrier's with the horses as named above, six saddles, six bridles, and six blankets. In all, thirty-six horses, valued at \$75 each.....	\$2,700 00
Saddles, bridles, and blankets.....	150 00
In all.....	<u>2,850 00</u>

All the property above named was employed by me as mail contractor in the mail service of the United States. All of it was taken by Cortinas or his command.

JOHN GRAHAM,  
*Mail Contractor.*

Major S. P. HEINTZELMAN,  
*Major 1st Infantry, Commanding Brownsville Expedition.*

1 a g.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Starr:*

Jane S. Hedrick respectfully represents, that on the night of the 26th of December, A. D. 1859, her store, in Rio Grande City, said county and State, was broken into by a body of Cortinas's men, who then had possession of Rio Grande City aforesaid; that said body of men carried off goods and merchandise belonging to the said Jane S. Hedrick from her store, in Rio Grande City, to the amount of five thousand dollars. Deponent further states that her business was greatly damaged by the invasion of Juan N. Cortinas, by the detention of freights and general prostration of business; that she had large quantities of wool and hides at the Tabasco rancho, thirty miles below said Rio Grande City; that she was obliged to remove the goods from her store there and secrete them in the chaparral, causing great loss, damage, and expense, amounting to one thousand dollars, making the losses sustained by deponent the sum of six thousand dollars. All of which is respectfully submitted.

JANE S. HEDRICK.

Frank S. Taylor, agent and clerk of Jane S. Hedrick for the past six or eight months, hereby certifies that he believes the above state-

ment of Jane S. Hedrick to be true and correct, and that sufficient legal testimony can be produced to prove the above-stated facts when the occasion requires it.

FRANK S. TAYLOR.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Starr :*

Before me, Peter Dowd, clerk of the county court of Starr county, personally appeared Jane S. Hedrick and Frank S. Taylor, and acknowledged that they had signed, sealed, and delivered the foregoing instrument of writing for the purposes and considerations therein set forth.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name and affix the seal of said county on this 30th day of January, A. D. 1860.

PETER DOWD,

*Clerk of the County Court of Starr County.*

1 a h.

*Statement of the actual losses sustained by William Johnson by the depre-  
dations of the Mexican forces under command of Juan Nepomocina  
Cortinas in Cameron county, Texas, in the months of September, Oc-  
tober, November, and December, 1859, and January, 1860.*

80 beef cattle, at \$20 each .....	\$1,600 00
255 heifers and calves, at \$10 each.....	2,550 00
70 dairy cows, at \$20 each.....	1,400 00
1 horse.....	40 00
1 horse.....	60 00
100 hogs, at \$8 each.....	800 00
70 sheep, at \$2 each.....	140 00
90 goats, at \$1 50 each.....	135 00
	<hr/>
	6,725 00
	<hr/> <hr/>

WM. JOHNSON.

BROWNSVILLE, *Texas, January 26, 1860.*

1 a i.

BROWNSVILLE, *Texas, January 23, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: In accordance with your posted notice of the 21st instant, I hereby inform you that during our late disturbances I lost a dark gray horse, bearing my brand E. K., which has been stolen or driven away by Cortinas or his command from the range of Mr. Mills-head, a few miles from our city. The value of the horse is \$50.

Very respectfully, yours,

E. KARPELES.

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,  
*Major United States Army.*

## 1 a j.

BROWNSVILLE, *January 27, 1860.*

It is impossible now to state the precise items and amount of my loss by Cortinas and his followers in his late operations on the Rio Grande:

I had furniture, clothing, &c., &c., stored at F. Reast's house, valued in gross at, say.....	\$1,000 00
One horse was taken, valued at.....	50 00
Books, notes, and accounts.....	1,500 00
The property stored with Reast, with the books, notes, and accounts are burned, my loss incidental to my expulsion from my place, with actual expense incurred, will not be less than.....	800 00
This last includes loss of crop.	
	3,350 00

SAMUEL KATHENS.

## 1 a k.

*Losses sustained by James Kearns, of Brownsville, Texas, from Cortinas or his banditti, viz:*

1 horse (stolen from Fort Brown).....	\$50 00
1 mare (stolen from Fort Brown).....	45 00
1 rifle.....	20 00
Damages to property sustained on the morning of the 28th of September, 1859, by the gang of Cortinas.....	10 00
	125 00

J. KEARNS.

## 1 a l.

RIO GRANDE CITY, *January 27, 1860.*

*Amount of losses sustained by me in my mercantile affairs and property at this place and vicinity during the foray committed by the command of Juan Nepomovina Cortinas, including the amount of merchandise his force robbed me of by force of arms; to say—*

Since September last, from want of safe conveyance to a port of entry, my notes, due to merchants in New York city, New York, have been protested, for want of payment, in a large amount; and in view to save my credit thence I shall have to lose or sacrifice the amount of about.....

\$8,651 00

During the time intermediate I have expended for public and private defence in incidental expenses for men, assistance, provisions, and forage, about.....	\$1,800 00
For the amount of merchandise actually forced from me by the party of Cortinas on the 26th and 27th of December, A. D. 1859 and damages sustained in consequence to the balance on hand, at about.....	14,806 78
For the amount of loss sustained in the decrease valuation of one lot of hides and wool that have been kept in store for want of due conveyance to a port of entry, about	800 00
For amount of incidental expenses paid, including cartage, ferriage, &c., in the removal of merchandise to Mexico for protection, about.....	2,100 00
From the suspension of our general trade during the troubles now yet existing, as a consequence the want of use of my storehouses, and everything appertaining, will prove a material damage by being forced to rent other houses instead, at other places, for about.....	3,600 00
	<hr/>
	31,757 78
	<hr/>

The above damages I will endeavor to prove satisfactorily in due time, when I shall make a claim against the United States for all losses incurred now and hereafter; should there be any more, by a proper petition and forms according to the rules and regulations of the Court of Claims at Washington city, D. C., including duly authenticated proof to substantiate it.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN P. KELSEY.

The COMMANDING OFFICER U. S. A.,  
*At Ringgold Barracks—Present.*

1 a m.

BROWNSVILLE, *January 28, 1860.*

The steamer "Ranchero" was detained at Brownsville from the 28th of September, 1859, the day Cortinas and his band attacked the town, until the 9th day of January, 1860, it being considered unsafe to send her up the river during that time, as Cortinas had complete command of the river from Brownsville to Rio Grande City and Roma, although large quantities of freight were awaiting shipment up the river, and also from Rio Grande City and Roma downward. A large amount of the freight thus awaiting shipment was crossed on to the Mexican side of the river, both at Brownsville and Roma, and transported by land to its destination. During this time an escort was twice asked for, to enable the boat to proceed up the river, first from Captain Ricketts, and, second, from Major Heintzelman, U. S. army,

but from the very small force at their command they were unable to grant the request.

Expenses of boat during detention at Brownsville, 103 days, at \$75 per day .....	\$7,725
Loss and damage to business.....	5,000
	<hr/>
	12,725
	<hr/> <hr/>

W. KENEDY & CO.

*I a n.*

RIO GRANDE CITY, *January 30, 1860.*

SIR: The undersigned would respectfully represent, that during the occupation of Rio Grande City by Cortinas and band, his house was entered and robbed of the following property :

1 navy pistol.....	\$27 50
1 overcoat.....	20 00
1 cot, (destroyed).....	7 00
1 trunk, containing clothing and valuable papers.....	150 00
	<hr/>
	204 50
	<hr/> <hr/>

Proofs of the above will be produced when required.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

RICHARD KENNON.

*I a o.*

*Statement of property which was owned by me, and left at my farm in Hidalgo county, about sixty miles above Brownsville, on the Rio Grande.*

All has been taken, with the exception, perhaps, of some of the animals, which may have strayed from the flock, but of which nothing can now be determined.

200 cows, with calves, at \$20.....	\$4,000 00
85 mares, with colts, at \$35.....	2,975 00
15 horses, at \$25.....	375 00
1 horse.....	60 00
50 hogs, at \$6.....	300 00
Destruction to fences and outhouses.....	200 00

1 chest carpenters' tools, complete.....	\$125 00
House robbed of furniture and clothing, &c.....	500 00
Farming utensils, hoes, axes, ploughs, crowbars, &c., too numerous to mention.....	75 00
6 yoke of oxen, at \$40.....	240 00
1 silver-mounted saddle.....	50 00
3 common saddles, at \$10.....	30 00
1 Colt's revolver.....	25 00
1 Derringer pistol.....	8 00
1 double-barrel shot gun.....	15 00
1 single-barrel shot gun.....	10 00
1 large silver-mounted knife.....	25 00
Kitchen utensils.....	15 00
2 large pots for making soap, at \$10.....	20 00
2 pair glass doors, at \$10.....	20 00
500 feet boards.....	20 00
1 corn mill.....	15 00
2 well buckets, at \$2 50.....	5 00
1 churn .....	2 50
	<hr/>
	9,110 50
1 grindstone.....	5 00
Damages for not being able to plant this year .....	1,000 00
	<hr/>
	10,115 50
5 pieces white cotton sheeting, at \$5.....	\$25 00
4 pieces denims, at \$6.....	24 00
5 pieces hickory shirting, at \$5.....	25 00
4 pieces calico, at \$4.....	16 00
	<hr/>
	90 00
	<hr/>
	10,205 50
	<hr/> <hr/>

SANFORTH KIDDER.

BROWNSVILLE, January 27, 1860.

1 a p.

*Statement of the actual losses sustained by Joseph Kleiber by the depre-  
dations of the Mexican forces under command of Juan Nepomocina  
Cortinas, in Cameron county, Texas, in the months of October, No-  
vember, and December, 1859 viz:*

120 head of horned cattle, at \$15.....	\$1,800 00
His cotton farm has been broken up, his employés car- ried off; he had an excellent stand of thirty acres of cotton suckers, which would have yielded a sure crop this year, the cost of all which has been at least \$1,000; the bandits visited his place several times, cut up several bags of picked cotton, and carried away a lot of bags to clothe themselves with, say.....	1,250 00



Farming implements.....	\$200 00
Ten work oxen, at \$25.....	250 00
	<hr/>
Joseph Kleiber's loss as far as ascertained.....	3,500 00
	<hr/> <hr/>

The bandits burned the log-house on the farm; it belonged to Misses Josephine and Mary Butler, Mrs. Emma Kleiber, and Kate and Annette Jurpey; worth \$300. Total loss on the farm, \$3,800.

He has been compelled to abandon the farm, and has lost the opportunity of planting crops this season, and thereby has suffered much other damage, but at present the amount cannot be stated.

JOSEPH KLEIBER,

W. F. CUMMINGS,

*Agent.*

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, *January 27, 1860.*

*1 a q.*

RIO GRANDE CITY, *January 28, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: The undersigned respectfully begs leave to represent that he is a second lieutenant in the first regiment of artillery, United States army; that about the 24th day of August, 1859, your deponent arrived at Ringgold barracks, in Starr county, Texas, near the town of Rio Grande City, under orders from the War Department to proceed to Fort Duncan to attend to business of great importance to the department.

That your deponent was accompanied by his wife and his aunt, (Mrs. Shannon,) having with them a large amount of newly-made and valuable wearing apparel and a large amount of table and bed furniture in transit for Fort Duncan; that said wearing apparel was procured at Brownsville, under the impression that your deponent would be ordered to remain permanently at Fort Clark.

Your deponent proceeded with his family and a part of said above-named property to Fort Duncan, but was soon after ordered to return to Brownsville. Arriving at Ringgold barracks about the 2d of October, 1859, with his family and baggage, was compelled to store the said baggage, which he did within the limits of Ringgold barracks, under the care of William M. Robertson, esq., a gentleman well known and much appreciated for his honorable deportment, and who had formerly been in the employment of the government; that your deponent was so compelled to make this disposition of his property in order to send back to Fort Hudson the two wagons he had with him to meet a necessity in an expected movement about to take place at Camp Hudson; that, after depositing the said property within the limits of Ringgold barracks with the said Robertson, with instructions to forward the same to Brownsville on the steamboat called the *Ranchero*, your deponent, his wife, and aunt, (Mrs. Shannon,) proceeded

on their way to Brownsville, to which place he was ordered; that, after reaching the town of Edinburgh, in Hidalgo county, opposite the town of Reynosa, in the republic of Mexico, your deponent heard that one Juan Nepomocina Cortinas, at the head of a large force of men, was investing the city of Brownsville and the roads leading thereto, with the avowed intention to destroy said city and murder all Americans he might be able to capture on the roads; that your deponent was compelled to cross the Rio Grande with his family and proceed on his journey to Matamoras, in the republic of New Mexico, and from thence to Brownsville.

That afterwards, to wit, on or about the 24th of December, 1859, the said Cortinas and his said command did rob and plunder all my said property left in charge of said Robertson in the storehouse of the late sutler, Mr. James B. McClusky, and murdered the said Robertson and several other Americans who were within the limits of Ringgold barracks, assisting the said Robertson in protecting the said storehouse of McClusky.

That the said property so robbed and plundered was almost entirely new and unused, and belonged respectively to Mrs. Sallie Shannon, Mrs. Kate Moffett, and my wife, Mrs. Kate Langdon, and myself.

That afterwards, to wit, on the 22d day of January, 1860, your deponent arrived at Ringgold barracks, and, after using due diligence in search of his property, was only able to recover two empty trunks and two books of little value.

That all your deponent's private papers, letters, books, and accounts was utterly destroyed by said Cortinas and his said command.

That the value of said wearing apparel and furniture, as near as your deponent can ascertain from the memory of his wife and his aunt, is *one (\$1,707) thousand seven hundred and seven dollars.*

That, as evidence of the justness of this "my claim," I respectfully beg leave to refer you to the following certificate of gentlemen who have examined the inventory and value of the property described and robbed by said Cortinas and his command.

That your deponent has lost much more than he is able at this time to enumerate, but now only claims for such losses as the memory of his family and himself furnish.

Your obedient servant,

LOOMIS L. LANGDON,  
*Second Lieutenant 1st Artillery.*

Major A. P. HEINTZELMAN,  
*Commanding Ringgold Barracks.*

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Starr:*

We, the undersigned, do hereby certify that we are cognizant with all the facts set forth in the above declaration, and that we have examined the inventories presented to us by Lieutenant Loomis Langdon, 1st artillery, United States army, and find the same to correspond with the amount of his claim; that we are well acquainted with the circumstances under which he left his property at Ringgold barracks, and find his said declaration to be true in every sense; that the sum of one

thousand (\$1,707) seven hundred and seven dollars will not, in his opinion, cover his and his family's losses.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals, this twenty-eighth day of January, A. D. 1860.

J. B. McCLUSKY.

Witness: JACK R. EVERETT.

H. CLAY DAVIS.

The deponent further states that he will present, when called on, the full list of the articles lost, with the market value of each, and is prepared with any other voucher that may be called for to support his claim.

LOOMIS L. LANGDON,  
*2d Lieutenant 1st Artillery.*

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Starr:*

Before me, Peter Dowd, clerk of the county court of Starr county, personally came Jack R. Everett, one of the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing instrument of writing, who being duly sworn according to law, declared that he was present and saw the above-named parties sign this instrument of writing for the purposes and considerations therein set forth; he also declares, that the interlining was done in his presence, and that he was requested to sign the same as a witness.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name, and affix the seal of said county, on this 28th day of January, A. D. 1860.

PETER DOWD, *Clerk C. C. S. C.*

---

1 a r.

ROMA, STARR COUNTY, TEXAS,  
*January 26, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: The undersigned, a citizen of the town of Roma, in Starr county, State of Texas, begs leave respectfully to represent: That about the middle of November, 1859, his business (being of great importance) called him to Corpus Christi, in said State, but before your deponent could transact said business he was called back in great haste, to protect his family against an invading army, under the command of one *Juan Nepomocino Cortinas*; that when your deponent arrived at his home (the town of Roma) the said *Cortinas* and his army were rapidly advancing on said town of Roma, with the avowed intention of murdering the American citizens and destroying that place; that your deponent has a very large family and a great quantity of furniture, *all* of which he was compelled to remove to the town of Mier, in the republic of Mexico, in order to save the lives of himself and family, and his property from being destroyed by the said *Cortinas* and said invading army; that in removing the family and furniture to Mier your deponent expended large amount of money, to wit: the sum of

*five* (\$500) *hundred dollars*; that your deponent suffered the loss of six weeks of his time, which has caused him severe pecuniary loss, but makes no claim therefor, only claiming the amount actually expended in the protection of his family and furniture from the said Cortinas and his invading army.

That as evidence of the justness of my claim, I respectfully beg leave to refer you to the following certificate of gentlemen and merchants of Roma.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN LEVY.

Major J. B. HEINTZELMAN,  
U. S. A., *Commanding Ringgold Barracks.*

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Starr:*

We, the undersigned, merchants and citizens of the town of Roma, in said State and county, do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with all the circumstances set forth in the above declaration of John Levy, and that the same is a true statement of the facts. That in our opinion the sum of *five* (\$500) *hundred dollars* will not cover his losses consequent upon the recent invasion by Cortinas and his army.

Given under our hands, at the town of Roma, this 26th day of January, A. D. 1860.

Witnesses:

JACK R. EVERETT.  
JOHN MARTIN.  
M. BUSTAMENTE.  
NOAH COX.

---

*l a s.*

*List of property stolen or destroyed by one Juan Nepomocina Cortinas and his men, situate on the rancho called "Los Indios," in Cameron county, Texas, belonging to James Mallett, viz:*

2 doors of frame house.....	\$12 00
Furniture, clothing, provisions, &c., destroyed.....	150 00
1 corral burned.....	125 00
1 house ".....	80 00
4 horses, worth \$40 each.....	160 00
60 beef cattle, worth \$15 each.....	900 00
125 stock cattle, worth \$7 each.....	875 00
Damages, breaking up my business, and ruining said rancho.....	500 00
	<hr/>
	2,802 00
	<hr/> <hr/>

BROWNSVILLE, *January 27, 1860.*

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron :*

Be it known that on this twenty-seventh day of January, A. D. eighteen hundred and sixty, personally appeared before me, Henry Lyman Howlett, a notary public in and for the said county and State, duly commissioned and sworn, James Mallett, to me well known, who, being by me duly sworn according to law, deposes and states on his oath that he, deponent, has suffered damage from the depredations done by Juan Nepomosina Cortinas and the men under his command, to the amount of two thousand eight hundred and two dollars, as per the above statement or list, which deponent here affirms to be true and correct.

J. MALLETT.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto set my hand and affix my notarial seal, at my office in the city of Brownsville, in said county, this [L. s.] 27th day of January, A. D. 1860.

H. L. HOWLETT,  
*Notary Public.*

*1 a t.*

*List of property stolen or destroyed by one Juan Nepomosina Cortinas and his men, belonging to Maxwell and Hough, situated at a rancho called " Agua Negra," about twelve miles from Brownsville, in Cameron county, Texas, viz :*

1 American horse, cost.....	\$100 00
1 Spanish " " .....	80 00
2 guns, cost \$15 each.....	30 00
1 silver lever watch, cost.....	35 00
140 beef cattle, worth \$15 each.....	2,100 00
Damages for breaking up my business, and taking James Maxwell prisoner on two occasions.....	1,000 00
	<hr/>
	3,345 00
	<hr/> <hr/>

BROWNSVILLE, *January 27, 1860.*

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron :*

Be it known that on this twenty-seventh day of January, A. D. eighteen hundred and sixty, personally appeared before me, Henry Lyman Howlett, a notary public in and for the county and State aforesaid, duly commissioned and sworn, James Maxwell, to me well known, of the firm of Maxwell & Hough of said county, who, being by me duly sworn according to law, deposes and states on his oath that Maxwell & Hough aforesaid have suffered damage by the depredations committed by one Juan Nepomosina Cortinas, to the amount of three thousand three hundred and forty-five dollars, as per above statement or bill, which deponent affirms to be true and correct.

JAMES MAXWELL.

In testimony whereof, I hereto set my hand and affix my notarial seal, at my office in the city of Brownville, in said county, [L. s.] this 27th day of January, A. D. 1860.

H. L. HOWLETT,  
Notary Public.

---

1 a u.

*Loss sustained by A. McMillan on account of the Cortinas expedition.*

One horse and one six-horse team, valued at four hundred dollars..... \$400 00

A. W. McMILLAN.

JANUARY 27, 1860.

---

1 a v.

*List of property stolen or destroyed by one Juan Nepomosina Cortinas, situate on a rancho called "Anacintas Altos," about twenty-four miles from Brownsville, in Cameron county, Texas, belonging to Jacob Miller, viz:*

Fifteen cows, worth \$15 each.....	\$225 00
Six beeves, worth \$15 each.....	90 00
Twenty-six stock cattle, worth \$7 each.....	182 00
One rifle.....	25 00
One musket.....	8 00
Two horses, worth \$50 each.....	100 00
One new coat, cost.....	10 00
Damages on my house in Brownsville during the attack on Brownsville, 28th September last.....	550 00
	<hr/>
	1,190 00
	<hr/>

BROWNSVILLE, January 28, 1860.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron:*

Be it known that on this twenty-eighth day of January, A. D. eighteen hundred and sixty, personally appeared before me, Henry Lyman Howlett, a notary public in and for said county and State, duly commissioned and sworn, Jacob Miller, to me well known, who, being duly sworn by me according to law, deposes and states on his oath that he, this deponent, has suffered damage from the depredations committed by one Juan Nepomosina Cortinas and the men under

his command, to the amount of eleven hundred and ninety dollars, as per the above list, which deponent here affirms to be true and correct.  
 JACOB MILLER.

In testimony whereof, I hereto set my hand and affix my notarial seal, at my office in the city of Brownsville, in said county, this 28th day of January, A. D. 1860.

H. L. HOWLETT,  
*Notary Public.*

1 a w.

*Estimate of the losses and damages sustained by the undersigned from Cortinas and his force, in the months of October, November, and December, 1859 :*

3 horses, \$66 $\frac{2}{3}$ .....	\$200 00
1 yoke oxen.....	40 00
2 rifles, \$40 and \$20.....	60 00
1 shot-gun.....	40 00
2 Colt's revolvers, \$27 $\frac{1}{2}$ .....	55 00
Farming utensils.....	200 00
Household furniture.....	200 00
Amount of damages sustained by having to leave home, and the entire destruction of business.....	2,000 00
1 stack of fodder.....	40 00
	2,830 00

BROWNSVILLE, *January 25, 1860.*

We certify that the above statement is substantially correct ; that at the time of the loss of the said property we were living at the farm known as the "Striker Place," engaged in farming, about five miles from the city of Brownsville, Cameron county, Texas ; and that Cortinas sent his forces and took our arms by force, drove off our stock and the stock of Mr. Henry Scott, which we were pasturing, at the same time ordering us not to leave the place under the penalty of death, but if we would get permission from him (Cortinas) that we could go above, but not toward Brownsville. We remained in this condition something near one month, not daring to leave for fear of our lives and those of our families, there being a permanent guard placed near, which watched every move we made. We finally got an opportunity of escaping with our families by crossing the river into Mexico and coming to Matamoros, from thence to Brownsville. Here we had no means of supporting our families ; while there we could make a good living for them and money beside. It has entirely ruined and broken us up, and seriously injured us in many respects.

A. G. MILSTED.  
 JAMES MARTIN.

## 1 a x.

*List of the loss of property sustained by the undersigned, by the outlaws headed by Juan Nepomosina Cortinas :*

5 cows, at \$15.....	\$75 00
2 calves, at \$12 .....	24 00
1 bull.....	12 00
	<hr/>
	111 00
	<hr/> <hr/>

GUILLERMO MOLINA.

BROWNSVILLE, *January 29, 1860.*

## 1 a y.

*List of property belonging to William Neale which was on the Baston rancho, and was burnt, stolen, or destroyed by Juan Nepomosina Cortinas and his band, from the 30th day of October, A. D. 1859, to the present time :*

* Fifteen thousand feet of pine lumber, at \$50 per thousand feet .....	\$750 00
One two-horse carriage.....	250 00
One buggy.....	75 00
One wagon.....	200 00
Carriage, buggy, wagon, plough, and cart harness.....	150 00
Ten mules at \$60 each.....	600 00
Eight horses at \$50 each.....	400 00
Household furniture and library.....	1,500 00
Kitchen and dairy utensils.....	300 00
Family clothing and jewelry.....	1,500 00
Provisions and stores.....	200 00
Farming implements, tools, machines, instruments for irrigation, &c.....	500 00
Damages for being driven out of my estate and property, and loss of life ; use of Nestor Masan's half of the dwelling and improvement of the lands.....	10,000 00
	<hr/>
Total.....	16,425 00
	<hr/> <hr/>

W. NEALE.

STATE OF TEXAS, *Cameron County,*  
*City of Brownsville, January 23, 1860.*



1 a z.

List of property lost by William Neale and Nestor Maxan, which was on their estate, commonly known as the Baston rancho, of which they were joint owners, and which was burnt, stolen, or destroyed by Juan Nepomucino Cortinas and his band, from the 30th day of October, A. D. 1859, up to the present date :

1 two-story dwelling-house, with kitchen, storehouse, dairy, &c., built of brick, and with shingled roofs.....	\$6,000 00
20 dwellings for servants or tenants, built of wood, and with thatched roofs.....	1,000 00
Fences of potrero, fields, gardens, lots, and corrals.....	2,000 00
2 corn cribs and stables built of pine lumber and shingled roofs.....	1,000 00
3 farm carts, at \$60 each.....	180 00
200 goats and sheep, at \$4 50 each.....	300 00
200 hogs, at \$10 each.....	2,000 00
Shanghai poultry and aviary .....	100 00
18 work oxen, at \$20 each. ....	360 00
126 cows, at \$12 each.....	1,512 00
120 steers, at \$15 each.....	1,800 00
4 bulls, at \$20 each.....	80 00
93 calves, (two years old,) at \$5 each .....	465 00
87 calves, (one year old,) at \$3 each.....	261 00
50 orange trees and contents of two gardens.....	250 00
	17,308 00
	17,308 00

W. NEALE.  
NESTOR MAXAN.

STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF CAMERON,  
City of Brownsville, January 23, 1860.

1 b a.

Losses sustained by Cortinas.

BROWNSVILLE, February 9, 1860.

I hereby certify that I have been damaged by Cortinas and his band to the amount of one thousand dollars in the way of damage done to my house and furniture and loss of animals.

BENJ. P. PERRIN.

1 b b.

List of property stolen of Vicenty Rameses by Cortinas and company.

Four horses of the value of \$180.

VICENTY RAMESES.

## 1 b c.

*List of property lost by the undersigned by reason of the invasion by Cortinas and his command on the Rio Grande, viz :*

Dwelling and storehouse.....	\$600 00
Amount of stock on hand in store.....	1,100 00
Household and kitchen furniture.....	300 00
Outhouses and fences .....	350 00
27 head of cattle, at \$8 per head.....	216 00
17 head of hogs, at \$3 per head.....	51 00
2 yoke of oxen and cart.....	150 00
2 fine shot guns.....	80 00
1 Colt's belt pistol.....	25 00
2 rifles .....	40 00
Ferry boat.....	75 00
Clothing for self and family.....	150 00
Damages of self and family.....	2,000 00
	<hr/>
	5,137 00
	<hr/> <hr/>

FRANCIS PREAST,  
Cameron County.

## 1 b d.

*Amount of loss and damage sustained by me from the band of robbers under the command of Juan Nepomocina Cortinas, and which was taken from me by force of arms without my consent or knowledge, to say :*

RIO GRANDE CITY, January 29, 1860.

For 12 horses taken by robbers on the 27th of December, 1859, valued at ..... \$480 00  
Respectfully submitted.

DIMASIO <sup>his</sup> + RODRIGUES.  
<sub>mark.</sub>

Captain RICKETTS, U. S. A.,  
Commanding, &c., Ringgold Barracks.

## 1 b e.

*List of property lost and destroyed belonging to Thaddeus J. C. Rhodes by Juan N. Cortinas and his band, from the 28th day of September, 1859, up to this the 26th day of January, 1860, to say :*

1 dwelling-house, value.....	\$500 00
1 dwelling-house .....	350 00
4 small jackalls, \$50 each.....	200 00
1 corn crib .....	100 00

Fences and gates.....	\$600 00
House furniture.....	150 00
Kitchen furniture.....	50 00
Kitchen and pantry ware.....	100 00
Medicines.....	150 00
Clothing.....	200 00
Poultry and bee-hives.....	50 00
1 double-barreled shot gun.....	35 00
1 six shooter, (Colt's).....	25 00
1 musket.....	8 00
25 bushels corn.....	30 00
Provisions.....	75 00
1 box carpenters' tools.....	25 00
90 head sheep and goats, at \$1 50 per head.....	135 00
37 head cows and calves, at \$10 per head.....	370 00
70 head hogs, at \$5 per head.....	350 00
31 horses.....	1,395 00
1 mule.....	75 00
2 mares, at \$30 each.....	60 00
1 American stallion.....	250 00
5 oxen, at \$20 each.....	100 00
Medical and other books.....	50 00
Garden <i>planted</i> .....	100 00
Farming utensils.....	75 00
20 large benches.....	50 00
2 saddles and bridles.....	30 00
	<hr/>
	5,686 00
Add to the amount for damages.....	3,500 00
	<hr/>
	9,188 00
	<hr/>

THADDEUS M. RHODES.

BROWNSVILLE, *January* 26, 1860.

1 b f.

*List of property stolen or destroyed by Juan Nepomucino Cortinas, belonging to a rancho about three miles from Brownsville, on land leased from John Treanor, as per the records of the county court of Cameron county, the property of Robert Shears, of Brownsville, Texas, to wit:*

2 houses, cost.....	\$80 00
3 Spanish horses, cost.....	75 00
1 American mare, cost.....	100 00
32 cows, \$10 each.....	320 00
13 large hogs, \$8 each.....	104 00
21 small hogs, \$2 each.....	42 00
4 dozen grown chickens.....	8 75

17 ducks.....	\$12 00
Furniture and cooking utensils.....	25 00
2 hoes.....	1 50
2 spades.....	2 50
1 plough.....	5 00
2 sets of wagon harness.....	18 00
2 fifth chains, for oxen.....	10 00
2 yokes.....	6 00
Fences around two fields.....	75 00
	<hr/>
	884 75
	<hr/> <hr/>

BROWNSVILLE, *January 24, 1860.*

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron:*

Be it remembered that on this twenty-fourth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty, personally appeared before me, Henry Lyman Howlett, a notary public in and for the said county and State, duly commissioned and sworn, Robert Shears, to me well known, who, being by me duly sworn according to law, deposes and states on his oath that he has suffered a loss by the depredations of one Juan Nepomucino Cortinas, and men under his command, to the amount of eight hundred and eighty-four dollars and seventy-five cents, as per the foregoing list of property, which deponent affirms to be true.

ROBERT SHEARS.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto set my hand and affix my notarial seal, at my office in the city of Brownsville, in said county, this 24th day of January, A. D. 1860.

H. L. HOWLETT, *Notary Public.*

1 b g.

*List of property taken and stolen or destroyed by Juan Nepomucino Cortinas and the men under his command, belonging to M. M. Stevens, of Hidalgo county, Texas, viz:*

2 horses, worth \$75 each.....	\$150
1 gun.....	90
1 yoke oxen.....	40
2 cows, worth \$15 each.....	30
2 cattle, worth \$5 each.....	10
60 hogs, breeding sows, worth \$10 each.....	600
Damages for destroying my place, about 18 miles above Edinburg, and driving me away from my home and business.....	1,000
	<hr/>
	1,870
	<hr/> <hr/>

BROWNSVILLE, *January 24, 1860.*

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron* :

Be it remembered that on the twenty-fourth day of the month of January, A. D. eighteen hundred and sixty, personally appeared before me, Henry Lyman Howlett, a notary public in and for the county and State aforesaid, duly commissioned and sworn, M. M. Stevens, to me well known, who being by me duly sworn according to law, deposes and states on his oath that he, deponent, has suffered damages from the depredations of one Juan Nepomucino Cortinas and his men to the amount of eighteen hundred and seventy dollars, as per the foregoing list of property, which deponent affirms to be true and correct.

M. M. STEVENS.

In witness whereof, I hereto set my hand and affix my notarial seal, at my office, in the city of Brownsville, in said county, [L. s.] this 24th day of January, A. D. 1860.

H. L. HOWLETT,  
*Notary Public.*

## I b h.

*List of property taken or destroyed by Juan Nepomucino Cortinas and his men belonging to William D. Thomas, whose dwelling and property is near a place called "Tio Cano," in the county of Cameron, State of Texas, to wit :*

90 horses and mares, worth \$50 each.....	\$4,500 00
140 cattle, worth \$7 each.....	980 00
50 sheep and goats, worth \$1 50 each.....	75 00
4 houses burned, worth.....	600 00
Household furniture and clothing, worth.....	300 00
1 chest carpenters' tools, worth.....	50 00
7 yoke oxen, worth \$40 per yoke.....	280 00
200 hogs, worth \$10 each.....	2,000 00
	<hr/>
	8,785 00
	<hr/>
Add damages for being broken up in my business and driven off.....	5,000 00
	<hr/>

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron* :

Be it remembered, that on this twenty-fourth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty, personally appeared before me, Henry Lyman Howlett, a notary public, in and for the county and State aforesaid, duly commissioned and sworn, William D. Thomas, to me well known, who being by me duly sworn according to law deposes and states on his oath: that the above list of property belonged to this deponent at the commencement of the "Cortinas troubles" in this frontier, to wit: on the 28th September, A. D. 1859; and that the same has been taken or destroyed by said Cortinas's men, leaving this deponent a sufferer, including damages, to

the amount of thirteen thousand seven hundred and eighty-five dollars, for which amount deponent looks to the United States as a citizen thereof.

WILLIAM L. THOMAS.

In testimony whereof I hereto set my hand and affix my notarial seal at my office in the city of Brownsville, in said county, this 24th day of January, A. D. 1860.

H. L. HOWLETT,  
*Notary Public.*

*i b i.*

BROWNSVILLE, *Texas, January 31, 1860.*

SIR: In compliance with your notice to the citizens of the Rio Grande valley, requesting all who have lost property during the disturbances of the last few months to present a list and valuation of such property, permit me to state that I have lost as follows, to wit:

6 horses, valued at \$40 each.....	\$240 00
1 mare, valued at.....	30 00
13 cows, valued at \$12 each.....	156 00
	<hr/>
	426 00
	<hr/> <hr/>

The above-named stock was all taken by Cortinas, or the men under his command.

Respectfully submitted by yours, very truly,

D. VUBRE.

Major S. P. HEINTZELMAN, *U. S. A.*

*i b j.*

*The United States to Julius Verbaum, Dr.*

For a frame dwelling-house, one and a half stories high, built of frame and lumber, situated about twelve miles from Brownsville, on the Palo Alto prairie, and known as the Palo Alto House, pulled to pieces and destroyed, doors and windows carried off, together with fences and cistern, and also the household furniture destroyed, by men under the command of one Juan Nepomocino Cortinas, in November last, valued at.....	\$500 00
For 3 oxen, taken by the same party.....	60 00
	<hr/>
	560 00
	<hr/> <hr/>

BROWNSVILLE, *January 26, 1860.*

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron:*

Be it known, that on this twenty-sixth day of January, A. D. eighteen hundred and sixty, personally appeared before me, Henry

Lyman Howlett, a notary public in and for the said county and State, duly commissioned and sworn, Julius Verbaum, to me well known, who being by me duly sworn according to law, deposes and states on his oath : That he, deponent, has suffered damage from the depredations of one Juan Nepomocino Cortinas and his men, to the amount of five hundred and sixty dollars, as his above account stated, which deponent affirms to be true and correct.

JULIUS VERBAUM.

In testimony whereof I hereunto set my hand and affix my notarial seal, at my office in the city of Brownsville, in said county, on the day and year before written.

H. L. HOWLETT,  
*Notary Public.*

1 b k.

*List of the property of J. M. Ward, of Cameron county, State of Texas, burned, carried away, or destroyed by Juan N. Cortinas and the force under his command, from the 28th day of September, A. D. 1859, to date.*

Houses and fences burned.....	\$3,000
Six yokes of oxen, yokes, and chains.....	600
Farming utensils .....	500
Produce and provisions .....	500
Carpenter and other tools.....	100
One cart .....	75
Damage for the loss of two crops.....	4,000
	<hr/>
	8,775
	<hr/>

J. M. WARD.

BROWNSVILLE, January 28, A. D. 1860.

1 b l.

*Estimate of the losses and damages sustained by the undersigned from Cortinas and his force, in the months of October, November, and December, 1859.*

One roan horse taken, and valued at.....	\$100
One bay " " .....	75
One dun " " .....	70
One sorrel " " .....	85
One black " " .....	40
Amount of damage and loss in business sustained by me by being deprived of the use and enjoyment of said property....	1,500
	<hr/>
	1,870
	<hr/>

I certify that the above statement is substantially correct; that at the time of the loss of said property I was and am still keeping a livery stable in the city of Brownsville, Cameron county, Texas, and that said animals were used by me in my said business; that I have not had, and I have not now the means to replace them, and from which has resulted a partial ruin of my business and other serious inconveniences.

W. A. WAUGH.

BROWNSVILLE, *January 23, 1860.*

1 b m.

*List of property stolen or destroyed by Juan Nepomocino Cortinas and men under his command, belonging to Doctor R. West and James Johnson, taken from a rancho about seven miles from Brownsville, Texas, viz :*

Eighty stock cattle, mostly milk cows, at \$10 each.....	\$800 00
Ninety goats, at \$1 each .....	90 00
Four mares, at \$25 each.....	100 00
Seven horses, at \$30 each.....	210 00
One mule.....	150 00
Forty hogs, at \$5 each.....	200 00
Household and kitchen furniture (destroyed).....	100 00
Ranch improvements destroyed.....	100 00
Total.....	<u>1,750 00</u>

BROWNSVILLE, *Texas, January 25, 1860.*

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron :*

Be it remembered that on this twenty-fifth day of January, A. D. eighteen hundred and sixty, personally appeared before me Henry Lyman Howlett, a notary public in and for the county and State aforesaid, duly commissioned and sworn, Robert West, to me well known, who being by me duly sworn according to law, deposes and states on his oath, that he, deponent, and one James Johnson, equally interested with this deponent, having suffered damage from the depredations of Juan Nepomocino Cortinas and his men, to the amount of seventeen hundred and fifty dollars (\$1,750,) as per annexed list of property lost, which deponent here affirms to be true and correct.

R. WEST.

In testimony whereof, I hereto set my hand and affix my notarial seal at my office in the city of Brownsville, in said county, this [L. s.] 25th day of January, A. D. 1860.

H. L. HOWLETT, *Notary Public.*



## 1 b n.

*List of property stolen and destroyed by Cortinas and his gang, belonging to Mrs. Jane Weyman, together with damages sustained on his and their account.*

Twelve head of half-breed Durham cows, all gentle milkers, at \$30 each.....	\$360 00
Twelve yearlings, same blood, at \$10 each.....	120 00
Twelve calves, at \$5 each.....	60 00
Two bulls, at \$26 each.....	50 00
Damage in loss of rent of farm on account of tenant's being driven off by Cortinas's men. Damage on account of the loss of cows, causing me to fail in supplying customers with milk up to the present time, at \$60 per month.....	180 00
Total.....	<u>970 00</u>

JANE WEYMAN.

JANUARY 28, 1860.

## 1 b o.

RIO GRANDE CITY, January 25, 1860.

SIR: The undersigned would respectfully represent that on or about the 25th of December, 1859, they were possessed of the following property, which was taken by Juan N. Cortinas and party:

Twenty-two horses, mules, and mares, at \$50 each.....	\$1,100 00
One silver-mounted rifle.....	30 00
One pair blankets.....	7 00
Total.....	<u>1,157 00</u>

Respectfully, your obedient servants,

WHEELER &amp; SANDERS.

Major HEINTZELMAN,  
*United States Army.*

## 1 b p.

*Account of property stolen and destroyed by Nepomocina Cortinas and his men, belonging to Nathaniel White, at a place called "Tio Beano," in the county of Cameron.*

Two hundred and fifty head of cattle, at \$7 per head.....	\$1,750 00
Sixty-two head of gentle cows, at \$15 per head.....	930 00
Thirteen head of gentle oxen, at \$20 per head.....	260 00
Four hundred head of hogs, at \$5 per head.....	2,000 00
Twenty-five head of horses, mares, and mules, at \$50 per head.....	1,250 00
Five houses burned.....	500 00

Eight pair of cart-wheels, at \$15 per pair.....	\$120 00
Two carts, complete, at \$50 each.....	100 00
One set of blacksmith's tools.....	75 00
One chest of carpenter's tools.....	95 00
Clothing and furniture.....	350 00
Three hundred and seventy-five bushels of corn, at 10s. per bushel.....	468 75
Seventy-two bushels Mexican frejolas, at \$2 per bushel....	144 00
One thousand four hundred pumpkins, at \$4 per 100.....	56 00
Burning fence on farm.....	200 00
	<hr/>
	8,298 75
	<hr/> <hr/>

NATHANIEL WHITE.

1 b q.

*A list of property stolen and carried away by Nepomocina Cortinas and his party, belonging to Salome Young, of the county of Hidalgo, in the State of Texas, from the 1st of October, 1859, to the 25th of January, 1860.*

Eight hundred head of horned cattle, at \$10 per head.....	\$8,000 00
Three mules, at \$50 per head.....	150 00
One horse.....	25 00
One saddle.....	15 00
Two barrels agucidente.....	30 00
	<hr/>
	8,220 00
	<hr/> <hr/>

SALOME YOUNG.

1 b r.

*Estimate of the losses and damages sustained by the undersigned from Cortinas and his force, in Cameron county, State of Texas, in the month of December, 1859, and January, 1860.*

Forty head of horned cattle taken and destroyed by said Cortinas and his men, worth \$15 per head.....	\$600 00
Eight head of horses and mares taken by him, worth \$50 per head.....	400 00
Merchandise taken from his store, worth.....	17 00
Amount of farming implements and ranching tools.....	25 00
One saddle and bridle.....	20 00
One rifle.....	12 00
One musket.....	5 00
	<hr/>
	1,079 00

Brought forward.....	\$1,079 00
Amount of damage sustained from a deprivation of the use and enjoyment of said property, and from the driving off of his other stock from their range, and by the loss of servants, and in consequence of his being driven off, and being obliged to abandon his commercial and other business .....	5,000 00
Total.....	<u>6,079 00</u>

I certify that the above estimate is substantially correct ; that I escaped from my place of business about the last of November, 1859, to Brownsville, where I have been compelled since to remain.

A. YZNAGA.

BROWNSVILLE, *January 24, 1860.*

1 b s.

*Statement and value of property belonging to the rancho "San Salvador du Lule," in Hidalgo county, Texas, (97 miles northwest of Brownsville, 40 miles north of Edinburg, and 7 miles west of the Sal du Rey,) owned by Mr. Kenedy, of Brownsville, and taken care of by Jacob F. George and ten Mexican herdsmen.*

1,576 head of horned cattle, at \$7 .....	\$11,032 00
400 head of beeves, at \$20.....	8,000 00
2,400 head of improved goats, at \$1 .....	2,400 00
18 head of horses, at \$40.....	720 00
1 mule .....	60 00
Improvements are one frame house, 40 by 20 feet, and the necessary jacales for the herdsmen, and corrals for the above stock.....	1,200 00
	<u>23,412 00</u>

The rancho was first visited by Cortinas's men on the 26th October, 1859, at which time J. F. George and the men were driven off. Previous to this all of the horses, mares, and mules belonging to the rancho, with the exception of what is mentioned above, were driven off to a place of security. The marauders also took the above-mentioned horses and mule, and also drove off a number of cattle, principally beeves. All of the above stock watered at a well, and in consequence of the men being driven off the stock necessarily scattered in search of water, the nearest being the Rio Grande, 40 miles distant.

The rancho has been at the mercy of the marauders since the 26th of October last, and is so up to this time. It is impossible for me to say what damage I have sustained, not only from the impossibility of getting herdsmen to gather what stock may be left, but the great danger to persons, except in large parties, going into the country, as

it is a well-known fact that up to this time the marauders have free access to it.

M. KENEDY.

BROWNSVILLE, *January 28, 1860.*

BROWNSVILLE, *January 28, 1860.*

I would furthermore state that Jacob F. George had a small store and some household furniture in the rancho, of the value of about two hundred dollars, which I am satisfied was wholly destroyed.

M. KENEDY.

*l b t.*

BROWNSVILLE, *January 28, 1860.*

SIR: In accordance with a notice issued by you, calling on the citizens for information in regard to the amount of property stolen or destroyed by Cortinas and his band—

On September 28, 1859, I had on my rancho, situated on the Rio Grande, fifteen miles above Brownsville, four large dwelling-houses, with kitchens attached, 1,600 yards extra quality fencing, one corral, the crop of corn and other produce, farming tools, cord wood, cattle, hogs, one horse, and other property impossible for me to recollect at present. The whole value at three thousand dollars.

Owing to the danger in travelling through the country it is impossible for me to state whether all or any part is destroyed or not. I believe it is destroyed.

Respectfully, yours,

HUGH O'CONNOR.

Major HEINTZELMAN.

*l b u.*

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, *January 29, 1860.*

SIR: In accordance with your call upon the people of the Rio Grande frontier to present to you within a week a statement of their losses by the predatory band under Cortinas, we have to state that we cannot in so short notice arrive at any certain or proximate amount of our losses.

We had at the commencement of his depredations upon our cattle rancho over two thousand head of cattle and horses. At one period since then not two hundred were to be found upon the place. Since then a portion of them have been recovered; others will be lost, but how many it will be impossible to determine.

The stock consisted of about two hundred head of beeves, waiting

the spring market at New Orleans, worth at the ranche \$20 per head ; the others were worth \$8 ; horses \$30.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. J. PARKER,  
WM. G. HALE,  
By F. J. PARKER.

Major S. P. HEINTZELMAN,  
*U. S. A., Commanding Fort Brown, Texas.*

---

1 b v.

*Statement of property belonging to the rancho called "Santa Rosa," situated in Cameron county, Texas, owned by Charles Stillman, of Brownsville, Texas, occupied and taken care of by ten men, viz :*

Two imported full-blood stallions.  
Nineteen stallions.  
Fifteen proof jacks.  
Four hundred and fifty mares.  
Seventy-seven gentle horses.  
One hundred and sixty geldings.  
Two hundred and fifty-three mules.  
Nineteen jacks and genets.  
Six hundred and eleven stock cattle, (horned.)  
Four imported bulls.  
Five rifles.  
One year's stock of corn, in corn-house.  
Two carts.  
Saddles, bridles, harness, hides, tools, implements, &c. &c.

The above named rancho, "Santa Rosa," was visited three times by Juan Nepomosina Cortinas's men, and the last visit they made, they took all my men prisoners, (seven of whom escaped—the other three still remain with Cortinas,) thereby taking complete possession of my said rancho, under whose control it still remains.

Signed in duplicate, CHARLES STILLMAN.

BROWNSVILLE, *January 24, 1860.*

---

1 b w.

*Statement of the losses sustained by Peter Bonchard, in consequence of the depredations committed by Juan N. Cortinas and his followers.*

Fifty-eight cows and calves.....	\$20 each.....	\$1,160
Twelve work oxen.....	25 do.....	300
Eighteen heifers.....	10 do.....	180
Three riding horses.....	40 do.....	120
Forty hogs.....	6 do.....	240

Houses and fences burned.....	\$1,500
Loss of crops and other losses consequent upon being compelled to leave the farm, &c.....	1,800
	5,300
	5,300

PETER BONCHARD.

BROWNSVILLE, *Texas*, March 21, 1860.

1 b x.

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS,  
*Brownsville, February 2, 1860.*

SIR: Will you please to give us your opinion as to what force of Texas rangers will, for the present, be necessary to be kept in the service for the protection of this frontier.

Yours, respectfully,

ANGEL NAVARRO,  
ROBT. H. TAYLOR,  
*Commissioners.*

Major HEINTZELMAN, *U. S. A.*

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,  
*Fort Brown, Texas, February 2, 1860.*

GENTLEMEN: In reply to your note of this morning, asking my "opinion as to what force of Texas rangers will, for the present, be necessary to be kept in service for the protection of this frontier," I have the honor to state:

In my opinion the two companies of rangers now in the service of the State are sufficient. I have but one company of cavalry at my disposal, and this force I consider entirely inadequate for the security of the frontier, as I am not authorized to cross the river into Mexico, where those marauders recruit and organize, and to where they flew for safety when pursued.

The ease with which incursions can be made from the other side will make it exceedingly difficult to give complete protection, unless the troops are authorized to occupy the opposite side of the river.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,  
*Major 1st Infantry, Com'g Brownsville Expedition.*

Messrs. ANGEL NAVARRO and ROBT. H. TAYLOR,  
*Commissioners of the State of Texas, Brownsville, Texas.*

[Special order.]

OFFICE OF STATE COMMISSIONERS,  
*Brownsville, February 2, 1860.*

SIR: From and after this date your movements and the troops under your command will be directed by Major Heintzelman, or other com-

manding officer of the United States army on this frontier. You will therefore obey all orders emanating from such officer.

A. NAVARRO,  
ROBT. H. TAYLOR,  
*State Commissioners.*

Captain J. S. FORD,  
*Commanding Texas Rangers on the Rio Grande frontier.*

---

LA BOLSA, *February 4, 1860.*

SIR: At this point, to-day, on the Rio Grande the forces of Cortinas fired on us from the Mexican side, and mortally wounded one of my men. Almost at the same time the steamer Ranchero, then about half a mile above, was fired upon from the same side, one of the balls passing through the American flag at her masthead. Upon their fire being returned, the enemy retired into the chaparral on the Mexican side. There is a numerous force lying in wait along the river on the Mexican side to capture the boat, or at least attempt it. I do not think that it is practicable to protect the steamer with forces on one side of the river only. I shall pass over this evening afoot, and beat the bush in the neighborhood. To-morrow morning I will pass over my horses, and, with the whole force under my command, go down upon the Mexican side, keeping as near as possible even pace with the boat. I would suggest that you detach a force to come up on the Texas side to escort her down. I think that by this co-operation only can the life and property on her be secured.

JOHN S. FORD,  
*Captain, Commanding Squadron Texas Rangers.*

Major S. P. HEINTZELMAN,  
*1st Infantry, Commanding Brownsville Expedition,  
Brownsville, Texas.*

[Note on back in pencil.]

OLD CAMP, *February 4, 8 p. m.*

MAJOR: I have taken the liberty of opening the two letters directed to you, with the view of obtaining the requisite information. I leave here immediately for the Bastone, or wherever the boat may be. I shall not cross the river without instructions, except to repel an attack upon the boat. I had a party out to-day to catch a party said to be in the vicinity of Carriso, but saw no one.

Yours, &c.,

G. STONEMAN,

---

OPPOSITE LA BOLSA,  
*Near Bastone, Texas, February 4, 1860.*

SIR: Major Ford, commanding the rangers, (who just arrived here, 4 o'clock p. m.,) has requested me to state what occurred before he came, and also to tell you the reason for his crossing into Mexico,

which he is now doing, his command being nearly crossed over. Just before we arrived here to-day, while we were at dinner, a man came in and stated that the boat was fired into, (one ball passed through the flag;) on landing we found one ranger mortally wounded; we returned the fire, with our gun, from the boat, and with our rifles.

When Major Ford arrived he thought it best, after taking counsel from all on board, to cross the river, *the better to protect the freight and the money.*

While I am writing the firing is going on.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LOOMIS L. LANGDON,

*2d Lieut. 1st Artillery, A. A. Q. M.*

Envelope directed Major HEINTZELMAN,

*U. S. army, Fort Brown, Texas.*

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,

*Fort Brown, Texas, February 4, 1860.*

SIR: Your note with the enclosed letters, is received. Your course in protecting the boat is approved.

I enclose a letter for Captain Lee, for two of his companies of infantry, to bring down the 24-pound howitzers from Ringgold. Will you please have the letters forwarded by an express, if you think it safe; if not, by a small party as far as necessary.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

*Major First Infantry, Commanding Brownsville Expedition.*

Captain G. STONEMAN,

*Second cavalry, near the Bastone, Texas.*

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,

*Fort Brown, Texas, February 4, 1860.*

CAPTAIN: Your letter of this date, informing me of the attack on the boat and the firing upon your men, is received. Captain Stoneman's cavalry has ere this reached the boat, and will co-operate with you in protecting it on its way down.

It is of the utmost importance that you preserve the most rigid discipline amongst your troops, and that no injury that can be avoided is done to the inhabitants or their property. Do not allow yourself to be drawn from the river, but confine your operations strictly to the protection of the boat.

I will communicate with General Garcia, the Mexican commandant, and should he, in accordance with his instructions, furnish a force to co-operate in dispersing these bands of mauraders, I will inform you.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

*Major 1st Infantry, Commanding Brownsville Expedition.*

Captain J. S. FORD,

*Commanding Texas Rangers, Near Bastone, Texas.*



HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,  
Fort Brown, Texas, February 5, 1860.

GENERAL: I last night received information that the marauders under Cortinas fired upon the steamboat *Ranchero*, near the Bastone, on her way down the river, whilst engaged in lawful trade; also, upon the troops on the American side of the river, on their march towards Rio Grande City, wounding one man.

For the protection of the lives and property on board the boat, Captain Ford crossed the river immediately, and drove the enemy into the chaparral, and will continue to protect the boat until her arrival at this place.

At the interview Mr. Navarro, the American consul, and myself had with you a few days since, you were so kind as to show us the order you have from the supreme government to co-operate with the troops under my command in breaking up these bands of marauders. Will you do me the favor to let me know when your troops will march?

I have the honor to be, general, your obedient servant,

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

*Major First Infantry, Comd'g Brownsville Expedition.*

General GUADALOUPE GARCIA,

*Commandant of the line of the Bravo, Matamoras, Mexico.*

*General Garcia encargado de la Linea del Bravo :*

Es en mi porden su comunicacion de fecha—de hoy informandonce que el Capitan Ford, con una purza de los E. E. U. U. panado serca del *Baston* par a de este lado del Rio conel objeto dedar proteccion al vapor *Ranchero* que bajands paraera Ciudad de los gruntos de amiba has sido hortitizado por la Gabella de Don Juan N. Cortinas.

Derde amche le temdo noticia de ente suseso é emmedialemente hiso salir de la plosa un oficial con ordenes de tomar bajo su maudo to da la puerza de policia neval que ya su ertaba nunienda con motivo de este hecho á fur de que con élla interveniese en ese ir otso acto necessario para, la tranquilidad de la linia. Por consiguiente, ahora mismo voy a reproducerle instrucciones mas amplias a la vet quele aumentari la fuerza necessario en concordancia ele lo que ofsecia en la conferencia á que V. ahede en su comunicacion citodo y que no habia verificado por qué no tenia noticia de la permanencia del bandito Cortinas en nuestro territorio ni habra preparado la feurza necesserio para perseguito con buen exito, esperando fundadamente que V. en virtud de estas providencias disponia que en es acto resare et no el Señor Capitan Ford can la fourza a que me contraizo dejando la proteccion del vapor y sus intreses osi como la persecucion del criminal Cortinas en la derecho del bravo a la fuerza de esta misma-paise y'l he mandado mover arreglo a la order di mi Gobierno que ha el honor demostrar A. V. en la entravirta a que tambien se sepira en la nota que conerto enel conasto que si fuera necesserio cualquiera otro acuerdo siciproco par a este mismoassunto to tendremos in prueba de la armonia que entry despresto á guardar por la recommendacion que trae conségo la order suprema á que me acabo de contraer.

Can la comision de los senores Acalda 2º de este Cuidad, D. Miguel

G. Cavosos y Consul Mejicano D. Manuel Treviño que son portadores de este nota espero la contestacion que V. tengo á bien dasme advirtiendole que los ruismos señores podran honerle las demas esplicaciones que V. necisito.

Protesto a V. au tal motivo me distingue africa y estimacion.

Dios y Libertad H. Matamoras.

G. GARCIA,

*Lt. Coman'te Militar del Fuerte Brown.*

Don S. P. HEINTZELMAN, *Brownsville.*

FEBRERO 5 de 1860.

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,  
2 p. m., *Fort Brown, Texas, February 5, 1860.*

SIR: I this moment received a reply to my note to General Garcia, the Mexican commandant, in which he informs me that he last night, immediately on the receipt of the news, sent some men under an officer to go up the river to do all in his power to restore tranquillity. A large force will leave this afternoon or evening, so soon as they can be organized.

You will therefore immediately proceed to this side of the river and content yourself with protecting the boat from the American bank of the river. The men sent up the river by the Mexican general are of the rural police, and care will have to be taken not to confound them with Cortinas's men.

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

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

*Major First Infantry, comd'g Brownsville Expedition.*

Captain JOHN S. FORD,

*Commanding Texas Rangers, near Bastone, Texas.*

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,  
2 p. m., *Fort Brown, Texas, February 5, 1860.*

CAPTAIN: I have this moment received a reply to my note sent to the Mexican general. He has sent forty men, and will send more, to arrest Cortinas. I have directed the troops to recross to our side, and to protect the boat from the American bank of the river.

The men sent are the rural police, and care must be taken not to mistake them for Cortinas's men.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

*Major First Infantry, Comd'g Brownsville Expedition.*

Captain G. STONEMAN,

*Second Cavalry, near Bastone, Texas.*

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,  
*Fort Brown, Texas, February 6, 1860.*

GENERAL: I had yesterday the honor of receiving, through Don Miguel G. Carosos, the second alcalde of your city, and Don Manuel Treviño, the Mexican consul, your reply to mine of the same date.

I returned a verbal answer through those gentlemen, and was prevented sending a written one sooner, from the delay necessary to have your note translated, to answer more fully.

I am pleased to learn, both from your note and from those gentlemen, of the measures you have taken, and still intend to take, to carry out the instructions of your government to arrest Cortinas and his followers. The notorious facts that he recruited his forces and armed and equipped them on the Mexican side of the river, from the means furnished by your people, for the purpose of crossing to this side to rob and murder, have naturally and justly exasperated our people.

To preserve and continue the friendly relations which so happily exist between the two governments renders it necessary that the most prompt and energetic measures be used to apprehend this man, and to put a stop to these outrages. I am pleased to learn from two of my officers, who visited your city yesterday afternoon, that an additional force marched in the evening to aid those already sent.

To show to you my desire to preserve the friendly feeling, and to remove all cause of irritation, without waiting for your action, I sent an order for the immediate withdrawal of the troops to this side of the river.

Hoping that you may be successful in ridding the community of this outlaw and his supporters, and that the friendly relations that now exist between the two governments may long continue, I have the honor to be, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

*Major 1st Infantry, Commanding United  
 States Troops, Lower Rio Grande.*

General GUADALOUPE GARCIA,

*Mexican Army, Commandant of the line  
 of the Bravo, Matamoras, Mexico.*

---

COMANDANCIA MILITAR DE LA LINEA DEL BRAVO.

El official que salio de erla Plasa violentanunte la noche del 4 del actual paradar regularidad al movimiento que hacia la Policia rural del Poniente de erte jurisdiccio á cansadelsuceso ocurrido en el rancho de la Bolsa aquel mismo dia ; ha regisado esta tarde, y eldar cuenta a esta Commandanciade su comision le ha informado do algunos hechos queno estaban en su conocimiento ni del Sor Gral, Don Guadalupe Garcia, cuando este Gife superior cambio con V. las comunicaciones defecha 5 rilativas al nusuro lucuo.

Uno de esos hechor que será del que tratari ur esta nota, es el del

fuego que se puso a la mayor parte de los jacales de dicho rancho que en numero de diez fueson por aquel elemento devorador reducidos a cenizas contodo el ayuar de sus moradores que encerraban cundiendo le nal hasta las cercasres pectiõns de algunos solases y una parte de labor ó potrero del pricetade rancho.

El Capitan John S. Ford, es sabador del hecho de que me ocupo y con franquiza y beracidad le informo al official comisionado a que me he contraido al principio, que anuque no habia sido egecutado por su fuirza ni menos autorizado per el, sin embargo era evidente que los que venian en el vapor, "Ranchero" que no pudo ni supo sunalar.

Por lo mismo Sor. Comandance, es derecho de los habitantes duenos de aquellas propiedades, y de esta Comandancia que debe representar-selos en un caro comret presente complicado con sus funciones publicas hacerlo a V. notorio oficialmente como lo practica a fin de que sirvissidose power en uso los claros medidos de justificacion y esclarecimunte que eslán en su produ, se compruebe el espesado hecho en prio de los agravidos, y per ultimo se repare asi en parte la ofensa hecha tobre las regalias de un pair que no se ha terrido derecho explicito para translimitar ne aun á titulo transitosio; concluyendo con manifiestan a N. respeticosamente que semijante juste reclamacion la hace esta Comandancia per su hecho propio, y order espesadel Sor Git. Garcia, que ansente hoy de esta Ciudad recororendo la linea donde han pasado los hechos que la motiran, no puede verificerto directamente.

Zengo cero este motiro la lunra de protestan a V. me atenta consideracion.

Dios y Libertad Matamoras.

JUEQUERI ARQUILLES,

*For Comandante Militar del Fuerte Brown, (Texas),*

*E. E. V. V. de America, Brownsville.*

FEBRERO 7 de 1860.

---

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,  
*Fort Brown, Texas, February 9, 1860.*

SIR: I yesterday had the honor of receiving your communication of the day before making reclamations for the burning of the jacoles of the rancho of "La Bolsa," and calling upon me to "thus rectify in part the offence made against the prerogatives of a country by those who had not the right to transgress it even under the pretext of transit." ("Y por ultimo se repare ari en parte la opena hecho sobre las reguleas de un pais que no seha tinido dericho explicito para translimitar ne cum a tituto transitorio.")

You are right in saying that this burning was not authorized by Captain Ford, nor was it done by his forces. Had the act been done by his order, it is justifiable by the law of nations.—(See Vattel B. III, Chap. VII, Sec. 133.)

This rancho "La Bolsa" was notoriously occupied for near a month, ever since soon after his defeat at Rio Grande City, by Cortinas and his bands, and for the avowed object of intercepting the steamer

Ranchero on her return from up the river with a valuable freight, as well as being a convenient point for the purpose of crossing the stock stolen by him from the ranches on the American side of the river. Only the day before several hundred head of such cattle were taken from a party of his men, close by this place, and below a few more, and seven of his men killed.

After his defeat, as above stated, he fled for safety to the Mexican side of the river, and there found it. He was received with sympathy; he was there allowed to remain and to recruit his forces, arm and equip them, and watch for a favorable opportunity to make another attack. This attack he made by firing across the river, mortally wounding a man of our troops, and by firing upon the steamboat.

During the time that he occupied the "Bolsa," he prepared a picket-fence for defence and cover, used one of the jacals to store his arms and supplies, and the others for shelter. To protect the boat from this attack, the troops crossed, drove him from his defences with heavy loss, and some persons along fired the jacals.

The fact of the authorities of Mexico having failed to prevent these outrages, justified the crossing of our troops, and they alone must be answerable for the consequences. The troops that crossed behaved with great forbearance, and took every pains not to molest or disturb the peaceable inhabitants or their property.

Whilst at this place "La Bolsa," Cortinas, with a small party, crossed to the American side, and at a place called "Los Rurias," on the 24th January, intercepted the United States mail carrier, took his mail, cut the bags, and rifled them of their contents. He threatened the mail carrier with hanging for serving the Americans, but let him off because the contractor is a Mexican. He, however, took him across to "La Bolsa," and there kept him a prisoner till he escaped on Saturday, February 4, during the confusion of the fight. During his stay there it was a frequent subject of conversation, the intercepting and robbing of the steamboat. There were \$60,000 in specie and bullion on board, besides a valuable cargo. Cortinas was at this time in constant communication with the inhabitants of Matamoras, and of the small towns above.

Cortinas, between the 28th September and — October, retired to Matamoras, and was seen by some of our most prominent citizens. Cabrera, his second in command, was captured by the sheriff and his posse near Cortenas's rancho. Immediately after the capture of Cabrera, Cortinas, who was then at or near Matamoras, sent a peremptory message to the citizens of Brownsville, demanding his immediate release, threatening to burn the town. This was refused. Shortly thereafter Cortinas crossed the river from Mexico with a well-armed force. From that time to the present he has depended on Mexican aid for men and arms, and for supplies. The whole frontier he has laid waste as far as Rio Grande City—120 miles—and there is not an American living, or any property belonging to an American, that could be destroyed, in this long line, and but few, very few, Mexicans. Nearly all the Americans that he caught he murdered.

Cortinas is himself a Mexican, and most of the men who have com-

posed his bands are Mexican citizens; and as he has organized and armed them openly and without opposition or interruption from the authorities, we are entitled to make reclamations for our devastated frontier and for our murdered citizens.

There are many other facts that I might adduce, but it is unnecessary to enlarge the discussion of these points as I am here with my forces for the purpose of dispersing these outlaws and defending the frontier from further outrages, as well as to aid the civil authorities in bringing the offenders to justice.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your ob't serv't,  
S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

*Major 1st Infantry, Com'g U. S. troops, Lower Rio Grande.*

RANCHE GALVESTON, (OR CHAMPIONS,) *February 6, 1860.*

MAJOR: I have just time to state that your communications to myself and Captain Ford were received last night about 9. This morning the force from Matamoras arrived, variously estimated from 50 to 150, and Ford immediately recrossed to this side, availing himself of the steamer for that purpose. We are now all camped together, and Ford desires me to state that he will furnish you with a full report, embracing all particulars, in a day or two. We shall keep together, probably, and as near the steamer as possible until satisfied that she is out of danger, and then I shall go into camp again at the former well known place.

I this morning sent an express with your communication to Captain Lee; also, a party up the river as far as Santa Rosa, to observe. The man who was wounded day before yesterday is dead.

You may expect the steamer to-morrow during the day.

Very respectfully, &c.,

GEORGE STONEMAN,  
*Captain 2d Cavalry.*

Major S. P. HEINTZELMAN,  
*Commanding Brownsville Expedition.*

P. S.—There appears to be very little disposition to catch Cortinas, who is doubtless near or with the rural guard, and the guard state that their authority extends simply to the guarding the steamer, but not to the apprehending or molesting Cortinas. If the steamer is again interfered with, *everybody* will probably interfere and escort her as far as Matamoras.

G.S.

HEADQUARTERS RIO GRANDE SQUADRON,  
*Camp Agua Negra, February 24, 1860.*

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to report, that from reconnoissances made in the valley of the Rio Grande and upon the arroyo Colorado, there appears to have been none of Cortinas's men on this side of the river for several days. Cortinas is not at the Mesa at present. He received a notice from Matamoras to enable him to be out of the way when the troops from that point should arrive. They are now almost opposite this camp, and will doubtless report their inability to find the redoubtable bandit general. The same farce was enacted by General Garcia, who, notwithstanding he had an interview with Cortinas, avowed ignorance of his whereabouts.

It is not positively known where Cortinas is at this time. He received a despatch from Camargo, and it is believed he is there. Upon the return of the Mexican troops to Matamoras he will turn up again, probably at the Mesa.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

JNO. S. FORD,

*Captain, Commanding Rio Grande squadron Texas Rangers.*

Lieutenant W. C. THOMAS,

*Adjutant, Major Heintzelman's command.*

True copies.

S. P. HEINTZELMAN.

---

*Officers present.*

1. Major S. P. Heintzelman, 1st infantry, commanding.
2. Captain S. K. Dawson, 1st artillery.
3. Captain G. Stoneman, 2d cavalry.
4. Second Lieutenant D. Ramsay, 1st artillery, temporarily attached to company "E" 2d cavalry.
5. Second Lieutenant W. M. Graham, 1st artillery, commanding company "M."
6. Second Lieutenant C. W. Thomas, R. Q. M., 1st infantry, adjutant.
7. Second Lieutenant T. C. Sullivan, 1st artillery, commanding company "C."

Field return of the troops of the Brownsville expedition, under the command of Major S. P. Heintzelman, 1st infantry.

Regiments.	Companies.	COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.					ENLISTED MEN.					Aggregate.	Remarks.
		Majors.	Captains.	1st lieutenants.	2d lieutenants.	Total.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Musicians.	Privates.	Total.		
2d cavalry .....	E	1				1	3	4	2	35	44	45	In addition we had of the Texas rangers— Major Ford's company ..... 55 men. Captain Tobias's company ..... 55 Captain Henon's company ..... 30 Captain Tomlinson's company ..... 34 Captain Hampton's company ..... 24 <hr/> 198
1st artillery .....	C			1		1	4	3	2	28	38	39	
Do .....	F			1		1						1	
Do .....	L	1				1	2	2	1	28	33	34	
Do .....	M			1		1	3	2	2	28	35	36	
1st infantry .....		1		1	2							2	
Do .....	A									1	1	1	
Do .....	I									4	4	4	
Total .....		1	2	4	7	12	11	7	125	155	162		

S. P. HEINTZELMAN, Major 1st Infantry, Commanding.

CAMP, 9 miles above Rio Grande City, December 27, 1859.



*Officers present.*

1. Major S. P. Heintzelman, 1st infantry, commanding.
2. Captain George Stoneman, 2d cavalry.
3. First Lieutenant William R. Boggs, ordnance department.
4. Second Lieutenant Douglas Ramsay, 1st artillery, commanding company "L."
5. Second Lieutenant William M. Graham, 1st artillery, commanding company "M."
6. Second Lieutenant Charles W. Thomas, R. Q. M., 1st infantry, adjutant.
7. Second Lieutenant Thomas C. Sullivan, 1st artillery, commanding company "C."

Field return of the troops of the Brownsville expedition, commanded by Major S. P. Heintzelman, 1st infantry.

Regiments.	Companies.	COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.					ENLISTED MEN.					Aggregate.	Remarks.
		Major.	Captain.	1st lieutenant.	2d lieutenants.	Total.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Musicians.	Privates.	Total.		
2d cavalry-----	E	1				1	3	4	2	35	44	45	Sergeant Thomas Conroy, of company L, and private Joseph Art, of company C, 1st artillery, slightly wounded.
1st artillery-----	C				1	1	4	3	2	36	45	46	
Do-----	L				1	1	2	2	1	23	28	29	
Do-----	M				1	1	3	2	2	29	36	37	In addition, we had of the Texas rangers—
1st infantry-----		1			1	2						2	
Do-----	A								1	1		1	
Do-----	I								4	4		4	Captain Tomlinson's company----- 35
Ordnance department.				1		1						1	Captain Hampton's company----- 20
Total-----		1	1	1	4	7	12	11	7	128	158	165	120

LA EBONAL, 13 miles from Fort Brown, December 14, 1859.

S. P. HEINTZELMAN, Major 1st Infantry, Commanding.

1 c a.

*List of persons killed by Cortinas on the Rio Grande.*

When.	Where.	Names.	Americans.	Mexicans.
1859.				
Sept. 28	Brownsville, Texas -----	William Neale, George Morris, William Johnson, Vivian Garcia, and a Mexican cartman, name unknown -----	3	2
Oct. 20	Near Brownsville -----	Jesus Morites, ----- Maroquin, and another Mexican, name unknown -----		3
Nov. 5	Lus Russias -----	George Garcia -----		1
6	-----	Manuel Aniva -----		1
21	Palo Alto prairie -----	Wm. McKay, Thos. Greer, N. R. Mallett, and John Fou—in a fight with Cortinas. -----	4	-----
Dec. 15	Near arroyo Colorado -----	----- Featherston, a United States soldier -----	1	-----
14	Ebonal -----	David Hennen—in a fight with Cortinas -----	1	-----
24	Ringgold barracks -----	William R. Robertson, J. G. Box, Captain Spears, and a Mexican, name unknown -----	3	1
1860.				
Feb. 4	Bolsa -----	Fountain B. Woodruff—in a fight with Cortinas -----	1	-----
	Near Brownsville -----	Alfred T. McFadden and David A. Denton -----	2	-----
		Total -----	15	8

FORT BROWN, Texas, March 1, 1860.

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,  
Major 1st Infantry, Commanding.

TROUBLES ON TEXAS FRONTIER.

## 1 c b.

*Supposed loss of Cortinas since September 28, 1859.*

When.	Where.	No.
September 28, 1859.....	Brownsville .....	2
October 24.....	Santa Rita .....	7
About October 31.....	Brownsville .....	2
November 21 .....	Palo Alto prairie .....	17
December 14.....	Ebonal .....	8
About December 18.....	Brownsville .....	1
December 27.....	Rio Grande city .....	60
December 29.....	Rio Grande city .....	1
About January 2, 1860 .....	Between Rio Grande city and Brownsville .....	5
January 7 .....	Zurnora's rancho.....	2
February 4 .....	Bolsa.....	36
At different times.....	Along the Rio Grande .....	10
		151

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,  
Major 1st Infantry, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,  
Fort Brown, Texas, March 1, 1860.

## 1 c c.

*List of claims for damages sustained by the depredations of Cortinas on the Rio Grande.*

No.	Names of claimants.	Amount.
1	Barreda, Dimas.....	\$948 00
2	Basse, E.....	17,670 00
3	Bean, C. T. A.....	1,530 00
4	Bessand, L.....	125 00
5	Bigelow, Israel B.....	3,755 00
6	Blandfor, John R.....	130 00
7	Brown, James G.....	3,340 00
8	Bustamente, M., & Co.....	5,000 00
9	Campbell, F. M.....	2,200 00
10	Catsell, Gabriel.....	1,790 00
11	Cavasos, Rafael.....	1,125 00
12	Champion, Albert.....	16,915 00
13	Champion, Nicholas.....	10,785 00
14	Champion, Peter.....	16,679 00
15	Chano, Nicholas.....	7,885 00
16	Collins, Peter.....	675 00
17	Cox, Noah.....	6,000 00
18	Cross, John S.....	1,425 00
19	Crug, Alcario.....	75 00
20	Davis, H. Clay.....	7,717 00
21	Decket, John.....	7,900 00
22	Doddridge & Jacobs.....	15,000 00
23	Dodier, Antonio.....	670 00
24	Domingos, Manuel.....	645 00
25	Finn, John A.....	2,463 00
26	Foster, G. W.....	400 00
27	Franco, Mateo.....	1,876 68
28	Garcia, Pedro.....	220 00

## LIST—Continued.

No.	Names of claimants.	Amount.
29	Gholson, John.....	\$940 00
30	Glavecke, Adolphus.....	3,712 00
31	Gonzalos, Miguel.....	2,160 00
32	Graham, John.....	2,850 00
33	Hedricks, Jane S.....	6,000 00
34	Johnson, William.....	6,725 00
35	Karpeles, E.....	50 00
36	Kathrens, Samuel.....	3,350 00
37	Kearns, James.....	125 00
38	Kelsey, John P.....	31,757 78
39	Kenedy, M., & Co.....	12,725 00
40	Kennon, Richard.....	204 50
41	Kidder, Sanforth.....	10,205 50
42	Kleiber, Joseph.....	3,800 00
43	Langdon, Loomis L.....	1,707 00
44	Levy, John.....	500 00
45	Mallet, James.....	2,802 00
46	Maxwell & Hough.....	3,345 00
47	McMillan, A.....	400 00
48	Miller, Jacob.....	1,190 00
49	Millstead & Martin.....	2,830 00
50	Molinas, Guillermo.....	111 00
51	Neale, William.....	16,425 00
52	Neale & Maxen.....	17,308 00
53	Perrin, B. P.....	1,000 00
54	Ramirez, Vicente.....	180 00
55	Reast, Francis.....	5,137 00
56	Rodriguez, Dimearis.....	480 00
57	Rhodes, Thaddeus M.....	9,188 00
58	Shears, Robert.....	884 00
59	Stevens, M. M.....	1,870 00
60	Thomas, William D.....	13,785 00
61	Vubri, D.....	426 00
62	Verbrunn, Julius.....	560 00
63	Ward, I. M.....	8,775 00
64	Waugh, W. A.....	1,870 00
65	West & Gholson.....	1,775 00
66	Weyman, Jane.....	970 00
67	Wheeler & Sanders.....	1,157 00
68	White, Nathaniel.....	8,298 75
69	Young, Salome.....	8,220 00
70	Yznago, Antonio.....	6,079 00
71	Kenedy, M.....	
	O'Conner, Hugh.....	
	Parker & Hale.....	
	Stillman, Charles.....	
	Bronchard, Peter.....	53 00
		336,879 21

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,  
Major 1st Infantry, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,  
Fort Brown, Texas, March 1, 1860.

2. *Colonel Lee to the Adjutant General.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,  
*San Antonio, March 15, 1860.*

COLONEL: I have had the honor to receive your letters of the 2d and 3d instant, containing the further instructions of the Secretary of War in relation to the outlaw Cortinas.

I take my departure this morning for the Rio Grande.

For the reasons stated in my letter of March 12, the bold and constant depredations on the northern frontier, I have been unwilling to diminish the small force on that line, and consequently the moral effect of the troops on the Rio Grande upon the banditti in Mexico, to oblige them to disperse, will not be as great as I could wish. I enclose an extract from a letter from Major Van Dorn, received yesterday, in further corroboration of the disabled condition of the horses of the second cavalry.

I have given orders that they be spared and nourished as much as possible; and with a view, if possible, of withdrawing the small bands of Indians from the settlements, have directed Major Thomas to organize all the available cavalry force for a general scout, and break up any camps they may have at the head of the Brazos or elsewhere.

For this purpose I have directed him to draw detachments of the first cavalry from the posts of Washita and Arbuckle.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. E. LEE,

*Brevet Colonel, Commanding Department of Texas.*

Colonel S. COOPER,

*Adjutant General U. S. A., Washington City, D. C.*

P. S.—The speediest way of rendering the second cavalry more effective would be to increase the number of horses to each company, which, by paragraph 4 of General Orders No. 13, Adjutant General's office, October, 8, 1856, were reduced to sixty. In view of the very hard service they are called upon to make, this would be very desirable, as some of the horses would be recuperating while the others would be in the field. Nor would this add much to the expense of the present arrangement, as it would diminish the number of deaths of horses in the field, their being entirely disabled, and consequent sale.

In this event I would recommend that the requisite number of horses be purchased in this department if practicable, as they would be acclimated, accustomed to grass, &c., and I believe could be procured cheaper than if brought from the Mississippi valley.

R. E. L.

2 a.

FORT MASON, TEXAS, *March 8, 1860.*

CAPTAIN: So many reports come to me of Indian depredations committed in this vicinity, with the fact that the trails all tend towards one point, that I am induced to believe that there is a large camp somewhere to the northward, and at no very great distance, probably on the headwaters of the Brazos. All the depredations have been committed by very small parties, and they seem to be coming in and going out constantly, as scarcely a day passes that I do not hear of them.

On the 8th instant I ordered out two scouting parties, one under Lieutenant Shaaff, and the other, a small one, under a sergeant. On the 4th I ordered out Lieutenant Cosby, with twenty-five men, to examine the country as far as the Concho in the direction the trails seem to take. Yesterday I ordered out a sergeant and ten men to follow a trail of Indians who had stolen some horses from the Dorse settlement. I hear indirectly of depredations having been committed in the settlements on the Llano and San Saba, below here, and also on the Colorado.

I regret that under these circumstances I have to report that the horses of my command are reduced to almost total inefficiency for service. They are poor and weak, and many of them may be called "broken down."

\* \* \* \* \*

I desire particularly to call the attention of the department commander to the condition of my horses, taken in connexion with these numerous calls upon me for their services, and to ask that the deficiency as to numbers may be, if possible, supplied at once by purchases in Texas, (*by cavalry officers;*) otherwise I shall very soon, if this state of things continues, be reduced to immobility, and, of course, to inefficiency. I have sent out all the horses that had any promise in them of going to the Concho, having mounted some of the men of F company on A company horses. It is to be hoped that with this expenditure of strength two or three Indians at least may be killed.

Very respectfully, captain, I am your obedient servant,

EARL VAN DORN,

*Brevet Major, Captain 2d Cavalry, Commanding.*

Captain JOHN WITHERS,

*Assistant Adjutant General, San Antonio, Texas.*

3. *Major Heintzelman to Colonel Lee.*

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,  
*Fort Brown, Texas, March 18, 1860.*

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith copies of a letter from Captains Stoneman and Ford and my reply, dated to-day and yesterday.

I received information a few days since from General Garcia that Cortinas had made his appearance again at the Mera with about 40 men. I immediately gave notice to the troops on the line. Captain Stoneman suggested a plan to attack him, which was approved. They unfortunately came in collision with a force General Garcia had sent up to co-operate with them.

Both Captain Stoneman and Captain Ford are pretty well convinced that Cortinas was at the Mera that night, but got away. A boy and some women said that he was in the rancho. Another man says positively that Cortinas was in the Mera the morning before. It is very difficult to arrive at the truth.

I have no doubt but that the authorities of Matamoras are sincere in their efforts to arrest him, but I more than doubt the fidelity of their troops. Cortinas or some of his friends have recently been in the interior, and it is generally believed that he is in communication with the Miramon party. Should this party gain the ascendancy in Matamoras, I doubt whether the force at my disposal would be sufficient to protect this frontier.

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

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

*Major 1st Infantry, Com'g Brownsville Expedition.*

Captain JOHN WITHERS,

*Asst. Adj. Gen. U. S. A., San Antonio, Texas.*

3 a.

CAMP ON RIO GRANDE, MEXICO,  
*March 18, 1860.*

DEAR SIR : We have the honor to make the following hasty report : We crossed the river with all the disposable force at our command last night, and half an hour before daybreak we were at the Mera ; but instead of finding Cortinas with 40 men, as reported by the commanding officer of Matamoras, we found a body of troops claiming to be national guards. Upon arriving within about half a mile of the rancho we heard the cry of a sentinel, which the guide, whom we procured in Mexico, assured us was from Cortinas's camp; we intended to have hidden our horses in the chaparral and surrounded the place on foot and attacked it at daylight, but in endeavoring to do so, we surprised a picket guard which ran into camp and gave the alarm.

We had therefore no time to lose, but immediately charged into the place on three sides, the back being a dense chaparral ; shots were exchanged before we found that our opponents claimed to be national guards, and we regret to say that one Mexican soldier and one woman were wounded, the latter mortally, while she was trying to close a door from which an officer was firing at the cavalry as they were passing the house ; none of our command was wounded, but the operation has cost us four horses. While taking breakfast within a few hundred yards of the rancho, a command numbering 150 or more of foot



and mounted men, arrived, and the commander thereof asked for a conference.

We informed him that we were after Cortinas, and that we had been informed officially that he was at the Mera with forty men or more, and he informed us that he was on the same duty; yet he, as well as all his officers, disclaimed all knowledge of his whereabouts. From conversation with him and others we learned that he had been watching us during the past day and night, and this, together with the conduct of the troops, led us to believe that he intended to attack us, but found our united force too strong for him to venture an attack upon us.

During the interview he requested that we should remain where we were until he could send to Matamoras and get a reply, which we declined doing, and informed him that in the pursuit of our object we should act according to the circumstances which might arise from time to time. We shall remain on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande until the passage down of the steamer, or until our presence here is no longer required, unless we receive orders to the contrary.

We are, very respectfully, your obedient servants,

GEORGE STONEMAN,

*Captain 2d Cavalry, Comd'g Regular Force.*

JOHN S. FORD,

*Capt. Comd'g R. G. Squadron, Texas Rangers.*

C. W. THOMAS,

*Lieut. and Adjt. Brownsville Expedition, Fort Brown, Texas.*

---

3 b.

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,  
*Fort Brown, Texas, March 19, 1860.*

CAPTAIN: Your joint letter with Captain Ford of the 18th has been received. I much regret to hear that you failed to secure Cortinas. Should you have certain information of Cortinas being in the vicinity you will attack him; but if not, you will recross to the American side of the river, and make such disposition as you may deem necessary to protect the steamboat on her way down. Should she be attacked, and it become necessary for her protection, you will cross again to the Mexican side. Lieutenant Gillem, with company M, 1st artillery, and one gun, will join you immediately. After the boat is in safety you will direct him to return to this post.

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

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

*Major 1st Infantry, Commanding Brownsville Expedition.*

Captain G. STONEMAN,

*2d Cavalry, Comd'g Troops, Camp on Rio Grande, Mexico.*

4. *Colonel Lee to the Adjutant General.*

HEADQUARTERS FORT DUNCAN,  
March 20, 1860.

COLONEL: Information from Eagle Pass was received at San Antonio the day I left (15th instant) that Cortinas, with a large force, was ascending the valley of the Rio Grande, and threatened to attack the village at this place. This report was corroborated by letters received from Laredo. On coming up with Captain Brackett's company, 2d cavalry, on the 16th, I therefore directed my course to Fort Duncan, instead of Fort McIntosh, as I had intended.

I find, upon my arrival, that there is no truth in the report. Mr. Duclos, a well-known citizen of Eagle Pass, and for some years engaged in furnishing supplies to the army in Texas, made the above communication to the chief quartermaster at San Antonio. He now informs me that he derived the intelligence from the officers of the Mexican custom-house in Piedras Negras, a village opposite.

Everything in this section of country is quiet, and the usual intercourse and commerce between Mexico and the United States is uninterrupted.

I shall therefore to-morrow proceed down the Rio Grande to Laredo, and if affairs in that quarter are quiet, will continue to Ringgold barracks, above which point I cannot learn that Cortinas has at any time ascended. Before leaving San Antonio, I had ordered to this place one of the artillery companies from Fort Clark, which has arrived, and I shall take with me to Laredo company H, 2d cavalry, commanded by Lieut. Eagle, in case it may be required.

I have given you the above information lest the report I speak of may have reached Washington, and caused uneasiness to the Secretary of War.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. E. LEE,

*Brevet Colonel, Commanding Department of Texas.*

Colonel S. COOPER,

*Adjutant General U. S. Army, Washington City, D. C.*

5. *Major Heintzelman to the Adjutant General.*

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION.  
Fort Brown, Texas, March 25, 1860.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I received orders to join Colonel Lee with Captain Lee's company, 8th infantry, at Ringgold barracks, where this company will be stationed, and that we leave to-morrow.

I have also to report that Captain Stoneman crossed into Mexico on the 17th with the two cavalry and two ranger companies, and endeavored to surprise Cortinas at the rancho of the Mera, where he was reported by General Garcia to be. He escaped.

Several ranchos which were examined showed indications of his having been there. The troops went as far as Cayetano rancho, 42 miles from the river, and then returned (on the 21st) to our side of the Rio Grande. The operation was conducted with much energy.

Cortinas has left for Burgos, three days' march from the river, and it is not believed that he will again venture to concentrate a force in the vicinity of the Rio Grande.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

*Major 1st Infantry, Commanding Brownsville Expedition.*  
Colonel S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant General U. S. A., Washington.*

---

#### 6. Major Heintzelman to Colonel Lee.

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,  
*Fort Brown, Texas, March 25, 1860.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that our troops returned to this side of the river on the morning of the 21st, after examining several ranchos, and going as far back from the river as the Cayetano ranchos, forty-two miles from the Rio Grande.

At several places they learned that Cortinas had been there, and they saw large numbers of his old camp fires. At Cayetano they learned that he had been apprised of their movements by an express from the river, and that he had left for Burgos, three days' march in the interior. It was useless to continue the pursuit.

The whole operation was carried forward with much energy. A march of one hundred miles was made in two days and nights. It is not believed that Cortinas will again attempt to concentrate a force in the vicinity of the Rio Grande.

He has not, and it is doubtful whether any of his banditti have, been seen this side of the river since the affair at the Bolsa on the 4th of February.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

*Major 1st Infantry, Comd'g Brownsville Expedition.*  
Capt. JOHN WITHERS,  
*Asst. Adj. Gen., U. S. A., San Antonio, Texas.*

---

#### 7. Colonel Lee to the Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS FORT BROWN, TEXAS,  
*April 11, 1860.*

COLONEL: I have the honor to report that I arrived here to-day, having descended the left bank of the Rio Grande from Eagle Pass. I found the frontier on the river quiet, and did not hear of the exist-

ence of any bands of armed men on either side. The commerce and intercourse between Mexico and Texas continued, though the feelings of the Mexican and American population seemed much embittered against each other. Most of the ranchos on the river in Texas, between Rio Grande city and this place, have been abandoned or destroyed. Those spared by Cortinas have been burned by the Texans. The occupants have generally taken refuge in Mexico, and no preparation for a crop this spring has yet been made.

On arriving opposite the town of Reynosa, I was informed by Major John Ford, of the Texan rangers, that some of Cortinas's men were in that place. I demanded their expulsion by the authorities of the city. Copies of the correspondence (marked A) are hereto annexed. They denied the presence of these men, and stated that they had received orders from their own government to arrest and punish any if found. This they pledged themselves to do. A copy of my orders to Captain Brackett, commanding a squadron of the second cavalry, on the subject, is also appended, (marked B,) agreeably to the tenor of the letters from your office dated the 2d and 3d of March. On my arrival at Ringgold barracks I addressed a communication to the governor of Tamaulipas, a copy of which (marked C) is annexed. To this I have not yet received an answer.

I also forward copies of a letter this day received from the Hon. George McKnight, commissioner of the State of Texas, and my reply, (marked D,) from which you will perceive that the two companies of Texas rangers, under the command of Major Ford and Captain Littleton, will be withdrawn from this frontier.

I have, besides these, three companies of artillery, including Major Hunt's battery, at this post; two companies of eighth infantry at Ringgold barracks, and four companies second cavalry in the field between those points.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. E. LEE,

*Brevet Colonel, Comd'g Department of Texas.*

Colonel S. COOPER,

*Adjt. General U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.*

---

7 a.

HEADQUARTERS RINGGOLD BARRACKS,

*April 2, 1860.*

SIR: In consequence of the recent outrages of Cortinas and his followers upon the persons and property of American citizens, I have been instructed by the Secretary of War, of the United States, to notify the authorities of Mexico on the Rio Grande frontier that they must break up and disperse the bands of banditti which have been concerned in these depredations and have sought protection within Mexican territory; and further, that they will be held responsible for the faithful performance of this plain duty on their part.

I have, therefore, the honor to request that your excellency will cause to be dispersed any bands within the States under your jurisdiction having for their object depredations upon American soil.

I am, with high respect, your obedient servant,

R. E. LEE,

*Brevet Colonel, Commanding Department of Texas.*

His excellency ANDRES TREVIÑO,

*Governor of State of Tamaulipas, &c., Victoria, Mexico.*

7 b.

HEADQUARTERS CAMP AT EDINBURG, TEXAS,

*April 7, 1860.*

GENTLEMEN: In pursuance of instructions received from the honorable Secretary of War, of the government of the United States, I hereby notify you that you must break up and disperse the bands of banditti within your jurisdiction engaged in committing depredations upon the persons and property of American citizens, and that I shall hold you responsible for the faithful performance of this plain duty on your part.

I have been informed that there are now within your jurisdiction armed followers of Cortinas, who were engaged in the recent outrages committed by him on this side of the Rio Grande, prepared to make similar aggressions.

This state of things cannot longer exist, and must be put an end to.

I am, with high respect, your obedient servant,

R. E. LEE,

*Brevet Colonel, Commanding Department of Texas.*

*To the Civil and Military Authorities of the city of Reynosa, Mexico.*

7 c.

[Translation.]

In an extraordinary session held this day the corporation of this city has made itself acquainted with the contents of your esteemed letter of the 7th of April, addressed to the civil and military authorities of the place, and has decided to reply to you, through me, that if it be, indeed, quite certain that there are, unfortunately, within this jurisdiction any bandits of the Cortinas faction, which has inflicted so much injury on the nation to which you belong—though to the sincere regret of all good Mexicans, who desire to have only the most pleasant relations with a friendly people—such criminals are yet mere skulking vagabonds, who sedulously keep out of the way of the authorities in pursuit of them; for you must know that the authorities of this city have orders from those above them to break up, pursue, arrest, and punish any and every band of men whom the factious Cortinas might attempt to collect on this side of the river, and

on no account will any such be permitted to range undisturbed within this jurisdiction, but will, on the contrary, be consigned to a close prison, and turned over to the chief officer of the district, to be dealt with according to their deserts; and to this end, an armed force has for some time past been scouring the district, with the exclusive object of hunting down all such malefactors.

The corporation has also requested me, sir, to call your attention to the fact that certain persons, whether Mexicans or strangers is not known, have not scrupled to assure the authorities of the United States that the followers of Cortinas, or persons at least who are well affected to his cause, have been allowed to reside unmolested in this city, and that with such reports they have succeeded in creating injurious prejudices, and cause this neighborhood to live in the continued fear of an invasion of United States volunteers; whereas, in truth, the whole story is a fabrication, and the inhabitants of this city, and the country around it, have at heart no more sincere desire than to be allowed to live in peace, tranquillity, and harmony with their neighbors across the river. In proof of which, I point to the fact that not one of the many Americans who have come here has ever sustained the slightest injury of any kind, but, on the contrary, whenever with their families they have come over here to invoke the protection of our town authorities, they have invariably received it.

As to the events which have recently transpired between this community and the force under command of Major John S. Ford, with reference to his entry into this town, I am instructed by the corporation to make known to you that it had received information, on the afternoon of the 3d instant, that a force of volunteers designed making a visit to the town, with what object was unknown, and that our citizens accordingly made preparations for defence; and that on the 4th of the month, somewhere about 11 o'clock, the said force made its appearance, to the number of seventy-odd men, under command of the above-named Major Ford, who, directing himself towards the chief magistrate of the town, informed him that his object was to follow up the partisans of Cortinas who were in the town and its neighborhood; to which reply was made, that no such men would be able to find in that population, unless, indeed, it should happen that they were lurking there concealed, and that this sudden invasion was a matter for grave surprise, and one which he had no right to make, and that for this reason it was he saw the neighborhood in arms, ready to defend themselves should he fail to respect their municipal authorities; that his force should, therefore, return to the other side of the river by the public ferry, which was immediately done, without the commission of any outrage whatever. That Major Ford subsequently addressed a communication to the corporation of the town, calling upon it to seek out, arrest and deliver over to him the Cortinas men named by him in said official note; to which reply was made, that his reclamation would be submitted to the presiding officer of the district, whose decision would be duly communicated to him, as in due time it was. That during the intervening time the volunteers, encamped just opposite to the town, have repeatedly fired upon the garita, (custom-house outpost,) wounding, yesterday, one of the soldiers on guard there, and have also

fired on the men and women who have gone down to the river for water for domestic purposes, and, besides, have slightly wounded a youth who was working at his field, in the immediate vicinity of the town.

The above is a statement of all that has occurred, which I lay before you with regret, as I would gladly be excused from the necessity of occupying myself with matters of such a nature, and which are so well calculated to disturb the harmonious relations between two friendly nations.

Be pleased, sir, to receive, both from myself and the other members of the corporation, the assurances of our particular consideration.

FRANCISCO ZEPEDA, *Pres't.*

VICENTE MUQUERZA, *Sec'y.*

God and liberty.

BEYNOSA, *Mexico, April 8, 1860.*

Col. R. E. LEE,

*Colonel Commanding the Department of Texas, Edinburg.*

---

7 d.

HEADQUARTERS CAMP AT EDINBURG, TEXAS,  
*April 9, 1860.*

SIR: In reply to your communication of the 8th instant, which you did me the honor to present in person, I have to express my pleasure at learning that you had received orders from the superior authorities of Mexico to pursue, apprehend, and punish all persons on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande engaged in committing depredations on this, and that such persons will not be permitted to remain within your jurisdiction.

This is in exact accordance with the letter I had the honor to address to the civil and military authorities of the city of Reynosa on the 7th instant, and corresponds with the assurances you gave me yesterday. If this is faithfully performed, it may be the means of preserving peace between the two countries.

Relying upon your strict execution of the orders of the superior authorities of Mexico, and the assurance you give me that the followers of Cortinas, and all persons engaged in committing aggressions upon the persons and property of American citizens, shall not be permitted within your jurisdiction, I will give orders to the commanders of the United States troops on the Rio Grande to await your action, which I expect will be prompt and efficient.

I have learned this morning, with great regret, from Captain John Ford, commander of the Rio Grande squadron of Texas rangers, that last night two shots were fired from his camp into Mexico, contrary

to his orders, and by persons to him unknown. That he is now engaged in discovering the offenders, and will have them punished.

I am, with high respect, your obedient servant,

R. E. LEE,

*Brevet Colonel, Commanding Department of Texas.*

Hon. FRANCISCO ZEPEDA,

*President of the Council of the City of Reynosa, Mexico.*

7 e.

CAMP BELOW EDINBURG,

*April 9, 1860.*

CAPTAIN: I have received assurances from the authorities of the city of Reynosa that no persons belonging to the band of Cortinas, or engaged in committing aggressions upon the persons or property of American citizens, shall be permitted to come or remain within their jurisdiction.

I desire you to see that these assurances are fulfilled, and to aid the authorities, if necessary, in carrying them into effect. Should you find that they are not fulfilled, and that any parties of men are collected for the purpose of depredating on this side of the Rio Grande, you will act according to the orders already given you.

Captain Stoneman's squadron will remain in this vicinity for some days, and if necessary will co-operate with yours. In this event, the senior officer for duty will of course take command.

I have been informed that threats have been uttered by citizens of Reynosa against residents of Edinburg and Tobasso. I desire you to inform the authorities of Reynosa of these menaces, and give them to understand that they will be held responsible for outrages committed by their citizens on American soil. You will also give all the protection in your power to the citizens of the places named, and all others within the line of your operations.

\* \* \* \* \*

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. E. LEE,

*Brevet Colonel, Commanding Department.*

Captain A. G BRACKETT,

*Commanding Squadron 2d Cavalry,*

*Camp at Edinburg, Texas.*

7 f.

MILLER'S HOTEL, BROWNSVILLE,

*April 11, 1860.*

SIR: I have the honor to deliver to you a communication from his excellency the governor of Texas, which, with the accompanying documents, will explain the object which induces me to address your department.



It is the desire of the government that the rangers now on the Rio Grande shall remain under your orders, provided the general government will assume their payment and subsistence. Texas can furnish men almost *ad libitum*, but the exigencies of our Indian frontier will more than exhaust the limited pecuniary resources within the reach of executive and entail a heavy liability upon the State.

You will please to inform me what disposal you wish to have made of the rangers now in this service.

I have the honor to be your most obedient servant,

GEO. McKNIGHT.

Colonel R. E. LEE.

---

7 g.

HEADQUARTERS FORT BROWN,

April 11, 1860.

SIR: I have had the honor to receive your letter of this date, transmitting a communication from his excellency the governor of Texas, and expressing his desire that the rangers now on the Rio Grande shall remain under my orders, provided the general government will assure their payment and subsistence. I have received no authority from the Secretary of War to receive into the service of the United States any portion of volunteers; and though sorry to part with troops that have performed good and efficient service in the disturbances on this frontier, I am yet unable to retain them on the conditions you propose.

Under these circumstances, I am happy to inform you, for the information of his excellency the governor, that upon referring the subject of your letter to Major Heintzelman, who has conducted with much ability the military operations on the Rio Grande, he concurs with me in the belief that in the present condition of affairs the United States troops on the river will be sufficient to preserve order, provided the Mexican authorities are disposed to maintain peaceful relations with the United States, and will perform their duty. The services, then, of the rangers may at this time be more important on the Indian portion than on this.

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,

R. E. LEE,

*Brevet Colonel, Commanding Department of Texas.*

Hon. GEORGE McKNIGHT,

*Commander of the State of Texas, Brownsville.*

8. *Governor Houston to Mr. Floyd.*

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
Austin, April 14, 1860.

SIR: Actuated by a sense of duty, as well as impelled by the helpless condition of our frontier people, I again address your department. Did the condition of things afford any hope that the shocking barbarities, which I have already reported to you, would cease at an early period, I would be loth to press upon the federal government a subject of even this importance, deeming that my former communications were sufficient to convince all of the importance, as well as the necessity, of immediate action.

The misfortunes to which we have been subject, since annexation, have, I think, demonstrated the fact that it is entirely useless to think of rendering protection to Texas by the regular army. In the first place, it is a description of service which they heartily detest. In the next place, the Indians move in their forays with wonderful celerity, and it is ridiculous to suppose that infantry can afford any protection against such a foe, because they cannot go in pursuit, and if they did, it would be useless, and a subject of amusement and ridicule to the Indians. No one doubts the value of our regulars, or the skill of our officers. Both are a subject of pride to the country; but unless the Indians are fools enough to go up to a garrison and be shot down, garrisons will be of no use, only to shelter the inmates. If cavalry are sent to the frontier, they are generally mounted on fine American horses, accustomed to being fed on grain, which cannot be procured even at an enormous price; and if they could be grain-fed, they must be shod, or they are unable to give pursuit after Indians for more than a day, without becoming "tender-footed," which is exceedingly detrimental to success.

Were a regiment of Texas volunteers called out, and the ten companies stationed at ten different points on the line of our frontier, and patrols made to pass between the different stations, no Indians could pass into the settlements without their trails being discovered, and pursuit given before they would have an opportunity to massacre and depredate upon our people.

The only question, then, arising is, as to what description of troops will be most efficient for purposes of protection against the Indians. It is evident to my mind that Texas rangers stand pre-eminent on the score of economy and usefulness. I have, I think, named reasons why the troops of the regular army are not effective in Indian warfare. I now propose to render reasons why the Texas rangers are superior, and the only class of troops fitted for such service.

They are excellent horsemen, accustomed to hardships, and the horses of Texas, having been raised on grass, can perform service without requiring grain to subsist them, except to recruit their strength for a few days when returned from a hard scout. The Texans are acquainted with Indian habits, and also their mode of warfare. They are woodsmen and marksmen. They know where to find the haunts of the savage, and how to trail and make successful pursuit after them.

They, too, have their families, their kindred, and their neighbors to protect. They have the recollection of a thousand outrages, committed upon those dear to them by the savage, to impel them onward; and if, in the pursuit of the foe, they get out of rations, they can subsist on game, being dexterous hunters. What are privations, suffering, and danger to them, in comparison with the plaudits of their fellow-citizens, which follow their success? They are accustomed to the heat of the prairies, and the severe northers to which we are subject. They need no tents to shield their hardy frames from the night winds, but are content with the earth for a bed, and a blanket for a covering. Such a force as this, continually on the alert, will be a terror to the savage. The certainty of detection and punishment will keep him away from our settlements.

The executive of Texas has sought most sedulously to avoid any appearance of being captious or complaining in his intercourse with the federal government, nor does he intend to render himself obnoxious to the imputation, at the same time it is his duty to lay before the Executive of the United States such facts as he may deem worthy of consideration and attention.

Within the past few hours expresses have arrived from Eastland and Palo Pinto counties, announcing the murder of three men and two boys, one ten and the other eight years of age, with all the attendant barbarities of scalping and mutilation. The Indians are in small parties along our frontier, and penetrate with unparalleled audacity to within forty miles of this place. They are ravaging the German settlements on the Medina, within thirty miles of San Antonio. Not content with murdering the settlers and carrying off their horses, they shoot all the cattle in their path. Hid in the dense brakes or mountain fastnesses, they wait an opportunity to make a foray. The consequence is, that the people are quitting whole neighborhoods and forting up at the county sites. Their little cabins are deserted, their fields of corn and wheat are left to waste. In many counties there is no bread and but a scanty subsistence for the women and children, while their men are in pursuit of the foe. Starvation is staring them in the face. Many of them, attracted to the frontier by the inducements held out by the land policy of Texas, are poor and unable to procure good arms to defend themselves and their families; a large portion of them are emigrants from the western States, mostly from Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio, and unused to the dangers of an Indian frontier life. They emigrated at a time when there was no apprehension, and are not prepared for the terrible realities which are now upon them. Their horses have been stolen, and they are unable to make pursuit.

The country has been so recently settled, and until then the range of the Indians, that their familiar acquaintance with it affords them every advantage. They can surprise the settlements at any moment, and can readily elude pursuit, unless it be of the most determined character. If not overtaken, they shelter themselves and wait another opportunity of surprise.

It will be asked, what is Texas doing as a State to repel this enemy? I cannot believe that any will be so lost to humanity as to declare, in

the face of the facts before the world, that Texas has a mercenary object in view; but it will be asked, is Texas waiting the aid of the federal government, and leaving her frontier citizens to a fate so horrid as that pictured? Not by any means. There are now in active Indian service, under the orders of the executive, twenty-three minute detachments of fifteen men each, with a reserve of ten men each.

There are also three companies of seventy men each. Four of forty men each, and three of twenty-five men each. A force of four companies of 90 men each will rendezvous at Fort Worth on the 13th instant, preparatory to making a determined effort to pursue and punish the Indians. Justice would demand that the government to whom we have a right to look for protection should not impose upon us the burden of sustaining this force in the field. Nor is this all. Every available man in the frontier counties is in the saddle, and has been for months. The citizens, without reward or hope of reward, have placed their wives and children in security and gone to the relief of their more oppressed neighbors.

It must be remembered that the distance from the Red river to the Rio Grande is not less than seven hundred miles, and this latter line is exposed. The whole distance is to be regarded in the disposition made of our troops, as the regulars, being in garrison, do not intercept the Indians when coming into the country.

I deplore the misfortunes of our bleeding frontier, and fear that some of those who have it in their power to render us aid misapprehend the motives which induced me to appeal to your department for arms, as well as for an organized and efficient force for the protection of our frontier. It affords me pleasure to say that you have given abundant evidence of your desire to succor Texas, in this her time of need, as your late recommendations to Congress testify; but there still seems to be a suspicion in the minds of some that Texas has a covert design upon Mexico, and the same has been used as a pretext for not authorizing the raising of an adequate force. The disposition of the troops asked for, as set forth in my former communication, as well as my assurance to the department, I had hoped would have set at rest all such apprehensions in the mind of the intelligent. I have never yet stooped so far as to substitute a pretext for manly action. If any yet entertain such suspicion, it is a matter of sincere regret to me.

The facts reported by the citizens west of San Antonio, in authentic form, assure the executive that Indians domiciliated in Mexico, the Muscaleros and Lipans, have but recently crossed into Texas, and, besides stealing a number of horses, murdered no less than four of our citizens. They were pursued on their flight across the Rio Grande. This surely furnishes a just cause of pursuit of them into Mexico and there punishing them; and should the Mexican authorities declare their inability to repress such outrages upon our people, it would be our duty, as well as our right under the law of nations, to hold the country until we had an assurance that similar wrongs would not be inflicted.

Yet in the face of these things, as well as those which have occurred in the past few months on the Rio Grande, the executive has deferred

to the federal authority, neither seeking a pretext nor availing himself of a right to invade Mexico.

The department must be aware that the executive of Texas has sought to avert the storm by every possible means, and if possible prevent the necessity for an invasion of Mexico to obtain reclamation for the many wrongs that country has inflicted upon us. He desires to see the honor of our country maintained in a legitimate manner by the government, and at the same time to visit alone upon the bandits who have annoyed us the punishment they deserve, leaving the unoffending inhabitants secure in their persons and property. But recently it was communicated to him from undoubted sources that a force was assembled near the Rio Grande to invade Mexico. In view of the pendency of a treaty with that government which had been submitted by the President to the Senate, as well as other considerations, he felt it his duty to admonish and implore his fellow-citizens not to engage in any unauthorized expedition against Mexico. At the same time he felt fully assured that if the United States does not interfere, and by some means restore order to that distracted and wretched country, the spirit of the age, as well as the genius of our people, will not be content to let it remain in its present condition, but some one, possessing capacity to plan its regeneration and will to accomplish it, will deem it his manifest destiny to build up there a nationality.

The documents submitted by your department to the chairman of Committee on Military Affairs, of House of Representatives, being of a nature calculated to give rise to the impression that no further troops are necessary on the Rio Grande, and that from General Winfield Scott being calculated to prejudice Texas in her efforts to obtain protection, I deem it my duty to lay before you such additional information in my possession as may serve to disabuse the mind of Congress upon the subject.

If General Scott, in his despatch of March 19, has relied upon the statements made by Col. Brown, he has been misled, as can be proven by the reports of every officer engaged in the government service upon the Rio Grande. So far as the condition of things on that border at the date of his leaving is concerned, he is correct. But as to whether the mere fact of the retiring of an outlaw who has been committing gross outrages upon our soil is to be considered as ample reparation for the wrong, and a reason why Major Heintzelman "*needs no reinforcements,*" is a question. What guards, then, exist against the contingency of his returning? That the opinion entertained by Major Heintzelman at the time of Col. Brown's departure afterwards proved to be premature is evidenced by the fact that on the 14th of March the United States cavalry, under command of Capt. George Stoneman, and the Texas rangers, under command of Capt. John S. Ford, both acting under orders of Major Heintzelman, crossed the Rio Grande to attack the outlaw, Cortinas, at the *musa*, of whose whereabouts information had been given by the commanding officer at Matamoras.

The particulars of the conflict at that place, and the subsequent action of the troops, will be found in the documents annexed, marked

“A” and “B.” Notwithstanding that the executive of Texas has been exceedingly candid in all of his communications with the War Department, and has furnished it with positive information as to the invasion of our territory from Mexico, there yet seems to be a doubt upon the subject. General Scott, in his communication of March 19, says :

“The recent disturbances on our side of the lower Rio Grande were commenced by Texans, and carried on (vainly) by and between them. Cortinas himself, and most of his brigands are natives of Texas. A brother horse-thief burned a house belonging to the mother of Cortinas, living in Texas, consequent on a quarrel about dividing the stolen property. Cortinas retaliated, and hence our side of the river for many miles has been devastated. But few, if any, Mexicans from the opposite side took part in the disturbances. There was no attack from the Mexican side upon our boat, the *Ranchero*, loaded with provisions. Her colors were not rent with bullets,” &c.

I am happy to be able to state that this opinion is not entertained by yourself, for in your communication to Congress of March 5, 1860, you state :

“But upon this call of the governor of Texas, *and upon undeniable proof of outrages committed upon our soil*, I did not hesitate to order a concentration of all the force upon that frontier which the exigencies of the service elsewhere would allow.”

Nor was the opinion, “that few, if any, Mexicans from the opposite side took part in the disturbances,” entertained by Major Heintzelman. In his note to the Texan commissioners of February 2, 1860, he says :

“I have but one company of cavalry at my disposal, and this force I consider entirely inadequate for the security of the frontier, as I am not authorized to cross the river into Mexico, *where the marauders recruit and organize, and to where they flee for safety when pursued.*”

Sworn testimony taken by the Texan commissioners, going to show that much the larger portion of the forces under Cortinas came from the Mexican side of the river, has also been submitted to your department.

No property belonging to the mother of Cortinas has been destroyed, except a jacal burnt by the command of Major Heintzelman during the engagement of the 24th of December.

Cortinas had, previous to that occasion, entered Brownsville and murdered several citizens. He had intrenched himself, and at the head of a band of outlaws, mostly from Mexico, bid defiance to the American authorities. How Colonel Brown, in the face of these facts, could report that these disturbances were commenced by Texans and carried on (mainly) by and between them, I am at a loss to know.

With reference to the attack made upon the “*Ranchero*,” Colonel Brown is again at fault. General Scott in his note, says :

“There was no attack from the Mexican side upon our boat, the *Ranchero*, loaded with provisions. Her colors were not rent by bullets,” &c.

The report of Major Tobin and Captain Ford, herewith submitted,

marked "C" and "D," will furnish your department with authentic information in relation to that affair. Major Töbin says:

"On Friday, on my march from Rio Grande city to this place, at the same time guarding the steamer *Ranchero*, on her way also from Rio Grande city to this place, she was fired into from the Mexican bank of the river, at a rancho called the Balsa."

This account is sustained by Major Heintzelman in his letter to the military commandant of the line of the Bravo, dated Fort Brown, February 9, 1860, which is respectfully submitted, marked "E."

Major Heintzelman says: "After his defeat, as above stated, he fled for safety to the Mexican side of the river and there found it. *He was received with sympathy; he was there allowed to recruit his forces, arm and equip them, and watch for a favorable opportunity to make another attack.*

*"This attack he made by firing across the river, mortally wounding a man of our troops, and by firing upon the steamboat."*

Texas willingly yields to the federal government the settlement of the Rio Grande difficulties. Its entire means of defence now in the field is inadequate to the protection of the country from Indians. Believing that when the facts are presented to Congress the dictates of humanity will rise above all party or personal considerations, I yet look for aid from that quarter. The American heart must feel for a people of like race and kindred; and though sectional considerations may prevail at times, they will, I believe, be forgotten when the catalogue of barbarities, by which our frontier has been devastated, is remembered.

The lives of over seventy of our citizens, the violated persons of delicate females, brutally ravished and then turned loose naked in the wilderness to starve, the victims carried into captivity, appeal too strongly to the sympathies, where reason has not been convinced, to be resisted. I have to express my regret that I have not had the pleasure to be advised by the department of the locality of the United States troops, as well as the programme of their operations against the Indians. Anxious at all times to co-operate with their officers in the defence of the country, a want of communication with them has, perhaps, rendered both classes of troops less effective than they would otherwise have been.

I have the honor to be your most obedient servant,

SAM HOUSTON.

---

8 a.

LO Balsa, February 4, 1860.

SIR: At this point to day, on the Rio Grande, the forces of Cortinas fired on us from the Mexican side and mortally wounded one of my men. Almost at the same time the steamer *Ranchero*, then about a half mile above, was fired into from the same side, one of the balls passing through the American flag at her masthead.

Upon their fire being returned, the enemy retired in the chaparral

on the Mexican side. There is a numerous force lying in wait along the river, on the Mexican side, to capture the boat, or at least attempt it. I do not think it is practicable to protect the steamer with forces upon one side of the river only. I shall pass over, this evening, afoot, and beat the bush in the neighborhood. To-morrow morning I will pass over my horses and, with the whole force under my command, go down upon the Mexican side, keeping, as near as possible, even pace with the boat. I would suggest that you detach a force to come up on the Texas side to escort her down. I think by this co-operation only can the life and property in her be secured.

JOHN S. FORD,

*Capt., Com'dg Squadron Texas Rangers.*

Major S. HEINTZELMAN,

*1st Infantry, Com'dg Brownsville Expedition, Brownsville, Texas.*

8 b.

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,  
*Fort Brown, Texas, February 4, 1860.*

CAPTAIN: Your letter of this date, informing me of the attack on the boat and the firing upon your men, is received. Captain Stoneman's company has, ere this, reached the boat, and will co-operate with you in protecting it on its way down.

It is of the utmost importance that you preserve the most rigid discipline amongst your troops, and that no injury, that can be avoided, is done to the inhabitants or their property. Don't allow yourself to be drawn from the river, but confine your operations strictly to the protection of the boat.

I will communicate with General Garcia, the Mexican commandant, and should he, in accordance with his instructions, furnish a force to co-operate in dispersing these bands of marauders, I will inform you.

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

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

*Major 1st Infantry, Com'dg Brownsville Expedition.*

Captain JOHN S. FORD,

*Com'dg Texas Rangers, near Bastone, Texas.*

8 c.

BROWNSVILLE, *February 6, 1860.*

SIR: I avail myself of a few moments' time, before the departure of the steamer, to advise you of an engagement with the outlaw Cortinas.

On Friday, on my march from Rio Grande city to this place, at the same time guarding the steamer *Ranchero*, also on her way from Rio Grande city to this place, she was fired into from the Mexican bank of the river, at a rancho called the *Balsa*. The fire was promptly re-



turned from the steamer with a small piece of artillery which she had on board, after which she landed on this side of the river. Just at this time I met Captains Ford and Littleton, with their companies, on their march up the river, when a hasty consultation was had, and it was resolved that the troops should cross to the American side of the Rio Grande. Our commands are at present encamped between Agua Negra and the rancho Zacetal.

Cortinas is said to be at Bengos, some ninety miles back of Reynosa. I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

JOHN S. FORD,

*Captain, Commanding Rio Grande Squadron Texas Rangers.*  
Major S. P. HEINTZELMAN,  
*Commanding Brownsville Expedition.*

---

8 d.

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,  
*Fort Brown, Texas, February 9, 1860.*

SIR: I yesterday had the honor of receiving your communication of the day before, making reclamations for the burning of the jacals of the rancho of "La Bolsa," and calling upon me to "thus rectify, in part, the offence made against the prerogatives of a country by those who had no right to transgress it even under the pretext of transit." [Y per ultimo se refiere a si en parte la offensa hecho robe las regalias de einpais que no se ha tenido desicho explicito para translimitar ni auna titalo transitoria.] You are right in saying that this burning was not authorized by Captain Ford, nor was it done by his forces. Had the act been done by his order, it is justified by the law of nations. (See Vattal, B. III, chap. vii, sec. 133.) This rancho "La Bolsa" was notoriously occupied for near a month, ever since his defeat at Rio Grande City, by Cortinas and his bands, and for the avowed object of intercepting the steamer *Ranchero* on her return from up the river with a valuable freight, as well as being a convenient point for the purpose of crossing the stock stolen by him from the ranchos on the American side of the river.

Only the day before several hundred head of such cattle were taken from a party of his men, close by this place, and below a few more, and seven of his men killed.

After his defeat, as before stated, he fled for safety to the Mexican side of the river, and there found it.

He was received with sympathy; he was there allowed to remain and recruit his forces, arm and equip them, and watch for a favorable opportunity to make another attack. This attack he made by firing across the river, materially wounding a man of our troops, and by firing upon the steamboat.

During the time that he occupied "La Bolsa," he prepared a picket fence for defence and cover, and one of the jacals to store his arms and supplies, and the others for shelter. To protect the boat from this attack the troops crossed, drove him from his defences with heavy loss, and some person along fired the jacals.

The fact of the authorities of Mexico having failed to prevent these outrages, justified the crossing of our troops, and they alone must be answerable for the consequences. The troops that crossed behaved with great forbearance, and took every pains not to molest or disturb the peaceable inhabitants or their property.

Whilst at this place, ("La Bolsa,") Cortinas, with a small party, crossed to the American side, and at a place called "Los Reusias," on the 24th January, intercepted the United States mail carrier, took his mail, cut the bag and rifled the contents. He threatened the mail carrier with hanging for serving the Americans, but let them off because the contractor is a Mexican. He, however, took him across to "La Bolsa," and there kept him a prisoner till he escaped on Saturday, February 4, during the confusion of the fight. During his stay there it was a frequent subject of conversation, the intercepting and robbing of the steamer. There were \$60,000 in specie and bullion on board, besides a valuable cargo. Cortinas was at this time in constant communication with the inhabitants of Matamoras, and of the small towns above.

Cortinas, between the 28th of September and October, retired to Matamoras, and was there seen by some of our more prominent citizens. Cabrera, his second in command, was captured by the sheriff and his posse near Cortinas's ranche.

Immediately after the capture of Cabrera, Cortinas, who was then at or near Matamoras, sent a peremptory message to the citizens of Brownsville, demanding his immediate release, and threatening to burn the town.

This was refused. Shortly thereafter Cortinas crossed the river from Mexico with a well armed force. From that time to the present he has depended upon Mexican aid for men and arms, and supplies. The whole frontier he has laid waste as far as Rio Grande City, one hundred and twenty miles, and there is not an American living on any property belonging to an American that could be destroyed on this long line, and but very few Mexicans. Nearly all the Americans he caught he murdered.

Cortinas himself is a Mexican, and most of the men who have composed his bands are Mexican citizens; and as he has organized and armed them openly, and without opposition or interruption from the authorities, we are entitled to make reclamations for our devastated frontier and for our murdered citizens.

There are many other facts I might adduce, but it is unnecessary to enlarge the discussion of these points at present, as I am here with my forces for the purpose of dispersing those outlaws and defending the frontier from further outrages, as well as to aid the civil authorities in bringing the offenders to justice.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
S. P. HEINTZELMAN,  
*Major 1st U. S. Infantry, Comdg. U. S. Troops, Lower Rio Grande.*

JOAQUIN ANGEIELIS, Esq.,  
*Military Commander of the line of the Bravo, Matamoras, Mexico.*

[NOTE.—For letter from Captains Stoneman and Ford, of March 18, 1860, see No. 3 a of these papers.]

8 e.

BROWNSVILLE, *March 24, 1860.*

MAJOR: In obedience to your order, I have the honor to report the operations of the forces commanded by Captain Stoneman and myself, since our joint report of the affair at the Mesa.

On the 15th instant, the steamer *Ranchero* arrived at our encampment, and we escorted her to the rancho of Solisena. At the Bolsa the advance guard of the rangers came upon Faustin, "captain of the Indians," a murderer of Americans and an officer of Cortinas, and they killed him. At La Palina we found the Reynosa troops under Captain Benerides; they appeared friendly.

From the Solisena we moved to the rancho Maguey, 27 miles from Matamoras, where we learnt from our Mexican guide, Cortinas would probably be found.

In the evening, when close to the rancho, we heard firing which we supposed was Lieutenant Kimmit, engaged with Cortinas. We marched up at the gallop and met a party who were celebrating Saint Joseph's day, by a procession and other ceremonies. A man not in the procession ran and was requested to stop, with assurances that he would not be molested; he refused, made the chaparral, and fired upon the rangers. They killed him.

On the next morning we made the Cayetano rancho, at daylight, forty-two miles from the Rio Grande. Here, as at the Maguey, we learnt Cortinas had been, but was gone.

From here we made for San Lorenzo, on the same day. At the Ratomites, some twelve miles nearer the river, we found Captains Vargas and Beniredes, with part of the Mexican troops. They said they were hunting Cortinas. On the 21st, as ordered by you, we crossed the river in pursuit of the enemy, which resolution was promptly executed, and about 60 men, consisting of detachments from Tomlinson's, Ford's, and Littleton's companies, crossed to the Mexican side and attacked the enemy in his position, which consisted of a barricade, and after a sharp conflict of about one hour and a half, completely routed him. The enemy had about 200 men, and I think lost about 25 or 30 men. No Americans were killed; one wounded mortally and two slightly.

I had, on my way down, (previous to the firing into the *Ranchero*,) several skirmishes with the enemy on this side, and took from him some two hundred head of beeves.

The time is so short that I cannot furnish details; by next steamer I will transmit you a detailed report.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. G. TOBIN,

*Major, Commanding Rangers.*

His Excellency, Governor SAM. HOUSTON, *Austin, Texas.*

9. *Colonel Lee to the Adjutant General.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,  
*Fort Brown, April 17, 1860.*

COLONEL: I have the honor to enclose a copy of a letter, (marked E.,) I addressed on the 12th instant to General J. Garcia, commander-in-chief of the line of the Bravo, with his reply, (marked F.) You will perceive that he gives full assurances of the intention of the authorities of Mexico to prosecute Cortinas and his band, and announces that he now holds in prison at Matamoras some of his accomplices.

I also enclose the reply of the authorities of Reynosa to my letter to them of the 9th instant, (marked I.) I had no reason to doubt the sincerity of the profession of the Mexican authorities, and believe they are disposed to maintain peace with the United States; but their ability to control the unruly among their people is not, in my opinion, adequate to the purpose. I shall, therefore, not hesitate to disperse and punish all marauders on our territory. I hear of no aggressions on the frontier, nor can I learn of any preparations to disturb the existing quiet. The last reliable account of Cortinas was that he was retiring further into the interior of Mexico. He had with him his family and two men, and was more than one hundred miles from the frontier. General Garcia informed Major Heintzelman, on the 13th instant, that orders had been given by the Mexican authorities to arrest him wherever found.

The disposition of the United States troops on the river, is the same as at my last report. The recruits for the three companies of artillery at this post have arrived, and nearly completed their complement of men.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. E. LEE,

*Brevet Colonel, Commanding Department of Texas.*

Colonel S. COOPER,

*Adjutant General U. S. Army, Washington City, D. C.*

[NOTE. See Colonel Lee's letter to Mr. Zepeda, to which the following is a reply, No. 7 d.]

---

9 a.

SALA CAPITULAR, }  
Del L' Ayuntamiento, De Reynosa. }

Dada cuenta à la Y. Corporacion en sesion estraordinaria de hoy, con la apreciable comunicacion de V.S. fecha de ayer, relativa à varios puntos de importancia, acuerda decirle por mi conducto, como tengo el honor de hacerlo, que cuanto ha ofrecido hacer en su comunicacion fecha 7 del corriente, y verbalmente, sobre la persecucion aprehencion y castigo de los hombres que se encuentren en esta villa y

su jurisdiccion pertenecientes à la reunion de Cortinas, es tan cierto y de tan buena fé, que ha dictado yà providencias muy serias y energicas, tanto por que desea que los malhechores se castiguen con el rigor de la ley, como por que siente sobre manera que bandidos de tal clase perjudiquen à una Nacion vecina y amiga, con quien la gente de orden de Mejico desea mantener las mejores relaciones de amistad; y el Ayuntamiento quisiera que U. S. se persuadiera de esta verdad para que no vacilase en creer cuanto le tiene ofrecido y nueramente le ofrece.

Mucho agradece esta Corporacion à V. S. que se haya dignado dar sus ordenes à los Señores Commandantes de las topas de los EE. UU. del Rio Grande, para que tengan por ciertas las promesas hechas por este cuerpo municipal, y puede V. S. està seguro de que en nada se faltará.

Tambien ha visto con mucha satisfaccion y contento el Ayuntamiento lo informado à V. S. por el Señor Capitan Don Juan S. Ford, commandante Escuadron de Rio Grande "Texas Rangers," lo mañana de ayer, contraido que està averiguando à las personas que antenoche dispararon dos tiros de su campo al de Mejico, para castiger à los que resuelten complices, é igual comportamiento se observará por esta corporacion en caso ofrecido.

Dignése V. S. recibir mi particular aprecio y el de la corporacion que presido.

Dios y Libertad.

FRANCISCO ZEPEDA, *Ste.*

VICENTE MUGUERZA, *Secretario.*

Señor Coronel Commandante del Departamento de Tejas, Don R. E. LEE, *Edinburg.*

REYNOSA, *Abril 10 de 1860.*

9 b.

[Translation.]

SEAL OF THE MUNICIPAL HALL OF REYNOSA, }  
*April 10, 1860.* }

Your esteemed favor of yesterday, in relation to various matters of importance, having been laid before this honorable corporation in extra session of to-day, it was agreed to grant me the honor of replying to you.

I assure you, that all that was offered in my letter of the 7th, as well as all the verbal promises made in relation to the prosecution, apprehension, and punishment of any men connected with the band of Cortinas, who may be in this town, or within its jurisdiction, have been carried out in good faith, and very urgent and severe measures have been taken, not only that the majesty of the law may be vindicated, but because this corporation regrets that a banditti of such low class should disturb a neighboring and friendly nation, with which the best of our Mexican people desire to maintain good relations; and

this corporation begs that, observing the honor and good faith in which we have acted, you will not hesitate to trust our sincerity in future.

This corporation is truly thankful to you for deigning to issue instructions to the officers commanding the United States troops on the Rio Grande, to rely upon the good faith of this corporation, and this municipal body will neglect no means of proving that your confidence has not been misplaced.

It is also a matter of grateful satisfaction to us, to notice the information given you by John S. Ford, esq., captain of Texas rangers, of the investigation going on to discover and punish the persons who fired the two shots from their camp into ours on the night before last. We will act in like manner in similar cases.

Have the kindness, dear sir, to accept the best esteem of this corporation, over which I have the honor to preside.

God and liberty!

FRANCISCO ZEPEDA, *President.*

VICENTE MUGUERZA, *Secretary.*

R. E. LEE, Esq.,

*Col. Com. the Military Dep't of Texas.*

---

9 c.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT BROWN, TEXAS,

*April 12, 1860.*

GENERAL: I had the honor to receive your letter of the 6th instant on my way to this place, and have postponed replying to it till my arrival. I regret that you consider the visit of Captain Ford, of the Texas rangers, to the town of Reynosa a cause of complaint, as that officer, in his official report of the occurrence, supposed he was acting in accordance with your sanction and the general understanding between yourself and Major Heintzelman, commanding the United States troops on the Rio Grande, that the outlaw, Cortinas, and his band should be pursued and arrested wherever found.

I was gratified to learn from the authorities of the city of Reynosa, and am pleased to have it repeated in your letter of the 6th instant, that the authorities and public force of Mexico, under the orders of the superior authorities, will pursue and punish Cortinas and his followers; as the vindication of the violated laws of the United States will conduce to the restoration of quiet on our frontier and of amicable feelings between the two countries.

For the attainment of this object I shall employ, if necessary, all the force in this department; and further, I beg leave to inform you that I have been directed by the honorable Secretary of War of the government of the United States to notify the Mexican authorities on the Rio Grande that they must break up and disperse the bands of banditti concerned in the outrages against the persons and property of American citizens. I shall, therefore, consider it my duty to hold them responsible for its faithful performance.

As this agrees with the orders of the superior authorities of your own government, and I am sure must be in accordance with your own sentiments, I feel confident of your cordial co-operation in the only means of preserving peace between the two countries.

I have been informed that there are now in Matamoras persons that were engaged with Cortinas in his depredations upon American soil, ready, if opportunity favors, to renew these aggressions. If this is the case, I shall expect, as an evidence of the friendly relations between the governments of the United States and Mexico, that they be apprehended and punished, agreeably to the orders of your superior authorities.

I am, with high respect, your obedient servant,

R. E. LEE,

*Brevet Colonel, Comd'g Department of Texas.*

General G. GARCIA,

*Commandant-in-chief of the line of the Bravo, Matamoras, Mexico.*

A true copy.

T. W. ROBINSON,

*First Lieutenant First Artillery.*

---

9 d.

*General de Brigada en comision del Gobierno :*

La atenta comunicacion de V. S. fecha 12 del actual satisface cumplidamente todos los puntos que por mi parte toqué en la de 6 del mismo, que V. S. recibo en camino para el cuartel general que hoy ocupa ; y desde luego me es sumamente satisfactorio dar à U. S. las debidas gracias, asi como la mas cumplida enhorabuena por su feliz arribo al proprio cuartèl general.

Por mi parte recibo con beneplacito la notificacion que por orden de la Honrable Seccion de Guerra del Gobierno de los EE. UU. se sirve V. S. hacer à las autoridades Mejicanas del Rio Grande sobre el deber que tienen de perseguir al bandolero Cortina y sus partidas ; y V. S. debe comprender perfectamente que se ha de persistir en esa obra de la humanidad, no solo por las disposiciones terminantes del Supremo Gobierno constitucional de la Republico, que reside en Vera Cruz, y del particular del Estado de Tamaulipas, establecido transitoriamente en Tampico, sino por que se ha acometido desde el principio por todas estas autoridades con la lealtad y buena fé de quien desea conservar la paz de que disfrutan dos pueblos amigos.

Algunos de los còmplices de las depredaciones de Cortina en el territorio de los EE. UU. se han capturado en virtud de sus ordenes ; y con otros de la misma pandilla permanecen asegurados en la prision comun de esta ciudad, à donde seguramente vendrán à dar todos los demas que aun se atrevar à renovar sus agresiones Vandalicas, si es que no pueda correrles otra suerte como resultado de cualquiera resistencia à la justicia y armas del pais que los persiguen incesantemente para que expien su crimen : por consiguiente V. S. tiene razon en esperar este acto como prueba de amistad entre los Gobiernos de los

EE. UU. y Mejico, à lo vez que hace à estas mismas autoridades bastante honor admitiendo las como medio de recibirla.

Con ocasion de esta respuesta reproduzco à V. S. mis respetos y cordial estimacion.

Dios y libertad. Matamoros, Abril 14 de 1860.

G. GARCIA.

Señor Coronel Don R. E. LEE,  
*Commandante del Departamento de Tejas,  
en el cuartèl general del Fuerte Brown.*

9 e.

[Translation.]

MATAMORAS, *April 14, 1860.*

BRIGADIER GENERAL IN GOVERNMENT COMMISSION: Your attentive communication of the 12th instant fully satisfies all the points referred to in mine of the 6th of the same month, which you received on the road to the headquarters you now occupy. It therefore gives me as much satisfaction to express my thanks that are due to you as my congratulations at your safe arrival.

I receive, on my part, with the greatest pleasure the notification which, by order of the honorable Secretary of War of the government of the United States, you give to the Mexican authorities on the Rio Grande, upon the duty incumbent upon them to pursue the bandit Cortinas and his followers; and you must be perfectly aware that they will persist in this measure of humanity, not only on account of the determined purpose of the supreme and constitutional government of the republic, resident at Vera Cruz, and of the particular State government of Tamaulipas, temporarily established at Tampico, but because it has always been the policy of all these authorities to preserve the peace which exists between friendly nations, with loyalty and good faith. Some of the accomplices of Cortinas in his deprivations upon the territory of the United States, have been captured, by virtue of these orders, and others of the same band are in the common prison of this city, to which fate all others will come who dare to renew these robber-like aggressions; if they do not incur another penalty as the result of their resistance to the justice and arms of the country which constantly pursues them that they may expiate their crimes. You are consequently right in regarding this as a proof of friendship between the governments of the United States and Mexico, at the same time that it honors these authorities by admitting them to be the means of receiving it.

I take the opportunity of this reply to renew to you my respects and cordial esteem.

G. GARCIA.

God and liberty!

Colonel R. E. LEE,  
*Commanding Department of Texas, Headquarters, Fort Brown.*



10. *Mr. Hemphill to Mr. Floyd.*WASHINGTON, *April 26, 1860.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit you an official letter from the Hon. E. W. Cave, secretary of state of Texas, showing that the frontier is now suffering the most deplorable evils from Indian hostilities, and that speedy relief should be extended by the government of the United States.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN HEMPHILL.

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD, *Secretary of War.*

STATE DEPARTMENT, *Austin, April 13, 1860.*

SIR: Notwithstanding the fact that we have now in the field a minute detachment in almost every frontier county, the depredations continue. The utmost vigilance is kept up; active scouts are continually out in about twenty counties, besides the force which has been sent from the interior, but Indians still are seen, and losses are daily reported.

General Houston has called into the field four companies, in addition to those already out. They will be under command of Colonel M. T. Johnson, and will make an expedition against the Indians, starting from Fort Belknap on the 1st of May. The expedition will number about five hundred men.

We had accounts yesterday of Indians in Burnet county, about 40 miles from here. They are also ravaging the settlements west of this, and especially the German settlements on the Medina, within thirty miles of San Antonio. Three men have been murdered in that vicinity in the last few weeks, and a number of horses stolen. The Indians are, doubtless, Mescabaras and Lepans from Mexico.

An express has just arrived with news of the killing of Mr. Cross, in Eastland county.

Texas has now over 1,000 men in the field. The treasury will not hold out long if this drain upon it continues. Our citizens, hoping that the United States will soon authorize an efficient ranging force, have thus far responded to the call of the governor with cheerfulness.

Unless the frontier settlers are soon relieved by forces from the interior, starvation will be upon them and their families, as no crops can be made.

The people look to Congress for aid. I hope humanity will rise above all other considerations, and that the cries of a suffering people will be heeded, whether it comes to the ears of their southern or northern brethren.

Very respectfully,

E. W. CAVE,  
*Secretary of State.*

Hon. JOHN HEMPHILL.

H. Ex. Doc. 81—8