

TEXAS FRONTIER TROUBLES.

FEBRUARY 29, 1876.—Ordered to be printed with accompanying testimony.

REPORT:

The special committee who were appointed under a resolution of the House of Representatives, passed January 6, 1876, "That the portion of the President's Message which refers to the inroads, robberies, and murders along the Mexican border in Texas be referred to a special committee of five members, with instructions to inquire into the causes and the nature and extent of these depredations, and the measures that might prevent their continuance, with power to send for persons and papers, and to report at as early a day as possible," beg leave to submit the following report:

Your committee, in order to obtain the most comprehensive and reliable facts connected with the subject of their investigation, collected from the War Department, from the State Department, and from the proceedings of the State government of Texas, all the important information bearing upon the subject; and also had before them witnesses from whose personal observations a true representation of the condition of the country on the Lower Rio Grande frontier could be gathered.

In the year 1872, three commissioners were appointed by the President, under authority of a joint resolution of both Houses of Congress, approved May 7, 1872, which read as follows:

Whereas there are complaints of many depredations having been committed for several years past upon the frontiers of the State of Texas, by bands of Indians and Mexicans, who crossed the Rio Grande River into the State of Texas, murdering the inhabitants or carrying them into captivity, and destroying or carrying away the property of the citizens of said State; as also that bands of Indians have committed, and continue to commit, like depredations on the property, lives, and liberty of the citizens along the northern and northwestern frontiers of said State: Therefore,

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized and empowered to appoint three persons to act as commissioners to inquire into the extent and character of said depredations, by whom committed, their residence or country inhabited by them, the persons murdered or carried into captivity, the character and value of the property destroyed or carried away, from what portions of said State, and to whom the same belonged.

SEC. 2. That it shall be the duty of said commissioners, or a majority of them, as soon as practicable, to proceed to the frontiers of said State and take the testimony, under oath, of such witnesses as may appear before them, after having given notice for ten days previous, by publication in the nearest newspapers, of the time and place of their meeting, of all such depredations, when, where, by and upon whom committed, and shall make up and transmit to the President full reports of their said investigations.

SEC. 3. That said commissioners shall be entitled to and receive as compensation for their services the sum of ten dollars per day each, and their traveling-expenses to each, for and during the time they shall be engaged in said service; and the sum of six thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated to pay the expenses of said investigation and said commissioners.

No action has ever been taken in regard to the report of that commission; but, saying nothing of the claims investigated, which do not

come properly under the notice of your committee, the statements of facts, the accounts of the murders and robberies, must be considered as correct, and are corroborated by all that came immediately before your committee. We deemed it, therefore, unnecessary to again go over the same ground, but confined our examinations to the condition of that region since the date of the report here mentioned, only referring back occasionally so as to keep the thread of a connected history unbroken. But even for that time the documents from the War and State Departments were found so bulky, and the array of robberies and murders so long, that your committee confined themselves chiefly to the occurrences of the last year and the present condition of that country.

For the same reasons your committee excluded all matter referring to the incursions and raids of Indians, residents of Mexico, near the Upper Rio Grande, into Texas for murder and pillage, and confined themselves to the district in which the raiding is done by the Mexicans residing on the south bank of the Rio Grande, from its mouth up some distance above Laredo, altogether about 300 to 400 miles.

SCENE OF THE RAIDS.

The country lying between the Rio Grande (by the Mexicans called Rio Bravo del Norte) and the Nueces River, in the State of Texas, belonged, previous to the Texan war of independence, like all Texas, to Mexico; but while all the rest of Texas was united with the State of Coahuila under one State government, the government of "Coahuila and Texas," this country was a portion of the Mexican State of Tamaulipas.

When Texas achieved her independence, in 1836, the republic claimed the Rio Grande as the boundary-line, and thereby included in her territory this portion of Tamaulipas lying between the Rio Grande and Nueces Rivers. Mexico resisted that claim; and during the nine years of existence of Texas as a sovereign and separate republic, and after Texas had become one of the United States of America, by the act of annexation, in 1845, that country was disputed ground. Although the independence of Texas was recognized by Mexico, it was not until after the Mexican war of 1846, and in the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, in 1848, that Mexico recognized the Rio Grande as her boundary. The first battles of the war, the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, were fought on that disputed ground, the theater of the present raids.

This country is mostly prairie, about three hundred miles from the coast to its upper line and an average width of one hundred and fifty miles, covered with the most nutritious grasses, and is looked upon as among the best pasture-land of all the fine pastures of Western Texas. Before the revolutionary war of Texas, it contained vast herds of cattle, horses, and sheep, the owners living partly on the lands and partly in the Mexican towns west of the river. In 1835, just before the war, according to the assessment-rolls of the towns on the Rio Grande, there were over three millions of head of stock on these plains.* The war followed. During its progress, and after its close, nearly all the inhabitants left, either withdrawing to the south of the river by order of the Mexican generals or keeping close upon the river-bank, to be ready to cross. The stock was abandoned and destroyed. None of the people remained to reside there, as they were disarmed by Mexico and treated

* See Ex. Doc. No. 52, 36th Congress.

as enemies by Texas.* The Indians commenced their devastating forays upon the defenseless country. On the early American maps that portion of Texas was marked as a "desert," inhabited only by "large droves of wild horses and cattle." It is far from being a desert, but the wild horses and cattle were there, the remnants of former wealth. For years this country was the hunting-ground of "mustang-hunters," Americans, Mexicans, and Indians alike.

After the Mexican war the Government of the United States established military posts along the frontier, and the State of Texas kept several companies of "rangers" in the field, thus affording protection from Indian incursions. The legislature of the State, in the year 1852, also passed liberal laws confirming the titles of the old Mexican owners to their lands. The assertion made by a committee of investigation sent by the government of Mexico, that the Mexicans were deprived of their lands by legislation,† is directly contrary to the facts and without foundation. The legislation of the State has been of the most liberal character, and the decisions of the courts uniformly in favor of the old titles.

In consequence of this liberal legislation the Mexican residents returned about the year 1853, and re-established their stock-ranches, and in 1856, and since, Americans settled throughout the country, purchasing lands from the old owners, or acquiring the unlocated public domain under the laws of Texas. They were remarkably prosperous until the raids assumed a formidable character. From reports given to the committee it may be seen that, although agriculture is still in its infancy there, and the country still held and used alone by the herdsmen, the wealth was rapidly increasing.

In the report of the commission sent there in 1872, to investigate the raids, it is stated that, in the year 1870, the assessment-rolls in the counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Webb, La Salle, Encinal, Duval, Zapata, and Nueces, (the returns of two other counties, Like Oak and McMullen, not having been included,) showed 299,193 cattle, and 73,593 horses; and now, even after the enormous losses by the raids, the following estimates give an idea of the exportations of that district:

The firm of Coleman, Mathis & Fulton, of Rockford, having contracted to ship cattle by Morgan's steamboat-line, supply, per annum, 50,000 steers, at the rate of \$18 per head, or	\$900, 000
The packing and rendering establishments at Fulton consume 50,000 head of steers, worth \$15 per head.....	750, 000
The number of cattle driven north to the Kansas market is estimated at 75,000, at \$12 per head.....	900, 000
The export of wool from Corpus Christi was last year 6,000,000 pounds, at an average price of 22 cents.....	1, 320, 000
The number of mutton-sheep is not estimated.	
All the figures given mean gold values.	

HISTORY OF THE RAIDS.

The history of the present raids can be said to have commenced with the Cortina war in 1859 and 1860. We will quote enough of the official account of Major Heintzelman, U. S. A., dated March 1, 1860, and contained in the Executive Documents of the first session of the Thirty-sixth Congress, Doc. No. 84, submitted to the House of Representatives

* See Ex. Doc. No. 52, 36th Congress.
 † See Report of Mexican Commission, p. 129.

by the Secretary of War under a resolution of the House to give an outline of that war:

Juan Nepomuceno 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 rancho, 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 for years been 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.

* * * * *

On the 13th of July last he was in Brownsville with some of his rancho friends, when a man who was formerly a servant of his was arrested by the city marshal for abusing a coffee-house keeper. Cortina attempted to rescue the man. He fired twice on the marshal, the second shot wounding him in the shoulder. 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.

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Before daylight on the morning of the 28th of September, Cortina 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 suburbs of Framireño. The citizens were awakened by firing and cries of "Viva Cheno Cortina!" "Mueran los Gringos!"—Death to Americans! "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 two thousand to three thousand inhabitants occupied by a band of armed banditti—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 jailor, Johnson, a constable named George Morris, young Neale, in his bed; and two Mexicans were after Glavecke, the wounded city marshal, and others.

We will not go further into the details of the war thus inaugurated. Cortina went to the Mexican side, and "he and his men stayed about Matamoras publicly, unmolested by the authorities."

Cortina established himself subsequently on the American side of the river above Brownsville, where he collected men and arms. He repulsed an attack made on his position by a number of Americans, assisted by national guards from Matamoras, with some artillery, on the 24th of October. The governor of Texas sent out forces against Cortina. Several fights took place in the chaparral, in which Cortina maintained his position. Major Heintzelman says:

Cortina was now a great man. He had defeated the "Gringos," 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 of the Mexicans and drive back the hated Americans to the Nueces.

Major Heintzelman arrived, in command of United States troops, on the night of the 5th of December at Brownsville. He took command, and, with a mixed force of United States troops, Texas rangers, and volunteers, dislodged Cortina, and finally defeated him, at Rio Grande City, on the 27th of December. Cortina crossed over into Mexico and established himself there. Once more he crossed over to the American side on a raid. We close this account by another quotation from Major Heintzelman's report:

Most of his arms, ammunition, and supplies to maintain his forces for so many months came from Mexico, and principally from Matamoras. Most of the men were "pelados"

from the towns and ranches along the Rio Grande. On the Mexican side he always found a market for his plunder. He was styled in orders "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.

In a letter to the Mexican general commanding on the Rio Grande, who had taken exception to the troops of Major Heintzelman following Cortinas across the river into Mexican territory, Major Heintzelman maintained the right to do so, and said :

After his (Cortina's) 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 then 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, mortally wounding a man of our troops, and by firing upon the steamboat.

We have quoted fully from this official report, because, although written sixteen years ago, in describing the opening scenes of this border warfare it gives all the characteristic features of what has been enacted on that field for the last ten years.

During the civil war of the United States, and until about the year 1866, there was a period of comparative peace on that border. The reasons were various. In the first place, the Rio Grande became the only open inlet into the southern confederacy, and an immense trade was established there. The towns were full of strangers. Cotton was exported in immense quantities, and vast stores of merchandise imported. Matamoros became an important mart for the commerce of the world, and the whole population had an exceedingly remunerative employment. The roads were covered with wagon-trains and travelers. Many of the Mexican merchants made large fortunes. A number of them had their business in Texas, and mutual profits and usefulness established a friendly feeling. Meanwhile the French invasion, and the establishment of Maximilian's empire, drove the liberal government north toward the border, and for some time the fugitive government of Juarez was at El Paso, on the American line, one foot, so to speak, on American soil and the other on Mexican. Then followed the rallying of the liberal forces. Escobedo, the chief commander of Juarez' forces, made up his army on the border, and started from there on his campaign which closed with the final tragedy of Queretaro. His army and the other liberal corps operating against the forces of the empire absorbed and carried away all the loose population of that border.

But after the close of the war, and with the return of the soldiery, commenced the pillaging on the Texas border. Cortina, the old robber chief, had obtained the rank of brigadier-general in the Mexican army, and had risen to power and distinction. From that time forth he was the central figure of the robbing population which established itself on the Mexican side of the Rio Bravo. His power was despotic. The lawless men who, through him, enjoyed the advantages of organization and political power on their own soil, and unlimited license to plunder on the Texan side, supported him with enthusiastic devotion, and in turn gave him the power and position which, in such a country, naturally falls to the leader who can command the unhesitating services of a large body of warlike followers. He became individually far more powerful than any other power—national or state. It was known that he had made and unmade governors at his pleasure.*

*See Report of Mexican Commissioners, page 150.

When we now look upon the fearful history of rapine, murder, and wholesale robbery which from that day to this present date has desolated and is still desolating our border, the robber communities that have sprung up and are constantly increasing, a whole population living on what they plunder from their neighbors, and a set of local authorities conniving at and participating in the spoils of these notorious crimes, grown to be a regular means of livelihood, we cannot wonder at this result, when we reflect on the condition of a government which had to confer rank and position on a successful robber in order to avoid his hostility.

And when we consider that it is our own people who have been the constant victims of these crimes for the last ten years, and are now still more exposed to them than ever, we feel that every sentiment of manhood and of regard for the honor of our country, and its most sacred obligations to defend the life and property of its citizens, cry out against the criminal neglect which allowed this evil to assume its present formidable proportions. That a man like Cortina, who had left the territory of the United States, in open war with the United States troops and the troops of the State of Texas, and against whom numerous indictments for murder and other crimes are now pending in the State courts, should have been placed in high command immediately on our border, was a strange act for a government professing to be friendly; and it was as strange for our Government to suffer it for so long a time. Cortina has been arrested by the Mexican government, and, until lately, held in the city of Mexico. His return to the old theater of his crimes and insults against our people, some time since triumphantly announced in Matamoras, would be an act of open defiance.

We have stated that the report of the commission sent by our Government to that border, in 1872, has never been acted upon by Congress. We consider it due to their labors, and valuable as filling up that portion of the history of the border, to append to this report an abstract of the outrages proved before them. A similar list, more revolting in its details, with reference to the incursions of Indians, residents of Mexico, into Texas, we omit as not belonging to the immediate subject of our investigation—the cattle raids on the Lower Rio Grande.

But since the report of those commissioners was made to the President, the crimes on our soil near the border have been even more frequent, and have assumed more formidable proportions. From the evidence before us, we append a statement of the principal crimes committed during this time.

It will be seen that the constant and immense robbery of cattle, which is the basis of this entire system of outrages, has, in these later statements, hardly been mentioned, as the murders and other crimes which have grown out of it overshadow it. The question with the people has become one of existence, not of pecuniary loss.

Since the close of this enumeration, in December, 1875, a band of Mexicans was pursued, and they crossed over into Mexico with 250 head of cattle, the soldiers standing on one bank of the river and seeing the cattle come out on the other side, where the population of the robber-village turned out to receive them. Captain McNalley, commanding a small party of about 35 Texas State troops, arriving soon after, followed on the trail across the river, but found that the cattle had been driven behind the village, and that several hundred men had collected to oppose him. He had a fight with them in which he killed several, and, supported by United States troops on the Texas side, succeeded in recross-

ing the river. About sixty of the poorest cattle were returned—the first restitution, poor as it was, which has been made for years. Captain Randlett's report of the crossing will be found in the appendix, and is mentioned as the fight at Las Cuevas.

ROBBER POPULATION.

It is shown from the evidence before us that there is on the Mexican or south side of the Rio Grande a population far more numerous than that on our side, and who support themselves mainly by robbing our people. It is shown that they possess only a scanty supply of cows; that they have a few sheep and goats; that their agriculture is not enough to support but a small portion of their number, notwithstanding which they live better, dress better, are mounted and armed better than the same class elsewhere in Mexico. From their entire impunity and the great attractions of the spoils, their numbers are continually increasing. From the oldest times, and among all people, punishment of crime has always been considered necessary to prevent its increase; but here we have the strange spectacle of a community openly subsisting on crime, while there is no punishment for them. Their own nominal government is not strong enough to inflict it, while the Government of their victims—our own Government—from a highly refined sense of international politeness, has refrained from inflicting it.

All vagrant and dangerous elements are congregating to that paradise of robbers; a new generation is springing up, knowing no means of livelihood but robbing, aptly compared by our commanding general on that border to the pirate communities which formerly resided on the northern coast of Africa.* When the robbers return with a drove of cattle, it is stated by the witnesses, old men and young boys all turn out to help the cattle out of the miry ground of the river-bank.

This state of things is wholly due to the inactivity of our Government. A few years ago some energetic chastisement, convincing the plunderers that there was some danger connected with their trade, would certainly have checked it, but the impression that our troops dare not cross the river has made them feel at ease. When, after a hot pursuit, the robbers and their spoil reach and cross the river, and our brave troops stand helpless and overwhelmed with shame on the American side of a small river, and bear the taunts and insulting gestures of the escaped robbers and their friends, our nation and its Government becomes in their eyes, as they do not study the subtle arts of diplomacy, an object of scorn and contempt.

As long as the cause lasts the result, the increase of the number and power of the robber clans, will continue. What a few years ago might have been suppressed with a small force, will now demand a much larger one, and much more energetic measures, and unless they are taken now, delay will, day by day, increase the evil and the difficulties in the way of its suppression.

MEXICAN AUTHORITIES.

All statements agree that the authority of the national government of Mexico on the border is only nominal. If they would, they could send no troops there, as they would desert and join the thieves. They have no forces to spare, and they cannot interfere with the livelihood of the robbers without risking the danger of driving them into the ranks of

* See testimony of General E. O. C. Ord, p. 42.

some revolutionary leader. The real power is altogether local. The governors of the States, and the people of the States, with their own local authorities, are the only powers with whom our people have to deal. We find that our relations with the Mexicans are far from being the same along the whole border. On the upper Rio Grande the authorities and people of the State of Chihuahua are on terms of perfect friendship with our people. General Ord, commanding in Texas, has stated in his report that Mexican troops have come over repeatedly in pursuit of Indians, on the American side of the Rio Grande. He has had rations issued to them and complimented them in orders.

From Laredo to El Paso there is entire harmony and amicable intercourse between the people on the two sides of the river, only for a time disturbed by the raids of the Kickapoo and Lipan Indians, who lived in Mexico, and whose robberies were checked by a severe chastisement administered to them on the Mexican side of the river by General McKenzie. The Indians are now removed and there has been comparative peace.

There is no doubt, says the American consul at Monterey, whose letter will be found in the appendix,* that the raids are entirely owing to the demoralized condition of the mass of the people of Tamaulipas, and the class of men who hold office in that State. This is substantiated by all the evidence. The officials when called upon for redress are profuse in promises never followed by performance. They find the robbery a source of profit, and if they find that they can continue this profitable state of things and the inactivity of our Government by lying and diplomatic correspondence, they will, as a matter of course, do it, and the Federal Government has no agency but theirs and acts to suit them.

To characterize these proceedings it is of interest to follow a particular case. Among the latest and boldest performances of the raiders was the Corpus Christi raid, a full account of which will be found in the evidence accompanying this report. Mr. Foster, the American ambassador, made a representation of the outrage to the Mexican minister of foreign affairs. The colonel commanding the national forces at Matamoras, Col. José L. Christó, reported officially to the minister of war, Mejía,† "that in his judgment it cannot be the case," (that Mexicans could have been engaged in the raid.) "Granting that some Mexican robbers pass from this side to Texas, as also those from that side to this, they only engage in the robbing of cattle and horses, and never attack a town. For the reason, my opinion is, that the wrongs are committed by individuals resident in Texas itself, who, in consequence of local State questions, have risen up as a kind of insurrectionists against the government of Texas." (!) This report was communicated by Mr. Mejía to Mr. Lafragua, the minister of foreign affairs. This Christó is the same colonel who, as stated in Captain McNally's evidence,‡ when called upon by some personal friends from the Texas side to return stolen cattle of theirs, which were then herded near Matamoras, put them off for three days by fair promises, and in the mean time, by special orders, had all the cattle bearing their brand slaughtered for the Matamoras market; and after being informed that his orders had been obeyed, he went out to the remaining cattle with the duped friends, and showed them that there were no cattle of their brand there.

His official statement as above, indorsed by the minister of war, would

*Appendix B, No. 1.

† See Appendix B, No 3, page 156.

‡ See testimony of Captain McNally, page 3.

have been the last of this affair had not an officer of less discretion and more honesty arrested eight of the raiders at Camargo, and another officer two at Mier.

General Escobedo,* commanding at San Luis Potosi, reported to the minister of war that thirty armed Mexicans had crossed the Rio Grande, coming from Texas, where they had, among other acts, burned a store. That they had scattered after getting into Mexico, but that ten were arrested and sent to Saltillo, to await punishment. Mr. Lafragua at once informed the American minister, Mr. Foster, of this act of good faith,† and Mr. Foster answered as follows: "I have to thank your excellency for the information contained in your note, which I will communicate to my Government, which will doubtless be gratified," &c. It seems that he was grateful for small favors, for the raiders were turned loose without any punishment whatever, and their little trip from Camargo to Saltillo was the only satisfaction given to our people for the brutal outrages they had committed. The clear proof of this is the absence of any further mention of the criminals, while any act of punishment would certainly have been communicated to our ambassador with great flourish and would have elicited from him additional expressions of gratitude. In the light of this experience a sentence in the letter of Minister Lafragua to Mr. Foster appears highly significant: "In the future the *same* strict vigilance will continue to be exercised by every class of authorities."‡ Of course, including Colonel Christo.

MEXICAN CHARGES.

It will be noticed that Colonel Christo indicates that the robberies are committed by robbers of both sides, and that the losses and sufferings are mutual. This is the continual charge of the Mexicans, repeated again and again with unblushing effrontery. This committee have, after diligent search, been unable to find a single case of a plundering raid from Texas into Mexico. Hon. Hamilton Fish, in his letter of May 20, 1875, to Mr. Foster,‡ states, with full knowledge of all the facts, as follows :

It may be regarded as frivolous to seek to justify the hostile incursions into our territory on the ground of retaliation for similar incursions from this side. There have been none such, and proof of the contrary is challenged. Indeed, the charge is improbable on the face, from the fact that Mexico, near the border, holds out no temptation to plunderers from this side, while the reverse is the case in respect to baits in Texas for Mexicans.

The proof has been challenged in vain. With the continued charges made and reiterated by the Mexicans not a single special case has ever been stated. Failing utterly in getting the material for such statements, it has become common with the Mexicans to assume a tender care for the welfare of Mexican citizens in Texas.

§ "Toward the close of the years 1873 and 1874," writes Mr. Mariscal to Mr. Fish, in a letter dated January, 1875, "an unusual number of crimes and outrages of all kinds were committed against Mexicans in the State of Texas by inhabitants of that State, the perpetrators thereof, in a great majority of cases, remaining unpunished, either from powerlessness on the part of the authorities of the State, or from some other

*Appendix B, No. 2, page 154.

†Appendix B, No. 2, page 153.

‡Appendix B, No. 4, page 156.

§ Report on Foreign Relations, 1875, part 2, page 954.

cause still more to be lamented." This other cause, which he does not express, but only laments, is stated more explicitly by his witnesses, who declare that the State authorities were accomplices in the crimes. "I confined myself to counseling moderation and prudence in the midst of the excitement prevailing among the Mexican population of these regions."

Your committee is assured by the representatives of the Mexican population in Texas in this Congress, that they are not in need of the sympathy thus wasted upon them. Indeed, all the witnesses declare that all those Mexican citizens of Texas who possess anything are patriotic and respected, proud of their American citizenship, and complying with every duty of citizens. Some of them have been honored members of the legislature, others have repeatedly held military commands. Far from sympathizing with the robbers and raiders, they have often been foremost in the defense of our border, and in the punishment of invaders. The brothers Benavides, in Laredo, have for many years held commands in Texas. Col. Santos Benavides earned a high reputation for conspicuous vigilance and bravery in the protection of the border; and his brother, Capt. Refugio Benavides, commanded with distinction a company of State troops in the same service, as will be referred to in another portion of this report. Their troops were all Mexican citizens of Texas, and they have more than once impressed on the invaders the lesson that the vicinity of Laredo was a bad region for the pursuit of their trade. They ask no sympathy from such quarters.

But it seems from the correspondence of the State Department that, in answer to the repeated challenges by Mr. Fish, to give some substance to the repeated charges of crimes committed by Texans in Mexico, by naming even one, the Mexican ambassador at last produces two. Strange to say, from his statement they were both committed on Texan soil, and therefore did not meet the challenge; but it is fair to presume they came nearer meeting it than any other he could discover. One is substantiated by the oath of some "Mexican witnesses" that it was rumored that one Robles and one Leyva, both Mexicans who had been sojourning in Texas, were made away with.* No more need be said of this charge than to quote Mr. Fish's reply: † "Your note is accompanied by the affidavits of certain persons; no one of whom, however, claims to have seen the homicides. They all speak of them as matter of public notoriety. Even the names of the supposed culprits are not mentioned. It seems clear that testimony of this character can hardly be made the basis of any specific proceeding. It is noticed, too, that Leyva is said to have been carried to the bank of the Rio Grande by order of a judge in Texas. This statement, likewise, is so incredible on its face, as to serve as its own refutation."

The other case was as follows: ‡ Toribio Lozano, a Mexican, living in Aguafria, in the State of Nueva Leon, had, since the year 1861, been grazing his sheep and goats in Texas, and continued doing so until the winter of 1873. His servants, or "peons," (peonage is forced servitude for debt, and is the common system of labor in Mexico,) were with his sheep and goats. Now this fact that Mexicans, residents of Mexican States in the interior, did not hesitate to send their flocks to graze on the Texas pastures, and should, as in this case, do it for twelve years without loss, is a stronger contradiction of the charges made by the Mexican minister of the reign of violence and insecurity

* Report on Foreign Relations, 1875, part 2, page 974.

† Report on Foreign Relations, 1875, part 2, page 980.

‡ Foreign Relations, 1875, part 2, page 955.

in that State, and against the allegation of the great fear which Mexicans are asserted to entertain from lawlessness in Texas, than any facts which could be adduced. We are informed that it is very common for citizens of Mexico to graze their stock in this manner without fear of loss—an assurance which could only have grown up by the experience of perfect safety and fair treatment from the people of Texas. Mr. Mariscal, in his correspondence, speaks of the estates of Mr. Lozano in Texas, but Mr. Lozano, in his own statement, is silent as to estates, and it is stated, by well-informed residents of that country, that Mr. Lozano only assessed for taxation his sheep and goats, but no land. Now, it is stated that the principal subsistence of the shepherds was the cattle of the country, which during the years of the war passed unnoticed, as it did for some time after. But in 1873 a noted outlaw from Mexico, Alberto Garza, followed the business of “peeling” on a large scale in Texas; that is, he killed cattle for their hides, and took the hides to market. He is said to have had his camp close to the camp of Lozano’s shepherds, and they were suspected of assisting him. No direct evidence exists of these facts, nor as to the perpetration of the crime which followed. Seven of the shepherds were found hanged. Great indignation prevailed in the surrounding country, and the grand juries of Nueces County and Live Oak County made every effort to discover the murderers, but without success. In those sparsely-settled parts of Texas we learn that it has again and again occurred that horse or cattle thieves were punished in such summary manner by owners of stock, without distinction of nationality. It seems to be difficult for the authorities to prevent or punish such acts, much as they may deplore them, as proof is very difficult of access.

Mr. Lozano charges this crime directly to the authorities of Texas, and his witnesses, in the evidence which he adduces, charge, in a formula to which they all swear, the collusion of the authorities of Texas with the criminals.* On this, Mr. Mariscal bases a claim which is curious in its details. As the Mexican commission have criticised severely some of the claims established by the American commission which investigated the raids in 1872, which claims it is not now in our province to condemn or defend, it may be interesting to look into this claim. The Mexican shepherds belong to the lowest class of “pelados” in their country; they own nothing in the wide world, and they earn from six to eight dollars per month, which they receive in the necessaries of life furnished by their owner or employer at such prices as he may see proper. Their state of civilization is hardly removed from that of the Indian. They are half-clad, their feet protected by raw-hide sandals fastened with raw-hide thongs. Yet, in the evidence accompanying Mr. Mariscal’s letter, a number of the same class swear that each one of the killed shepherds caused a pecuniary loss to his widow and other family of more than fifty thousand dollars.† Comment is unnecessary. The voluminous correspondence kept up on this subject by Mr. Mariscal is sufficiently answered by Mr. Fish in one sentence:

Mexicans in Texas and Americans in Mexico, who engage in business near the border, must not at present, or perhaps for some time to come, expect either government to insure them against all the risks inseparable from such enterprises.

He might even have left out “Americans in Mexico,” for, from what

* Report on Foreign Relations, 1875, part , pages 967, 968.

† Report on Foreign Relations, 1875, part 2, pages 970, 971, 972, 973.

your committee can learn, no American would ever be reckless enough to send his stock and herders to the Mexican side for grazing.

While no charge of a raid from Texas, by robbers or lawless persons into Mexico, has ever been substantiated or even specifically stated, all the evidence shows that there is no inducement for such raids, there being nothing to take. Moreover, the danger connected with any such attempt is alone sufficient to deter any party from such a venture. A robbing population, from the very nature of their occupation, are always on the alert, ready with their horses and arms. They have a perfect and efficient system of guards and patrols, which makes it impossible for any party to enter their country without at once being noticed, and confronted in a short time by a considerable force.

CONDITION OF OUR PEOPLE.

Meanwhile our people on the border are impoverished day by day, and their lives are held by a slender tenure. It is stated in the evidence before us that all the American stock-raisers, who could do so, have abandoned their ranches, and sought safety for their families in the towns. Business in the towns has almost ceased. No merchant dares to credit a country merchant or a stock-raiser, whose whole possessions are liable every day to be swept away, burned, or otherwise destroyed. Such is the insecurity of life that Captain McNally, who appeared before your committee, a man of known daring, and a bold leader in those border fights, declares upon oath that no compensation, however great, could induce him to incur the danger which every inhabitant of the country between the Rio Grande and Nueces incurs every day, and that he considers his life, as a man whose business is war, safer than that of any inhabitant of that district. Deliberately and with full conviction, as this opinion is stated by one who is familiar with that country and all the facts, as a perusal of his evidence will show, it is fearful in its weight, and should come home to the heart and mind of every American.

But it is not alone the danger incident to the life in a country overrun by robbers, which is the constant menace to our people, but there is, according to all the statements, a perfect terrorism established by the robbers. Every one who is suspected, by word or deed, to have taken part against them is doomed to death. Captain McNally says: "Many of them have not nerve enough to take an active, decided stand against it, either by giving information or by personal assistance. Still, a number of them have done it since I have been out there, and some eight or ten, probably twelve, have been killed on that account. It has been the history of those border counties that when any man, Mexican or American, has made himself prominent in hunting those raiders down, or in organizing parties to pursue them when they are carrying off cattle, he has been either forced to move from the ranch and come into town, or he has been killed. Quite a number of Americans have been killed within the last year out there, and also quite a number of Mexicans, probably twelve or fifteen, for that offense alone. The men on the other side of the river threaten to kill them, and the fact is known publicly. They say, "We will kill that man within a week," and the report is heralded over the country, and if the man does not leave they usually carry their threat into execution. The same statement occurs in all the evidence. While the resident Mexican population, who have any property, are in sympathy with our people, there is

*See testimony of Captain McNally, p. 9.

a large floating population who have come over from the other side who have no permanent abode anywhere, and who are the spies and informers of the raiders.

General Ord states that some of his informants implored him not to give their names to the public, as they would assuredly have to flee from the country or be murdered; and your committee, compelled to publish this evidence; in order to satisfy Congress and the American people of the extraordinary condition of that country, cannot refrain from saying in all earnestness that if this Congress should fail to give ample protection to that unfortunate country, this very report with the evidence annexed may deliver some of the men, our own citizens, testifying to your committee and to you, to death by the hands of the murderers.

The appeals from the State of Texas have been earnest and oft repeated. Governor Coke has again and again addressed urgent calls for relief to the Federal authorities. The legislature of Texas and the constitutional convention memorialized Congress. They claim that they are entitled, as certainly they are, to protection by the power of the nation. The representations of Mr. Fish to the Mexican government have been earnest and persistent. But it is perfectly evident to your committee, and must be evident to anybody who reads the history of this tragedy for the last ten years, that the Mexican government is utterly powerless to prevent these evils or to check them, and that the only reliance is to be placed in the energetic and positive action of our own Government. Indeed the only explanation compatible with the theory that the national government of Mexico is on friendly terms at this moment with this nation, as it professes to be, is that it is too weak; otherwise, the fact of these continued hostile armed incursions would be stronger than all professions of amity and peace.

MANNER OF DEFENSE.

In coming to the manner in which protection can be given, we must state it as the unanimous opinion of all military men familiar with that border that protection can only be complete if the commanding officer of our troops can, whenever he finds robbers in the act of carrying off their booty, follow them up, even across the river, punish or kill them, and retake the property of our citizens. They are unanimous in stating that a merely defensive policy would give imperfect protection, even if a large force were maintained there at great expense. The river is skirted by a belt of from fifteen to twenty-five miles of an impenetrable thicket, crossed by narrow paths, known to the inhabitants and the robbers. The robbers can pass in a short distance from the troops without being observed, and cannot be intercepted or followed except on these paths. General Sheridan and General Ord, as well as Captain McNally, gave it as their opinion that a force of ten thousand men, without power to follow the robbers and punish them, would afford inadequate protection, while a force of twenty-five hundred, or even two thousand movable cavalry, exclusive of garrisons, if permitted to follow up the raiders when caught in committing their robberies, would soon break up the raiding.

Your committee are strongly in favor of avoiding all cause of dispute with the Mexican national government, and would go as far as honor and duty to our citizens would permit in remaining entirely on the defensive, and have therefore given this subject considerable attention. We find, in examining again the official reports of the Cortina

raid in 1860, that Major Heintzelman, in command of the United States forces, found it necessary to send a command of Texas rangers over to the other side of the river, as Cortina's force threatened an attack on a steamer which was coming down the river. His instructions to the commanding captain were as follows:

It is of the utmost importance that you preserve the most rigid discipline among your troops, and that no injury that can be avoided is done to the inhabitants or their property. Confine your operations strictly to the protection of the boat.

In a letter to the Mexican general, Garcia, commanding on the line, he says:*

I am pleased to learn, both from your note and from the gentleman who brought it, of the measures you have taken to arrest Cortina and his followers. The notorious fact 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, has 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.

To show you my desire to preserve the friendly feeling, I sent an order for the immediate withdrawal of the troops to this side of the river.

In a second letter, answering a complaint made by the general, he again said:†

You are right in saying that the burning of the "jacales" (huts) was not authorized by Captain Ford, nor done by his forces. Had the act been done by his order, it is justifiable by the law of nations. (See Vattel, book 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 Cortina and his band, and for the avowed object of intercepting a steamer. Only the day before, several hundred head of stolen cattle was taken from a party of his men close by this place, and seven of his men killed. 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.

* * * * *

From that time to this he (Cortina) 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, one hundred and twenty miles, and there is not an American living, or any property belonging to an American, that could be destroyed, and but few, very few, Mexicans. Nearly all the Americans that he caught he murdered.

Cortina is himself a Mexican, and his men 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 reclamation for our devastated frontier and our murdered citizens.

There are other facts which I might adduce, but it is unnecessary to enlarge discussion, as I am here with my forces for the purpose of dispersing these outlaws and defending the frontier from further outrages.

Your committee quote the last sentence with pleasure and pride. It breathes the spirit in which deceptive and insincere diplomacy should be met. There is only one act more contemptible than the use of such diplomacy, and that is to submit to being duped by it. These letters of the gallant Heintzelman were conclusive on the subject, and established peace.

We add another official letter, from R. E. Lee, brevet colonel, commanding Department of Texas, to the civil and military authorities of the city of Reynosa, Mexico, 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 in-

*See Executive Document No. 81, 36th Congress, page 67.

† Executive Document No. 81, 36th Congress, page 68.

‡ Executive Document No. 81, 36th Congress, page 85.

formed that there are now within your jurisdiction armed followers of Cortina 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,

R. E. LEE,
Brevet Colonel Commanding.

Also in orders to Captain Brackett, he said :*

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

R. E. LEE,
Brevet Colonel Commanding.

This had the desired effect.

General Sam. Houston, then governor of Texas, April 14, 1860, wrote to the Secretary of War in a long communication on this point, speaking of invasion of Indians from Mexico in Texas :

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 outrages would not be inflicted.†

On January 16, 1873, Mr. Hamilton Fish wrote to Mr. Nelson, then American envoy in Mexico :

The federal government of that republic appears to be so apathetic on this subject, or so powerless to prevent such raids, that sooner or later this Government will have no other alternative than to endeavor to secure quiet on the frontier by seeking the marauders and punishing them in their haunts, wherever they may be. Of course we should prefer that this should be done with the consent, if not with the co-operation, of Mexico. It is certain, however, that if the grievances shall be persisted in, the remedy adverted to will not remain untried.‡

Governor Coke, of Texas, in the year 1874, mustered into the State service a company of mounted men at Laredo, all, or nearly all, Mexican citizens of Texas, commanded by Capt. Refugio Benavides. Their service was the protection of the frontier against raiding parties. In the orders to the company the governor directed them as follows :

Should the company be in close pursuit of thieves or marauders with their plunder, it will follow as far as possible, whether on this side of the Rio Grande or the other, having a due regard for its own safety and the prospect of recovering the stolen property.

Attorney-General Williams having called Governor Coke's attention to the doubtful propriety of this order, Governor Coke answers in a lengthy letter, § from which we will quote the following :

If these Mexican raids which this force is called out to repel were of recent date, of irregular occurrence, and of such character as to elude the efforts of an ordinarily vigilant and energetic government to suppress, and such efforts were being made in good faith by the authorities of Mexico, I grant, in that case, that to allow an armed force to pursue even robbers, for the purpose of recovering their booty, across the Rio Grande would be a violation of the rights of Mexico and of well-settled principles of international law. The right of the government of Mexico to immunity for its territory from the incursions of armed forces from Texas would then be based on a proper discharge of the duties of that government to Texas, in repressing the lawlessness of its own people, and preventing and punishing their

* Executive Document No. 81, 36th Congress, page 88.

† Executive Documents, Thirty-sixth Congress, No. 81, page 92.

‡ Report on Foreign Relations, 1873, No. 277, page 635

§ Appendix C, No. 1, page 165.

crimes committed against the people of a neighboring state. It is because each state or nation has undertaken to restrain its people from making war on the people of its neighbors that the law of nations forbids an armed force from one entering the territory of another. The right of immunity grows out of, and depends upon, the performance of this duty, which each power owes to the other. No state has surrendered the right of defense of its people in its own way against aggressions from neighboring states or people, except upon the promise and performance of the great duty toward itself, which all nations owe each other, of so governing their people as that they shall not deplete or make war upon other nations, or any of their people or territory. I apprehend that international courtesy, comity, and amity have never been required by the law of nations, carried to the romantic extent of surrendering the great natural right of self-defense against the constant infliction of serious, permanent, and wrongful injury upon the people of one nation by those of another, although the attacks may be unauthorized by the government of the territory from which it comes.

Attorney-General Williams acquiesced in these conclusions, and the orders remained in force.

We have been thus lengthy upon the right of crossing the river, if necessary for a defense of our border, because, on the one hand, we wish to state most emphatically that we do not desire any collision with the national government of Mexico, nor the acquisition of any of its territory; while, on the other hand, we are reluctantly forced to the conclusion that the only efficient defense will involve the following up and punishment of the robbers. In the case of several precedents, like the crossing of General McKenzie, Captain McNally, and Captain Randlett, the Mexican government have remonstrated, but shown their judgment and appreciation of the motives of this Government by not regarding such invasions, temporary as they were, and under the strong aggravations leading to them, as a serious offense. Indeed, it would be an untenable position if they offered us the alternative of quietly submitting to outrages which they cannot prevent or incurring their displeasure. It is safe to say that no sensible nation could afford to go to extremities on such grounds. At the same time, we do not expect that the Mexican government would give such a right by treaty or formally in any manner, as the exacting pride of their people might cause them great political troubles.

The protection of our border is a supreme duty, and we must take such means as will be efficient in giving that protection. Should Congress fail in this, there may be well-grounded apprehensions that the people of Texas will rise in arms in their last despair, and themselves cross the border and wage a war of retaliation. They want no war and no more territory. We are assured that they would consider a war as destructive to their interests, and that they want peace and immigration to fill up their own vast territory before they desire to see new fields opened to draw immigrants elsewhere. Their country offers them all the prosperity they desire, if they can only have peace and security for themselves, their families, and their property. But they are men and they are Americans, and there are limits to patient suffering. A war of retaliation, after what they have suffered, would not be confined to the punishment of the robbers alone, and would precipitate such complications upon this nation that we could not ignore them. A failure to act promptly may, and probably will, therefore, bring about the very thing we wish to avoid. As yet what has to be done can be done in regular order, justly, discreetly, and in proper bounds, and this Government will be able to know and direct how far to go and where to stop.

We beg leave to submit the following joint resolutions, and recommend their passage:

Resolved, That for the purpose of giving efficient protection to the country between the Rio Grande and Nueces River, in the State of Texas, from the cattle-thieves, robbers, and murderers from the Mexican side

of the river, the President of the United States be, and hereby is, authorized and required to station and keep on the Rio Grande River, from the mouth of that river to the northern boundary of the State of Tamaulipas, above Laredo, two regiments of cavalry, for field-service, in addition to such infantry force as may be necessary for garrison duty, and to assign recruits to said regiments so as to fill each troop to number one hundred privates, and they shall be kept up to that strength as long as they shall be required in that service.

SEC. 2. That in view of the inability of the national government of Mexico to prevent the inroads of lawless parties from Mexican soil into Texas, the President is hereby authorized, whenever in his judgment it shall be necessary for the protection of the rights of American citizens on the Texas frontier above described, to order the troops when in close pursuit of the robbers with their booty, to cross the Rio Grande, and use such means as they may find necessary for recovering the stolen property, and checking the raids, guarding, however, in all cases against any unnecessary injury to peaceable inhabitants of Mexico.

G. SCHLEICHER.

A. S. WILLIAMS.

N. P. BANKS.

S. A. HURLBUT.

Hon. L. Q. C. LAMAR absent on account of sickness.

[From the report of the commissioners appointed in 1872.]

Extracts from the evidence as to murders and violence by Mexicans.

E. B. Barton testifies that Thompson and a companion were murdered by Mexicans near Las Olmas in 1859.—(See deposition No. 42.)

Francis M. Campbell testifies that W. P. Neall was murdered by Mexicans in 1859; also a young Mexican murdered at Brownsville, 1859; also a Mexican shot, 1859.—(See deposition No. 84.)

Victor Morel testifies that Capt. N. P. Spear, William Robinson, and John Box were murdered in 1859 by Mexicans, at or near Rio Grande City.—(See deposition No. 157.)

Indictments show the following persons to have been murdered at or near Brownsville in 1859 by Mexicans:

1. Robert Shears, wounded July 13, 1859.
2. V. Garcia, murdered September 28, 1859.
3. R. S. Johnson, murdered September 28, 1859.
4. George Morris, murdered September 28, 1859.
5. J. Montes, murdered November 25, 1859.—(See Doc. 27, current file.)

W. D. Thomas testifies that James Dunn and Richard Rowland were murdered, and the sheriff of Hidalgo County wounded, at Granjero ranch, by Mexicans, in 1861. Leonicio Ensualdo was one of the murderers.—(See deposition No. 16.)

William Burke, lieutenant of State police, testifies that a number of United States soldiers were murdered by Mexicans in 1864 and 1865. A courier of the Fourth Wisconsin Volunteers was killed at San Martin ranch in 1864 or 1865; his body shamefully mutilated. Eben Cobb was murdered seven miles from Brownsville in 1865 or 1866.—(See deposition No. 4.)

William Burke testifies that Dr. Morse, United States Army, was murdered by Mexicans about five miles from Brownsville, and a German named Burmester, about twelve miles from the same city.—(See deposition No. 4.)

Louis Renaud testifies that J. C. Rosa and Cecilio Gomez were murdered at Sabinito Rancho, in Texas, in 1866, by armed Mexicans under Leandro Ramirez.—(See deposition No. 88.)

James F. Scott testifies that A. J. Cook was murdered on the highway, in the Nueces Valley, in 1867, by Mexicans.—(See deposition No. 52.)

William Burke, lieutenant of State police, testifies that Inspector Dupont was murdered in sight of Brownsville, by Mexicans, in 1869 or 1870.—(See deposition No. 4.)

William Kelly, justice of the peace, testifies that Inspectors Hammond and Phelps were murdered, and Inspector Ryan wounded, at Clarksville on December 18, 1869, by armed Mexicans, who crossed from Bagdad for the purpose.—(See deposition No. 149.)

Mary C. Clark confirms the above. The Mexicans robbed her residence and murdered Inspector Hammond in her presence.—(See deposition No. 147.)

William Burke, lieutenant of State police, testifies that Dr. Cleveland was murdered by Mexicans seventy miles from Brownsville in 1870.—(See deposition No. 4.)

William Burke, lieutenant of State police, testifies that in 1871, John Clark and Pat Fox were murdered by Mexicans, eight and seventy-five miles respectively from Brownsville, as well as Inspector McLaughlin, killed in Live Oak County.—(See deposition No. 4.)

William Burke, lieutenant of State police, testifies that Inspector Miller was wounded by Mexicans at White's ranch in 1871.—(See deposition No. 4.)

Richard King testifies to the murder of Carl Specht, his traveling companion, on July 31, 1872, near Corpus Christi, Texas. It was dark when the attack on the ambulance was made. Witness believes the murderers to have been Mexicans.—(See deposition No. 89.)

Henry Simeon and *Crespin Peña* testify to the murder of their companion, Joseph Alexander, of Brownsville, on August 11, 1872, near Relampago ranch, by one Francisco Perez, (alias "Chicon,") a sublieutenant of Cortina's forces. The murderer was mounted, and stopped the ambulance, firing without the slightest provocation at Mr. Alexander, killing him instantly, and immediately escaping to Mexico.—(See depositions Nos. 36 and 37.)

Enumerations of robberies, murders, and assaults by raiders, since the report of the commissioners of 1872.

I. During the months of March and April, 1873, Alberto Garza, a notorious outlaw from Guerrero, Mexico, with a party of cattle-thieves, crossed to this side of the Rio Grande and located himself near Piedras Pintas in Duval County, in the neighborhood of which there are dense thickets, affording means of concealment, where he engaged regularly and systematically in killing and skinning cattle. On the 19th of April he offered two hundred hides for sale at Piedras Pintas that had just been taken from the cattle on the range. And it was not until the owners of the cattle collected in force that he retreated to Mexico.

II. On the 8th day of June, 1873, the United States custom-house, or deputy collector's office, at Carrizo, in Zapata County, was robbed by a party of Mexicans.

III. On the 6th of July, 1873, Dr. J. C. Crocker was murdered and robbed, by an organized band of Mexicans, about fifteen miles west of Captain King's ranch in Nueces County.

IV. On the 7th of November, 1873, the store of R. Schubert, a merchant at Concepcion, in Duval County, was entered by a party of twenty or thirty armed Mexicans, who overpowered Schubert and his clerks and gutted his store, taking between \$2,500 and, \$3,000 in money, besides arms, goods, &c., with which they recrossed into Mexico at the ranch of Las Cuevas in the lower edge of Starr County.

V. On November 30, 1873, Henry Grey, a son of E. N. Grey, of Concepcion, Duval County, was killed by a party of Indians and Mexicans. The same party killed in all their raid twenty-four men and wounded fifteen, Mexican herdsmen, in Duval and Webb Counties, and stole between seventy-five and one hundred head of horses and scattered the sheep-stock of the country so that the owners suffered great loss. G. W. Sank, recently killed in the Corpus Christi raid by another party of Mexicans, was wounded by this party. Don Hypolito Mendiola was killed at his ranch near Laredo. This party was pursued by Capt. Refugio Benevides, of Webb County, and one of them, an old Mexican, was wounded and captured. The rest fled and found refuge in Mexico, from whence they came upon this raid.

VI. On May 5, 1874, a young man by the name of Watson, traveling with two companions, was tied up with his companions and robbed by a party of armed Mexicans about twenty-five miles from Corpus Christi, Nueces County.

VII. John Albertson, traveling from Brownsville, Texas, to Corpus Christi, was on the 3d of February, 1874, tied up with the members of his family and robbed, in the upper part of Cameron County, by a party of armed Mexicans, and his wife was subjected to the most horrible outrage by members of this band of robbers.

VIII. On May 5, 1874, a Frenchman named Martinet was tied and robbed of about \$1,800 by a party of armed Mexicans, between the Olmito and Lampasitos ranches, about seventy-five miles southwest of Corpus Christi.

IX. On May 9, 1874, a party of twenty-five to thirty armed Mexicans appeared at the ranch of Peñascal, near the line of Nueces and Cameron Counties, and not very far distant from the scene of the preceding case, No. 8, where they attacked the people, brutally murdering John F. Morton, Michael Morton, P. F. M. Coakley, and Herman Tilgner, and robbed their store of its contents. One of these raiders was afterward caught, tried, and hung at Corpus Christi. From his confession, several parties became known, and it was established that they were all Mexicans from Mexico.

X. On the 7th of June, 1874, a party of five armed Mexicans attacked the house of Mr. Thadues Swift, of Refugio County, and brutally murdered Mr. Swift and his wife, both of them being cut to pieces and horribly mutilated with knives, the object being robbery. For the terrible details of this tragedy we refer to the annexed affidavit of Mr. F. M. Swift. Three of the assassins were hunted down and hung by the outraged neighbors. Two of them escaped to Mexico. One of these is Juan Juarez or Juan Flores, as he called himself. This man had claimed to be an American citizen and had registered himself as a voter. He was arrested in Guerrero, Mexico, and a demand made for his extradition under our treaty with Mexico. He confessed his guilt with cold assurance, but claimed to be a Mexican citizen

and not subject to rendition. His case was transferred to the Mexican federal court at Matamoras, where, upon his examination, he again confessed his guilt. We refer to the copy of his confession, herewith attached, taken from the record of his case. He has been finally delivered to our authorities, not in accordance with the treaty, but upon the payment of a large reward (or bribe) paid in money by the relatives and friends of the murdered Swift family.

XI. On August 2, 1874, an attempt was made by a party of marauders to murder Mr. Roach, living about thirty-five miles from San Diego, in Duval County, and to rob his store, but being prepared for the danger, he made a successful defense.

XII. On November 3, 1874, the store of Mr. Geo. E. Blaine at the Los Olmos ranch, near the line of Nueces and Hidalgo Counties, was robbed by a large party of armed Mexicans, the loss being \$500 to \$600 in money and about two thousand five hundred dollars in goods. No lives were lost on this occasion, Blaine making no resistance to the robbery. The thieves had declared their intention to kill Blaine, and he was only spared by the timely arrival of a party of twelve Americans who happened to be encamped in the vicinity, and who rushed to the rescue in time to save Blaine's life, they having been advised by a courier of what was transpiring.

THE CORPUS CHRISTI RAID.

XIII. The success that had attended the robberies of stores in the scattered out-settlements emboldened the robbers to make a more daring attempt and a more general pillage, and on the 26th of March, 1875, began what is generally called "the Corpus Christi raid," from the fact that it was supposed that an attempt would be made by the raiders to sack Corpus Christi. We present the following brief account of the raid, taken from the Valley Times:

"From all the information we can glean from those who were present and eye-witnesses of the recent Mexican raid, we give the following:

"From Mr. Doddridge we learn that rumors of the gathering of a party were conveyed to him about a week ago, but nothing was thought of it more than that of any other idle assemblage.

"Their first overt act appears to have been the demand made upon Campbell, near Tule Lake, for horses, as narrated yesterday.

"Procuring a few animals, which were ridden by the captors without saddles or bridles, the crowd went to Page's, nine miles from Corpus. Here they made a clean sweep of everything valuable. Two ladies in the house betook themselves to the chaparral, while Mr. Page was carried off.

"The next place visited was Frank's store, at the Juan Sais ranch. There were eighteen or twenty of them here. Three or four presenting pistols at Frank's head, demanded all his valuables. Of course no resistance was made, Frank yielding them everything. Overhauling his stock, they took everything they wanted, exchanged their old clothes for new, and even stripped Frank to his underclothing.

"They stopped at this store for some time, supplying themselves with horses, saddles, &c., from the travelers passing either way. As soon as a vehicle or horseman would arrive, he was immediately surrounded, a score of pistols and guns leveled, and the demand for surrender made. In this manner was Mrs. Sidbury, Mrs. Savage, Miss Laura Allen, Messrs. H. A. Gilpin, Jos. Saunders, S. G. Borden, George Reynolds, Joe Howell, with Mr. W. W. Wright's team and wagon, the driver of Gilpin's team, W. A. Ball, Mr. Reynolds's little daughter, Frank Page and son, and a number of Mexican women and children captured, and all their valuables appropriated, some of the ladies having part of their clothing taken from them. The miscreants attempted to disrobe Mr. Reynolds, but one of their number interfered and prevented it by the threat of a pistol.

"It was at Frank's the first killing was done. One of the robbers asked a Mexican to join the party in their raid. He refused, when a pistol was placed to his head, the trigger pulled, and his soul sent to eternity. It was a terribly cold-blooded deed.

"After leaving Frank's, the Mexicans, driving their prisoners before them like sheep, started for the Motts. Their first effort there was against the store of Mr. Thomas Noakes, which they found closed.

"Opening the door the first man who presented himself was shot twice by Mr. N. Immediately afterward a man named Smith, in the store at the time, rushed out the front door, was met by the party, and shot down, mortally wounded. Aggravated, it is supposed, by the unexpected resistance, the store was fired. Noakes took refuge under the counter, and afterward got out of the building and into a place of safety. The destruction of his property was so complete that the calves in the pen were roasted. His loss is at least \$10,000.

"At the Motts the women prisoners were liberated and allowed to go to their homes. After staying here an hour, the party started off toward Penitas. In the neighborhood of Mr. Hunter's house they were brought to a stop by Pat Whelan and his party of ten, who charged the devils at once. Received by a volley—in which poor Swanks lost his life, he being shot through the stomach—it was returned with vigor. Thirty-five to ten were heavy odds to fight, and after exhausting his ammunition fruitlessly, Whelan was obliged to give up the contest and return to the Motts for ammunition and re-enforcements. Receiving these, pursuit was resumed almost immediately.

"The Mexicans had with them two wagons, piled with plunder, which were on ahead under an escort. One of them belonged to Reynolds.

"The following, to a great extent identifying the party, was received here by a lady yesterday, from Piedras Pintas, and is reliable:

"Alberto Garza passed through Piedras Pintas March 25th. He shot one of Silverio Salinas' vaqueros three times, because he would not give him his horse. He was thought to have twenty-five men with him, and on his way to San Diego."

"Friday night Mr. Lee Riggs, R. W. Archer, and two others, coming from Lagartaville, were shot at near a creek. Camping six miles this side of the place, and about fifteen miles above Nuecestown, about 3 o'clock in the morning, a party of between twenty and thirty armed Mexicans passed them. But for being concealed in a little hollow, suggested by the attempt spoken of, they would have undoubtedly lost their lives."

The raiders, having sacked the country in the neighborhood of Corpus Christi, turned their course toward the Rio Grande. On the night of April 2d they surrounded the town of Roma, in Starr County, on the Rio Grande, and were prepared to sack that town and rob the custom-house, a deputy collector of customs being located there, but were prevented from doing so by the presence of a company of United States troops stationed at the place. They then withdrew from before the place and crossed the river into Mexico in the immediate vicinity. These facts are shown by the deputy collector of customs herewith attached.

This raid having attracted universal attention on this frontier, the Mexican authorities of Mier and Camargo, in which jurisdictions the raiders crossed into Mexico, took action in the case and arrested eight of the raiders. These prisoners were started for Matamoras, and the judge of the district court of this district was notified of the fact by the United States consul at Matamoras, and advised to be prepared by the time of the arrival of the prisoners at Matamoras. Judge Dougherty immediately telegraphed to Corpus Christi to procure witnesses to identify the criminals, and was answered that plenty of witnesses would be ready to attend at Matamoras. But, while the prisoners were *en route* to Matamoras, an order was received from General Escobedo from San Luis, Mexico, that the prisoners should be sent to Monterey, about two hundred miles into the interior, and not to Matamoras. For the particulars of these facts, we refer to the letters of the United States consul to Judge Dougherty, herewith attached.

It is claimed that this order of Escobedo was issued in good faith, in order to keep the prisoners from being subject on their arrival at Matamoras to the influence of Cortina, and to keep them beyond his protection. But it appears to us that this is a flimsy pretext to send them where there would be no possibility of their being confronted with the necessary testimony to convict. The allegation, however, although it may prove the punic faith of the Mexican authorities, also proves the character of Cortina with his own government.

During this raid Miss Lizzie Joy arrived at Corpus Christi from Laredo, and made affidavit that she had left Laredo on the 20th, and on the 26th saw the dead bodies of two Americans near the roadside hacked to pieces with knives, and their horses hitched near and in a famishing condition. Miss Joy was traveling with a train of carts, and the cartmen buried the dead bodies. The next day two other bodies were discovered hanging near the roadside; these latter bodies were Mexicans. As there was no other party out except the Mexican raiders upon Corpus Christi, these four additional deaths to those already recounted are attributable to them. We annex the published account and the affidavit of Miss Joy in this case.

XIV. On the 16th day of March, 1874, Vidal la Haille, a Frenchman, traveling from Corpus Christi to this place, was killed and robbed by Ricardo Flores and a party of armed Mexicans, in this county, near Olmos, the line between this and Nueces County. Flores is a registered voter of this county. He was arrested, and, upon investigation before a magistrate, was committed to jail to answer for the murder before the district court; but broke jail and fled to Mexico. He is now in Matamoras, Mexico, where he has been since his escape. A requisition has been made under the treaty with Mexico for his rendition, but without success, Flores being under the all-powerful protection of General Cortina.

XV. On the 27th day of February, 1875, a party of armed Mexicans, seven in number, crossed the Rio Grande from near Reynosa, Mexico, and went to El Sauz, in Hidalgo County, where there is a post-office, and they entered the store of Mr. J. L. Fulton, the postmaster, when they made an assault upon him and his clerk, Mauricio Villanueva, a young Spaniard, in which both these parties were killed. The object was to plunder the store of Fulton, but the neighbors having become alarmed by the shots, assembled and sent to Edinburgh, about seven miles distant, for assistance, which, the robbers perceiving, they fled across the Rio Grande without accomplishing their purpose of robbery. Mr. Fulton was an officer of the Thirty-sixth Regiment of United States Colored Troops, and had settled here after the close of the war. He was an industrious, law-abiding, peaceable, and useful citizen.

XVI. On the 23d day of March, 1875, Alexander Morel, a citizen of Hidalgo County, was killed by a party of Mexican cattle-thieves from Reynosa Vieja, in Mexico, who had crossed the river to ply their vocation. The details of his death are given in the annexed letter of his brother, Victor Morel. *The body of the deceased was not found until the thieves sent word to his brother Victor where he would find it buried.*

XVII. On the 16th day of April, 1875, George Hill, a resident of Tio Cano ranch, in Cam-

eron County, was killed by a party of Mexican cattle-thieves, who had crossed the Rio Grande to pursue their nefarious traffic. Hill was out hunting stock, and came upon the party unexpectedly, and was evidently killed to prevent discovery. The evening after his death the thieves crossed their plunder to Mexico, near Santa Maria, which fact came to the knowledge of and was reported by the customs-inspectors stationed at Santa Maria. Mr. Hill was a hard-laboring farmer and stock-raiser, who had settled here after the close of the war, in which he served as a member of the Fourth Wisconsin Cavalry, and he has left a large and helpless family of small children thus robbed and deprived of the protection of their father.

XVIII. On the 19th of April, 1875, a party of twelve armed Mexicans crossed the Rio Grande from Guerrero, Mexico, and appeared at Carrizo, Zapata County, where there is a post-office, and where a deputy collector of customs and two mounted inspectors are stationed. The raiders entered the store of Dr. D. D. Lovell and murdered him in cold blood. They then robbed his store of several thousand dollars in money and goods. They then proceeded to the office of the deputy collector of customs, robbed the place of all the property in the office except the money, which was in a large iron safe which they could not break open, but broke off the knobs, leaving it useless. The deputy collector was absent and the inspectors fled, being two only against the twelve robbers. Dr. Lovell was the postmaster at Carrizo, and the post-office as well as the store was gutted of its contents. Dr. Lovell was an intelligent and enterprising citizen, who had built up a considerable trade at Carrizo, where he had settled at the close of our late war, in which he had served honorably as a volunteer in the Fourth Wisconsin Cavalry, which regiment, within two days lost two of its members, Dr. Lovell and George Hill. These deaths occurring at distant points from each other, but at nearly the same period of time, prove the thorough organization and understanding between the Mexican thieves scattered all along the Mexican border of the Rio Grande. The sheriff of Zapata County, writing to Judge Ware, states the loss of Dr. Lovell at \$4,000, and that he lost \$1,000 taxes collected, that was on deposit with Dr. Lovell.

XIX. On the 1st day of December, 1874, a large party of Mexican cattle-thieves encamped near the ranch of Carlos Danache, of Cameron County, about fourteen miles from Brownsville, and they sent word to Mr. Danache, who had been active in the pursuit of these *Caballeras*, that they were encamped near his place and would be pleased to see him. Mr. Danache gathered a party of friends and went to their camp next morning, but found it abandoned. And at their camp he found a Mexican hung, and the dead body so badly mutilated that it could not be identified, but supposed to be some honest man who had made himself obnoxious, like Danache, to the thieves. We refer to the affidavit of Mr. Danache in this case, herewith annexed.

XX. On the 18th day of January, 1875, Albert Dean and Joseph Dunn, mounted inspectors of customs, stationed at Rio Grande City, Starr County, were attacked by a party of five Mexicans armed with Winchester carbines, who had just crossed from Mexico, and whose outfit was undergoing examination by the inspectors, and their outfit, consisting of raw-hide ropes and other paraphernalia of the cattle-thief, indicated the object of their visit. This was about two leagues below Rio Grande City.

In the same neighborhood, G. W. Lowe, another mounted inspector of customs, accompanied by Joseph Dunn, was ambushed and fired upon from the chaparral on the 22d day of April, 1875, the ball cutting through his clothing across the breast, which indicated the intention of the assassin. For particulars in these cases we submit copies of the official reports in relation thereto.

XXI. On the 26th day of January, 1875, a fight occurred between a party of United States soldiers and a party of Mexicans at the rancho Solises, in Starr County, about eighteen miles below Rio Grande City, in which two soldiers and one Mexican were killed and two other Mexicans were wounded.

The fight of Captain McNally near the old battle-field of Palo Alto in June, 1875, and the fight at Las Cuevas in December, 1875, will be found mentioned in the appendix.

Since the appointment of your committee, in January, 1876, a Mexican citizen of Texas, Dionysio Garza, who kept a store in the county of Zapata, was murdered by Mexican raiders, together with his family, and his store robbed.

This is an account, so far as we could get it, of murders and outrages which were known. A full account cannot be made, as men often disappear without their fate being known or their bodies found.

The enormous number of cattle continually being stolen we have not attempted to ascertain, except in a general way, as may be gathered from the evidence.

TESTIMONY

TAKEN BY

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TEXAS FRONTIER TROUBLES,

APPOINTED UNDER

Resolution of the House of Representatives, passed January 6, 1876, with documents in relation to the subject from the War and State Departments, and other sources.

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TESTIMONY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 24, 1876.*

JOHN S. McCAMPBELL sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Question. Please state your name.—Answer. John S. McCampbell.

Q. State where your residence is, and how far from the border.—A. I reside in Corpus Christi, which is about 135 miles from the mouth of the Rio Grande.

Q. How long have you been living in Corpus Christi?—A. I have been living there eight or nine years; I have been living in Goliad, on the San Antonio River, since 1845, and practicing law in Corpus Christi since 1853.

Q. You have come here to represent the difficulties on the frontier; state what facts you have in reference to these difficulties.—A. I had quite a lucrative law-practice on the Rio Grand, which I had to abandon because I could not travel there with any safety. I continued my practice up to the beginning of 1873. The last time I attended court, traveling was so dangerous that I had to take a guard of men along with me; and, finally, I had to abandon my practice.

By Mr. HURLBUT:

Q. State the places where you attended court.—A. I attended court at Rio Grande City, which is the county seat of Starr County, opposite Camargo; Carrizo in Zapata County, opposite Guerrero; and in Laredo, in Webb County; and occasionally at Edinburg, in Hidalgo County, which is below Camargo.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. You say that you had to give up your practice there because of the danger of traveling?—A. Yes; I was unwilling to risk my life on account of the raiders from Mexico who cross the Rio Grande for the purpose of taking cattle and driving them to the Mexican side of the river. I have frequently seen them, on my travels, with droves of cattle, but they did not molest me then.

Q. How near did you ever know them to come to Corpus Christi?—A. Last year they came within seven miles of Corpus Christi; they got there about 11 o'clock, near the Nueces River; they came there about twenty-two strong, well organized and well armed; they first took possession of Page's house, broke open his trunks, hunted through his residence, and took what money he had; they also took one of the young Pages prisoner. From that they went to a store owned by a man named Franks. They surrounded it and took it, killing one man there, a Mexican, whom they had asked to join them; on his refusing to do so, they killed him and left his body lying there. They stopped ladies and gentlemen traveling up and down the road and took them prisoners; robbed them of their jewelry and gold and went through their baggage, taking whatever they had of value with them; then they turned the ladies loose, but some of them were so badly frightened that they remained about forty hours in the chaparral before the citizens could find them. They carried their prisoners along (some of them being quite old men) about four miles, making them follow their horses in a lope; the prisoners believing that, if they failed to keep up with them, they would be killed. One man, however, did fall down, not being able to go on any farther—a sheep-dealer

named George Runnels; but he was not killed. The party then went on to Nueces Town, where there is a post-office and a store containing a considerable amount of goods. T. J. Noaks was the postmaster there. When they first approached there, two or three of them came into the house and one of them drew a gun, and Noaks fired and shot one of them. This caused the two or three men that were in the house to run out. Noaks intended to defend himself; but when he looked out and saw the Mexicans, he thought there were a hundred or so of them, as they had all the prisoners with them; and Noaks supposed them all to be enemies, and thought it useless, therefore, to fight and to sacrifice his family. He, therefore, shut his door and went under the floor, where he had ditches cut, one of them leading from under the house out of it. What object he had in preparing these ditches—whether it was in anticipation of troubles of this kind or not—I do not know. They robbed the house; took the goods, piled them up on wagons, took his money, which was considerable, and set fire to the house. His wife was quite heroic, and she put the fire out once or twice. She still strove to protect the house; but finally they succeeded in getting it on fire and burning it. They then waited till it was nearly burned down, satisfied that they had killed the man who shot one of their comrades. Another American, Smith, who was in the house, ran out, and they shot and left him lying there; Noaks, in the mean time, had got out in the smoke near to the river, and made his escape. They then struck out for the Rio Grande. They saw some parties coming from the direction of Corpus Christi, as information had gone there, and so they struck out through the chaparral for Mexico. They were pursued by a small squad, which overtook them, but which got whipped, losing one man by the name of Swank, who was shot. The Americans then retreated. There were various squads, however, who went out after them, but they failed to overtake them. The Mexicans struck the river somewhere below Laredo. They had changed their direction some time in the night, so that the pursuers were unable to catch them. I have been informed that some of those men were identified as citizens of Mexico, and that the commander of the party asserted that he had orders from his superiors to do what he was doing. They were well organized; kept their pickets out, and let no one pass while they were raiding there. Mr. Noaks stated in his affidavit that when the party first came to the house the commander told him that he was acting under superior orders from Mexico, and demanded what property he had. It is likely that the affidavit of Noaks may give the names of some of the parties. I believe there were one or two of them identified. Some of the citizens who were made prisoners by this party had been living in that country for twenty-five or thirty years. Judge Gilpin, an old gentleman who lived there a long time, was one of the prisoners; but he could not identify any of the party.

Q. For what length of time have you considered that country too dangerous for travel?—A. I ceased my practice in the latter part of 1872 or the beginning of 1873; I had to abandon it because I did not feel that I was doing right to myself or family to travel through that country.

Q. How is the country there affected by that state of things?—A. At present, nearly all of the Americans who used to have mercantile establishments in the ranches, or on the road, have been either killed or have left. A great many of them have been murdered.

By Mr. WILLIAMS :

Q. What was the date of that first raid?—A. I cannot fix the date now. It was some time last year; I think about April.

Q. Have there been any other raids since?—A. Yes; there have been many other raids since then. Fly's ranch was attacked; that is above San Diego, 25 miles from the Nueces River, and 70 miles west of Corpus Christi; that ranch was attacked by Mexicans. One man, named Snyder, was killed, and one of the Flys wounded, but they succeeded in fighting the raiders well enough to make them abandon the attack. The two Fly boys are young men who have a sheep-ranch there; that attack was very recently, some time last fall. Since then a gentleman named Jordan, near San Diego, was attacked and murdered.

By Mr. HURLBUT :

Q. State, for the information of the committee, the counties as they stand upon the map, which, in your judgment, have been affected by this system of raiding.—A. Starting from the mouth of the Rio Grande the counties are Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Zapata, and Webb; then there is Nueces, Duval, and La Salle; those two last counties are disorganized, and we hear of very large amounts of depredations in them. I do not know anything about them personally. We get our news from the papers and reports; but I know of raids being made into Live Oak County very recently.

Q. Then, practically, it is the whole border country between the Nueces and the Rio Grande that is the scene of these raids?—A. Yes; the whole border country between the Nueces and the Rio Grande.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. Have you any information of the interruption of mails or telegraphic communication?—A. I do not know anything of it of my own personal knowledge; but I learn from report, that the telegraph-wires are frequently cut between Corpus Christi and Brownsville.

Q. How are the people of Corpus Christi affected by it? What is the condition of affairs there?—A. The people of Corpus Christi suffer from it in the matter of their trade and by the breaking up of these mercantile establishments.

By Mr. HURLBUT :

Q. Have you any means of giving us the present population of the counties which you have mentioned as affected by those raids?—A. The county of Nueces is populated principally by Americans. In the city of Corpus Christi we have a considerable Mexican element, but not one-tenth of the whole. The country around is settled with good, substantial stock-raisers, principally Americans. There are some old Mexican citizens there, who have fine, large ranches, and who work a good many peons; but the principal population of Nueces county is American. The county of Duval, which adjoins Nueces, is principally populated by Mexicans, although there are a good many Americans there, owning large sheep and cattle ranches. San Diego and Concepcion are two large places in Duval County, and most of the Mexican population of these counties is native.

Q. Do you mean native to the soil of Texas?—A. Yes; they are living on their original old land-grants which they have inherited.

Q. Are the Mexican land-holders and ranch-owners visited in the same way as the Americans by these raiders?—A. Yes; the Mexicans are robbed and killed alike with the Americans, though I do not think they are so very much subject to raids. I think that they, perhaps,

escape raids when Americans would not. The raiders do not like to kill their Mexican friends as well as they like to kill what they call *gringos*. They have an enmity toward the Americans stronger than toward the Mexicans; but still they rob Mexican ranches, and steal their cattle.

Q. Take the next line of counties approaching to the Rio Grande, and give us the character of their population.—A. Immediately on the Rio Grande River, in Cameron County, so far as I know, they are planting a good deal, and a good deal of property there is owned by Americans, or Americans are working farms there. I think that, back from the river, a large part of the country is settled by Mexicans. In all those counties there are Americans who own fine, large ranches, but who do not stay upon them themselves; they only visit them occasionally to see that they are going on right. But the Mexicans, generally, who live and own land in the country are natives of the country.

Q. So far as you know, are they good citizens?—A. So far as I know, they are very good citizens. The old native Mexicans there stand just as high as Americans.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. In what county is Captain King's ranch?—A. In Nueces County.

Q. That is one of the largest ranches in the county?—A. It is not the largest inclosed ranch. Captain Kennedy has the largest inclosed ranch. Captain Kennedy's ranch comprises about one hundred and sixty thousand acres of land, and Captain King's about seventy thousand acres.

Q. Does Captain King live at his ranch with his family?—A. Yes; he lives at his ranch. He has an armed force there to defend himself. He has hired men all the time armed, and has good fortifications. He thinks he can defend himself.

By Mr. HURLBUT:

Q. So far as you know or are informed, in about what strength do those parties operate throughout the country?—A. They cross the river in numbers of from five to forty, and they frequently are out, as I understand, in two or three squads of, perhaps, fifteen men each; having means of concentration, if they should need to be joined. As I understand, they do not come across the river in bodies, but come over merely as visitors, two or three together, and rendezvous somewhere in the interior where they want to commence operations. They organize on the other side of the river, and designate the point to operate upon. I understand that that is the way they operate.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. You say that the owners of American ranches do not generally live upon their ranches?—A. A great many of them have removed from their ranches. There are some still living on them. Captain Kennedy and Captain King, for instance, live on their ranches; but a good many other Americans have removed from their ranches to Corpus Christi, and are living there. Nearly all above there are stock-raisers; and they would not keep their families out on the ranches at all, on account of the dangers to which they would be exposed.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

Q. The farms there are principally stock-farms, I suppose?—A. They are stock-farms, principally. There is some little planting done about San Diego; but the country generally is a stock-country, for the raising of sheep, cattle, and horses.

By Mr. HURLBUT :

Q. Are the courts still held in these counties ?—A. Yes ; in the Rio Grande counties.

Q. You have stated that you were compelled to abandon your own law-practice there on account of what you believed to be a risk to your life ?—A. Yes ; that is, my practice on the Rio Grande.

Q. Has there been any obstruction to the administration of justice in that region of country by the ordinary courts ?—A. I cannot answer that because the judges go and hold court ; but, as a general thing, they cannot convict. They cannot well convict a man for stealing cattle there ; at least, it is very hard work.

Q. Why not ?—A. You could not get a man indicted for cattle-stealing, in some of the river counties.

Q. Why not ?—A. The Mexican jurors are afraid of their lives. If they would bring a bill of indictment against a cow-thief, or a raider from the other side of the river, those raiders would kill them.

Q. Then I understand you that there is such a reign of terror there that men do not venture to appear before a grand jury, and that a grand jury does not venture to indict, for fear of consequences that might follow to witnesses and jurors ?—A. Yes ; I make that statement in reference to these counties, especially Starr, Zapata, and Hidalgo.

Q. Does there exist in these counties any military organization under the laws of the State of Texas ?—A. None, that I know of.

Q. Is there, in your judgment, sufficient force there in the form of military organizations, or *posse comitatus*, if ordered out by the sheriff, to repel that class of raiders whom you have spoken of ?—A. No, sir ; I do not think it possible to keep them repelled. It might be possible for the sheriff to get enough men together to whip one of those parties ; but the Mexican citizens, who live out there, are very reluctant to go in pursuit of raiders, because if they fail to catch and capture them, and if their efforts are known, their ranches will be no more, and themselves, too. They have to act very cautiously. I mean the Mexican citizens who live there.

Q. Then, I understand you to state substantially that the civil authority, as it exists there, is, in your judgment, powerless, either to prevent or punish those raids ?—A. I think it is powerless to prevent those raids ; and it is powerless to punish them, because the raiders cannot be caught under present organization.

Q. From your knowledge of the population there, have you any reason to believe that there is any connivance on the part of any persons on this side of the river with the raids that are made from Mexico ?—A. I think not. The raiders from Mexico may have, as all bands of thieves do, some friends on this side. I do not say that they have none ; but I mean to say that the people, the citizens generally, do not certainly connive at those raids, because they are ruinous to them.

Q. I have understood that there are, in many of those counties, men who are the agents or spies of these Mexican cattle-raiders, who give information to them, and who cover and conceal them. I would like to ask you whether, from your observation, such is the fact ?—A. Not to my knowledge. My opinion is that there are no citizens resident on this side of the river, within that scope of country, who are in connection with the organized parties on the other side of the river, or who either share in their spoils or assist them. There may be citizens on this side of the river who would give them shelter, or would feed them or furnish them with horses, because they are compelled to do so. These raiders come to any ranch they please, and get a relay of horses whenever

they want it, because the people are powerless to resist them. I do not consider that the citizens assist them willingly; but they are powerless to resist their demands. The owner of the ranch lives in a retired place, there being, perhaps, not more than one or two ranches in a space of 12 miles square; and the rancheros are not near enough to each other to get any sufficient aid or assistance against a band of fifteen armed men. They are consequently not able to offer any resistance to them, or to say to those men when they come along, "Do not stop here; you cannot get anything." To say so would be to sacrifice their lives and property. They have got to treat these raiders in a friendly manner and give them what they ask. But I am satisfied they do not form a part or parcel of the organizations that make these raids, except it may be below Rio Grande City, at the Las Cuevas ranch, which is on both sides of the river, and where they are said to be in combination with each other. Las Cuevas is about 16 miles below Rio Grande City.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. You say that you gave up your law-practice on the Rio Grande believing that your life was in danger?—A. I did.

Q. Did you have any apprehension, except from people on the other side of the river; or is the country in danger by persons living on our side of the river also?—A. My apprehensions were from people living on the other side of the river—from those armed bodies of men who float around the country there, raiding, stealing, and killing. I had no apprehensions in particular from people on this side.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 24, 1876.*

S. H. McNALLY sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Question. You have just come from the Rio Grande?—Answer. Yes; I left there on the 23d December.

Q. How long have you been there and what has been your occupation?—A. I was sent out there last April in command of a company of Texas militia, by order of the governor, to see what could be done in breaking up this raiding of Mexicans on the ranches on the borders of the Rio Grande.

Q. State to the committee what your means and facilities of information were about these raids.—A. After being on the river for some weeks, I found that I could employ, for money, Mexican cattle-thieves as spies; I made inquiry about the character of the men who composed the various bands on the opposite bank, and I found they were organized into bands of fifteen or twenty or thirty, according to the size of the ranch at which they live. I made inquiries into the personal character and reputation of the individuals of the band and I selected those whom I knew to be tricky, and secured interviews with them. I made a proposition to them to sell their companions, tendering them handsome rewards, and promising to pay them more than they could make by raiding. For instance, if twenty of them crossed the river after a herd of cattle, and got two hundred head, the share of each of them would come to so many dollars. I proposed paying them \$10 apiece for every one of their companions whom they would locate so that I could get in sight of them while on our side and in possession of stolen cattle. Then, if they escaped me, very well; I would still pay the amount, \$10, for

each one; that is, if they would notify me that they were going to cross the river on a certain day, and if they would place me at a certain point where I could see these men in the act of driving cattle, I would give them \$10 a piece for each one that I saw in that manner, whether I succeeded in capturing the parties or not; and, if it was a strong party and well armed, I was to give \$15 apiece, besides giving them a regular salary of \$60 a month. All those whom I approached readily entered into my plans, and without any exception, I found them to be reliable and trustworthy. I did not propose to interfere with their own individual stealing at all. I gave them liberty, when I was not there in their neighborhood, to cross over with their friends, and get cattle and return again, provided they sent me information afterward what had become of the cattle and where they had been sold, &c., if they could not send me word in time to intercept and stop the herd; otherwise the \$60 per month would not have paid them, and they would have refused to serve me. I had about thirty-five men. My limit was fifty when I first went out there; and afterward the governor increased it to seventy-five, for about a month and a half; but he then reduced the number to fifty, so that my average number of men for duty has been from thirty-five to forty. We never remained at any one point more than four or five or six days, moving from Brownsville up as far as Ringgold barracks, or Rio Grande City, as it is now called. We were sometimes on the river, but generally some twenty or thirty miles from the river, making our camps and keeping scouts twenty-five or thirty or forty miles below us and the same distance above us. We heard, I suppose, of most of the herds of cattle that were passed over within one hundred miles of our camp, through the scouting parties, and through the information of those spies whom I had on the other side of the river. We succeeded every month in turning loose from two to four herds of cattle that were being driven off—that is, forcing the raiders to turn the cattle loose. If we learned that parties were coming to the river with herds of cattle, some sixty miles off, and we marched to intercept them, as soon as we got within ten or fifteen miles of them, they were almost sure to hear of our coming, and would desert the herd. When we came up we would find the cattle in the bush, but we could not find the men who had been driving them; they would ride past my command, but we had no means of knowing them. The country is filled with numbers of armed Mexicans; and it is a most common sight to see four or five or six men, well armed and mounted, whose business no one knows. If you ask them who they are, they will say, "We belong to a ranch fifteen or twenty miles distant," or, "We are trading stock," or, "We have been visiting Brownsville or Matamoros," or, "We belong on the other side of the river," or, "We are going to our employer's ranch in the interior," or they may claim to belong to some neighboring ranch. We know nothing of them, and if we take them to the ranch to which they say they belong, the servants of the ranch generally, without hesitation, verify their statement; in many instances, from friendship; most frequently from fear. The Mexican owners of ranches on this side of the river, those who are citizens of Texas, are, almost to a man, as much opposed to this system of raiding as the American citizens of Texas are. Many of them have not nerve enough to take an active, decided stand against it either by giving information or by personal assistance. Still, a number of them have done it since I have been out there; and some eight or ten of them, or probably twelve, have been killed on that account. It has been the history of those border counties that when any man, Mexican or American, has made himself prominent in hunting

those raiders down, or in organizing parties to pursue them when they are carrying off cattle, he has been either forced to move from the ranch and come into town, or he has been killed. Quite a number of Americans have been killed within the last year out there, and also quite a number of Mexicans; probably twelve or fifteen for that offense alone. The men on the other side of the river threaten to kill them, and the fact is known publicly. They say, "We will kill that man within a week," and the report is heralded abroad over the country, and if the man does not leave they usually carry their threat into execution. We have a few Mexican rancheros who take an active part against these raiders, and who send me information and aid me with their services personally in hunting down the raiders and in keeping out a guard in their own neighborhood, sending out regularly the vaqueros to certain points to watch the trains of cattle. But the large proportion of the Mexican settlers on this side of the river is a floating population, who vote on this side as well as on the other. Many of them have been born and claim citizenship in Mexico. A large proportion of the Mexican population on this side of the river have their homes on the other side. They live over here, and are employed on this side; but they claim no citizenship here, and they are in active, direct sympathy with the raiders. They are their kinsfolk, their cousins, uncles, and brothers—for it seems to me as if all the Mexicans on both sides of the river are relatives.

By Mr. HURLBUT :

Q. That, or *compadres*?—A. Yes; relatives or *compadres*, which is a little nearer than a relative with the Mexicans. I find that I can trust none but the Mexican owners of ranches. I do not know of any Mexican who owns a ranch on this side of the river and who lives in Texas whom I do not consider to be a good citizen. I believe they are all good citizens. They all want to see the laws enforced, and they all want to have this raiding broken up; but very few of them dare take an active, open stand in the matter. They are very right, too, for it would be very dangerous for them to do so. I am willing to take a good many chances, but I certainly would not live on a stock-ranch west of the Nueces River, at any point from the mouth of the Devil's River to the mouth of the Rio Grande. I think that the risk is too great—so great that scarcely any compensation would pay for it. My position, in command of a company of troops, I do not consider half so hazardous as that of those men living on ranches. It is true there are very few Americans living on ranches within one hundred miles of the line. We have some excellent Mexican citizens on this side of the Rio Grande. Many of them are occupying ranches on which their grandfathers were born, and they seem to take a great interest in our Government. They seem to be proud of their citizenship.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. To your knowledge, is there any raiding from this side on the other side?—A. I made inquiries about that when I went down, and during the time I have been there, for the last ten or eleven months, I have not even heard of a single charge made by any Mexican, either on this side or the other side of the river, of any Texan, crossing the river for such a purpose. On the contrary, I have had officials on the other side of the river tell me that they take good care that no Americans cross the river for such a purpose. They say, "We do not complain about your people raiding upon us. Why do you not do as we do? If any of your fellows come across, they will never go back again. We do

not make any complaints about this thing, and you should do as we do." I have no idea that any number of Americans, unless, possibly, four or five or six hundred strong, could cross the river, and succeed in getting back. If they did, they would have to move very rapidly.

By Mr. LAMAR :

Q. Do you mean to say that, on the Mexican side of the river, they could bring together a force which would overpower five hundred armed men?—A. Yes; at any time within twenty-four hours. If five hundred of the best troops we can get were to cross the river, go four miles into the interior, and remain twenty-four hours in one place, I have not the remotest idea that they would ever return. I speak as a soldier. I served four years in the confederate army. I have met some of these Mexicans out there, and they are men who stand killing splendidly. They have an organization on the other side called the "rural police." The chief man is the owner of a ranch, or the superintendent, as the case may be. He is not an alcalde. I believe they call them *encargados*. He is a civil officer, and has some of the functions of a civil officer. He sends an alarm to one ranch, and it is spread from ranch to ranch in every direction. Men carry the news very rapidly—at least fifteen miles an hour. The men are all mounted, and very well armed. These frontiersmen are armed with Winchester rifles and carbines, and quite a number of them with Spencer rifles. I do not know where they got them, but I believe they bought them (the Spencer rifles) at Fort Brown, at some Government sale. They gather rapidly, and are very patriotic.

By Mr. WILLIAMS :

Q. Are there any number of Mexican federal troops on the border?—A. Yes; but I do not know the number they have there now. They had a regiment of infantry, the Twenty-fourth, at Matamoros, and some of the Ninth and some of the Fourth Cavalry. Shortly after I went down there the report went out that I was going to cross the river, and seven or eight companies of cavalry were sent down to guard the river, and were stationed at the point where it was said that I was to cross. I think there were eight or nine companies of the Fourth, Seventh, and Ninth Cavalry. At Matamoros they keep from 700 to 1,200 men of the regular Mexican army constantly. This Mexican cavalry is very indifferently armed and mounted. The men are armed with all sorts of guns. I believe they all wear a uniform cap, but they wear hardly anything else; they are shamefully naked.

Q. They are not as effective as the irregular troops?—A. O, no; the irregular troops could whip them three to one any time. They admit there that these raiders can whip the regular troops without any difficulty; and very well they may, for these raiders are a fine body of fighting men, and the regular troops are a miserable set of starved wretches, who have to be kept locked up all the time in barracks; that is, fastened up and guarded, and only a few trusted non-commissioned officers have permission to go outside. When they go down there the men desert in such numbers that the companies are decimated in a few weeks. When they desert they generally come on this side of the river and work on the ranches for a few weeks, and then join those thieving parties.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. You commenced a description of the Mexican military organization on the other side; will you please go on with it?—A. This rural guard that I was speaking of is a police-force, organized for the purpose of preserving peace on the other side of the river and guard against Amer-

icans crossing. It is a mounted police-force, and is used by the alcaldes to arrest criminals and to preserve the peace generally, but more especially to guard against invasions or incursions from this country. They are continually patrolling the bank of the river up and down, and are very watchful and efficient. The citizens generally who are capable of bearing arms, from fifteen to sixty years of age, are organized into what they call the National Guard, a military organization. Their officers live in their own neighborhoods, but they have a point of assembly when the signal is given, either by smoke, bells, or by courier. They have their arms and horses at their own homes. They are a mounted force entirely, and from the fact that their organization includes the entire population, they mass a large number of soldiers at any point with great rapidity.

By Mr. HURLBUT:

Q. State whether you have ever known either the rural police of Mexico or any other Mexican organization to have apprehended or detected and punished any of these raiders.—A. No, sir; on the contrary, we have applied to the authorities on the other side again and again, and told them that at a certain point cattle would be passed over the river and sent to a certain ranch; and on every occasion when the appeal was made, the State or federal authorities, with the exception of Cortina, would promise to recapture the cattle and arrest the thieves; but on no single occasion have they ever done so. American citizens from this side dare not pass over to claim their cattle. Very often our Mexican citizens, having a large number of relatives on the other side, do go over and make an effort to recover their cattle. The Mexican authorities promise to recapture them, and to turn them over; but they have never done so; and even these Mexicans themselves have had to go away, though they had large connections and powerful friends on the other side, and they have been very glad to escape to this side with their lives. The Mexicans on the other side will not allow them to discuss this matter. The raiding is done principally by this rural police. The raiders are almost exclusively from them.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

Q. The country is more populous on the other side of the river than on this side?—A. Yes; much more populous.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. What is the principal business of the people living on the other side?—A. It would only require a visit to the other side to know that. I have ridden over almost all that country at night from 150 to 200 miles above Matamoros. There is scarcely any land under cultivation. The people live solely on the profits of these enormous stealings of cattle. The stealing of cattle is extraordinary, and almost past belief. We did not know anything down there about this committee being appointed by Congress; but I was requested by the citizens to come here, expecting only to see the President. Some three years ago I was sent by the governor to represent to General Grant the condition of the Upper Rio Grande, from Laredo up; and I simply made a statement of the condition of affairs, the situation of the troops, and what they were doing. I did not anticipate having any statement to make to this committee that would need data. I can get the exact number of cattle which I have known to be passed over the river since I have been there. I kept a memorandum—a log; in fact, a company-book—in which I entered the names of the parties who gave the information of the passage of cattle;

the number of cattle; where they were taken over, and where they were brought to. During the month of November, General Potter asked me to make a statement of the number of herds that were passed over the river, and I did so, showing that 1,800 or 2,000 head of cattle were stolen that month, *i. e.*, November, 1875.

Committee adjourned till Wednesday, at 10 o'clock.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 29, 1876.*

S. H. McNALLY recalled.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. You spoke the other day of the character of the population on the other side of the Rio Grande. State your experience of the character of the population on our side of the river.—A. Probably nine-tenths of the people living out of the towns are of Mexican origin. The owners of the land and of the ranches are citizens of the State of Texas, and all of their ordinary *rancheros* or *employés* are natives. But there is a floating population that visits these ranches for the purpose of temporary employment, sheep-shearing, branding cattle, building fences, &c., fully equaling, I think, the permanent residents of the country, those who claim citizenship and exercise the rights of citizenship in the State; these are the men who give information to the raiders, and who notify their friends and relatives that at a certain ranch they will be able to gather up two or three hundred fine *beeves*, and who, when their friends come, are on the *qui vive* to give information of any danger that approaches. They are Mexicans, decidedly, in all their habits and feelings, having a violent antipathy to the *gringos*, or Americans.

Q. Did you ever have any communication with the Mexican officials on the other side?—A. Yes, on several occasions, in regard to getting back stock. There was one occasion particularly when the commandant of Matamoros, Colonel Cristo, was called upon by two citizens of Texas, an American and a Mexican, to recover some stock that had been driven over and carried to Matamoros. The cattle had crossed the river about twenty-five miles above Matamoros on Saturday night, and had been carried to the butcher-pens in the suburbs. On Sunday morning these two gentlemen notified Colonel Cristo that in this herd there were quite a number of cattle bearing their brands, and they desired him to aid them in recovering them. He said that he would certainly do so; that he would take a file of soldiers that evening and bring in the cattle. On that assurance they went off, and on Monday morning crossed over again and called on Colonel Cristo. He told them he had been engaged on Sunday so that it was impossible for him to attend to that business, but that he would go that day and have the thieves punished, and the cattle returned. They notified him that on Sunday morning there had been a number of the cattle, with their brands, butchered and sold, and that the same thing had occurred on Monday morning, on which occasions thirty or forty of the cattle bearing their brands exclusively had been butchered. He put them off with the same sort of excuse till Thursday. On Thursday evening they went over again, and he told them he would certainly go with them to the butcheries, and would go then. They took a hack and went to the butcher-pens and examined the herd thoroughly. There was not a brand of theirs among the cattle. From twenty to thirty of that particular brand had been butchered in Matamoros, and they had used up the brand. Colonel Cristo had been

informed of that fact before he went out, and he said to them, "Now, gentlemen, I am perfectly willing to turn over the cattle to you if there are any of them here, but you see there are none of your cattle here." They then said to him, "This brand belongs to my neighbors, and this one, too; and this one, too." His reply was, "These men claim that they are their own property, and I have no authority to take them away from them. If any of your cattle were here, I would take them away and have the men punished." That is the experience that they have had whenever they have called the attention of the Mexican authorities to the matter. That has been my experience and the experience of the people there for the last ten years. Colonel Cristo was the commanding general of the federal forces on the frontier.

By Mr. HURLBUT :

Q. Have you ever known an instance in which the Mexican authorities on the other side, civil or military, have endeavored to restore stolen property?—A. No, sir; not one. I heard of one such case on the frontier, but one case only. General Cortina himself did deliver some stock, as a personal favor, to a particular friend of his, one of his compadres on this side, who was an American; but there is no other instance of the kind on record.

Q. And, so far as you know, in no instance have the demands of the people of Texas for the restoration of their cattle been complied with, except in this one case, in which General Cortina, as a personal favor, delivered up some cattle to a special friend of his?—A. That is the only instance, and that was not done officially, but was his own individual act.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. Have these raiders been personally identified, any of them, killed or alive?—A. All these men are known by public reputation; we know all of them, or nearly all of them, who are engaged in raiding. They are identified on this side by the citizens of Texas, and they are known on the other side. They live there publicly, and do not conceal their business. The passage of a drove of cattle through the Mexican ranches on the other side is a matter of as much notoriety as the passage of an army through Washington City would be; everybody in the neighborhood knows it, and they do not attempt any concealment. There is an instance of General Cortina's connection with this raiding last June. Cortina made a contract to deliver so many head of cattle to some Cuban firm—five or six hundred head. The Spanish vessel came to the mouth of the river to receive them. I sent my first sergeant on board of the lighter that was to carry the cattle from the shore to the steamer, for the purpose of taking down the brands. He went in the character of a spy. His name is G. A. Hall. Cortina was present himself, with a force of probably 150 or 200 men, delivering these cattle. These men are considered his body-guard in Matamoros, and are known (as publicly as the officers of our Departments are known here) by the people of both sides of the river. I was informed by some parties on the other side that some ten or twelve of these men (giving their names) were about to cross the river after more cattle, as the boat was able to carry more than Cortina had on hand. I was told that he intended to send into the interior of Texas to get 250 more cattle to put upon the boat. I got my men out. I found that these Mexicans had crossed over, and I learned the course that they were to return on. I stationed my company on the line, put out scouts, and the very day that General Cortina had agreed to deliver the cattle, I intercepted these men, some eighteen miles from

the river, coming in with a drove of 250 head of cattle. We had a fight, and they were all killed. Their bodies were brought into Brownsville by the military authorities of Fort Brown, who sent wagons out and had the bodies brought in. They were all identified as men who composed the immediate body-guard of Cortina, and who had been down at the mouth of the river helping him to load these cattle.

Q. How many of them were there?—A. Sixteen went out in the drove; one got back; he was wounded, and we left him on the field, supposing he was dead, but he recovered.

Q. The other fifteen were killed?—A. Yes, sir; all these men, whose bodies were identified, were known as composing the immediate guard or police force of General Cortina, a portion of the police force at Matamoros.

Q. What was Cortina's official position at that time?—A. Mayor of Matamoros, or, as they term it, *presidente del ayuntamiento*. He also holds the rank of brigadier-general in the Mexican army.

By Mr. HURLBUT :

Q. State whether there is sufficient power under the laws of Texas to stop, and investigate the character of, suspected persons in that belt of country.—A. No, sir; there is not.

Q. Can you, bearing a commission as you did from the governor of Texas, lawfully stop and detain any person on the high road whom you suspect to be in this business?—A. I cannot.

Q. State whether, in your judgment, it would not be necessary, for the thorough protection of that frontier, to give the extraordinary powers that belong to military officers in a district under martial law.—A. I think that we could find a better remedy than the declaration of martial law in that district. Martial law would certainly work a great many hardships to innocent persons, as it always does. Our civil-code practice has very many objections and difficulties. These people who raid on Texas are not claimed by Mexicans as citizens of that country. They say that they are outlaws and murderers, and that as far as they are able, they stop their crossing, and they want us to assist them in doing so. They desire that we shall render them all the assistance in our power to break that system up. I believe that if orders were issued to our military authorities to pursue these bands to the other bank of the river, and punish them so severely that the pay they got for crossing a herd of cattle would not compensate them for the risk they run in making the raid, it would be the most effectual and rapid way of breaking this thing up, without subjecting any innocent parties to harm. In carrying out that policy there is no probability that one innocent man would suffer. The government of Mexico is unable to break this thing up. If President Lerdo were to send an officer down there, honest enough to act vigorously against these fellows, and with a sufficient force to stop these raids, the State of Tamaulipas would be in revolution in less than three months. It is far distant from the capital. The entire federal army of Mexico has its hands full in restraining the interior States from revolting, and it would be impossible for the President to coerce this State. He has not force enough. This information I received from federal officers in Mexico, who told me that they had not troops enough to send there, and that they knew that, as quickly as a squad of men were sent there for that purpose, the State of Tamaulipas would revolt. Mexican officers have said to me, "I wish to God you would kill all these fellows." That, I think, would be the quickest and most effectual remedy for the breaking up of the cattle-thieves; for, so long as these robbers

find on the opposite bank of the river a place of refuge and a city where they can dispose of their plunder without danger, so long will they continue to raid upon Texas. It would cost the United States Government more money to guard that border than the whole State of Tamaulipas is worth; I mean, to guard it so effectually as to prevent these men from coming over.

Q. Then, your plan would be to authorize the officers of our Army to follow these raiders into the territory of Mexico, and to punish them there—is that it?—A. Yes, sir; that is the only true solution of the difficulty.

Q. That, however, cannot be done without the consent of the federal government of Mexico.—A. I do not believe that the federal government of Mexico would object to it, but I do not know that it would consent to it.

Q. By your own theory, they would have a revolution in Tamaulipas if they did.—A. No; we could control them. I consider that if the government of Mexico were to send in a force sufficient to stop this raiding, they would have a revolution.

Q. And you think that if the Mexican government were to allow United States forces to penetrate that territory, the people of Tamaulipas would not revolt?—A. I do not think the government of Mexico would pay any attention to it. I do not think the government would ever know it, officially, at the city of Mexico.

Q. I understood you to state in a former part of your examination that no five hundred of the best troops could remain on the Mexican bank of the river twenty-four hours if they crossed over.—A. My statement was that they could not return if they went any distance from the river and remained twenty-four hours—that they could not maintain themselves on that side of the river.

Q. In that case, it seems to me that there would be some difficulty in following the raiders into Mexico.—A. It would require a force of from three to five hundred men to capture every bunch of cattle carried over the river, and to get back with safety, passing the river rapidly, and returning at once, making no stay whatever on the other side. If they attempted to make any stay over there they would be surrounded.

Q. I suppose that you are aware that sending a body of troops, under the flag of the United States, into a country with which we are at peace is a declaration of war.—A. I hardly think so. I do not know of any writer on international law who does not agree to the principle that where a nation is unable or unwilling to restrain its turbulent people from depredating on a neighboring territory, the nation so depredated upon has the right to pursue these robbers into their fastnesses across the line, and there to punish them for their offenses.

Q. The line of march would lead straight to Matamoros, would it not?—A. No, sir; the cattle are usually crossed above and below Matamoros. They bring them, of course, to the towns to dispose of them, nine herds out of ten, but they never cross the river in front of these large cities.

Q. You are aware, of course, that the Mexican war was brought on by the Mexican troops crossing the Nueces?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Which was claimed by the Mexicans to be their boundary, while we claimed the Rio Grande.—A. Mexican officers have been crossing over with soldiers, and penetrating into the interior of Texas, again and again.

Q. Under orders from Mexico?—A. I do not know anything about their orders; but they have certainly crossed, and that fact is proved

by the records of the congressional committee that was down there. There is ample proof of that fact. It is not an isolated case, but has occurred on various occasions, when officers, with their organized companies, have crossed the river and made those raids and drove cattle back.

Q. I understood you to say that these were the rural police.—A. That is true; but I say that there are also instances of the federal troops themselves crossing the river. The people of the frontier do not want war, they want peace. I have followed fifty herds of cattle to the bank of the Rio Grande, and I would see the stock on the opposite bank. The Mexicans would dare me to cross the river and take them. They would say: "Here are the cattle, come across and take them if you dare."

The CHAIRMAN. Do you not think that extraordinary powers ought to be given to the military commanders there to exercise a strict police along the river, and to examine everybody?

The WITNESS. Who can give that authority?

Mr. HURLBUT. The President can.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. I believe you have no permanent residence in that region of country?—A. No; I reside in Washington County, about five hundred and twenty miles from the river.

Q. What is your general occupation there?—A. I am a planter; I own no property on that frontier.

Q. Have you a family?—A. Yes.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 29, 1876.*

U. LOTT sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Question. What is your name and your place of residence?—Answer. My name is U. Lott. I live in Corpus Christi, Tex.

Q. Make a statement of what you know about the condition of the country in your neighborhood.—A. I know that the protection to life and property has been growing less and less every year, and that the outrages committed along our frontier (not only on our border, but in the interior as far as the Nueces River) have been increasing every month till it has got to be actually unsafe to live outside of the towns and large settlements. This state of things has operated in a measure to break up the trade and commerce of that frontier, and it is breaking up our ranches; people are leaving them all the time. It has also stopped immigration into the country, and what immigration we get there is soon frightened away again.

Q. You are a business man at Corpus Christi, are you not?—A. Yes.

Q. What has been the effect of this raiding upon the business of your community?—A. The effect has been to lessen the trade of Corpus Christi, and for this reason: no matter how honest or how honorable parties may be, living in the country, and however much they might be entitled to credit, it is impossible for us to run the risk of giving them credit, because they are subject to these incursions and robberies. A robbery such as has occurred in half a dozen instances within the last two or three years makes them totally unable to meet their obligations, so that it is too much of a risk to sell them goods.

Q. Have you any knowledge of farms being broken up and families compelled to go into towns?—A. Yes; I know of a number of such cases. I know one case particularly where a gentleman from Illinois, from Rockford, I think, came into that country and established a sheep-ranch; but after a raid made there last summer by the Mexicans, he just deemed it entirely unsafe to remain there, and so broke up his ranch, left there and went back to Illinois. A resident ranchero, a Mr. Clark, who has been living at Bauquete for a number of years past, has bought a place in Corpus Christi and moved his family in there, deeming it entirely unsafe for him to remain longer in the country. Mr. Schubert, of Concepcion, after a robbery that was committed on him, sold out his store and took his wife and family to Europe, declining to take the risk of living in the country any longer.

Q. Were you at Corpus Christi during the raid you spoke of?—A. Yes.

Q. State the particulars of it.—A. I was in Corpus Christi when the raid occurred. The parties came within seven miles of town. Word was brought in by people residing outside that the Mexicans were on the march into the town. All the business-houses were closed up in the middle of the day, and every one that was able to bear arms took arms, and the community formed into a band for self-protection, and was divided into three companies. We were under arms there for three days. Those who had horses and arms, and could go into the country, followed the raiders, and during the first night overtook them. One man from town, a young man originally from Iowa, was killed in the first skirmish. The Mexicans, however, got away with the loss of only one man.

Q. Do you have business relations with those stock-raisers generally?—A. Yes, I presume I know every stock-man in Western Texas west of the Nueces River. I have been in the banking business up to last spring, and am now president of a railroad which is being built to the Rio Grande from Corpus Christi, and, in moving back and forth through the country, I have opportunities of knowing how dangerous it is. I find it almost impossible to get up a corps of surveyors to do the work along the line of the road, unless I can get some special protection or guard for them.

By Mr. HURLBUT:

Q. State how long you have been living in this country.—A. Ever since the war.

Q. When did this character of outrages commence there?—A. They have been in existence almost the entire time since the war. They have been specially on the increase within the last three years.

Q. Within the last three years the risk to life and property has been increased there?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. State whether or not, in your judgment, either the civil or military power of the State of Texas is sufficient to repel these attacks.—A. No, sir; I do not believe it is.

Q. Has there been any specific effect, in your judgment, on the value of property and improvements in that country by these raids?—A. Yes, there has been in the country; there are ranches in some portions of the country that are almost entirely worthless in consequence of these raids and the insecurity of life and property.

Q. Then, it is not only the fact of the actual losses that have occurred, but the uncertainty attending life and property, that makes it difficult for traders to obtain credit, which, under ordinary circum-

stances, they would be entitled to, to carry on their business?—A. Yes, sir; that is so. Quite a number of cases of attacks on country stores have occurred, where the proprietors have been murdered, their money and goods stolen or destroyed, and their indebtedness to our merchants has been a total loss; and affairs of this kind have become so frequent, that our merchants are forced to refuse credit to country merchants, and their trade is lost, and their business broken up. I wish to correct an impression that seems to prevail among some people north that most of these reports from Texas about robberies and murders committed by citizens from Mexico are only stories trumped up for the purpose of embroiling this country in a war with Mexico. I think any one who will take the trouble to look into the matter would be convinced to the contrary. Our whole population west of the Nueces River are engaged in stock-farming; four-fifths of the wealth of all that country is in its herds of cattle, sheep, and horses, mostly roaming at will over our prairies. We are not so foolish but that we know that a war with Mexico, unless premeditated, and our Government fully prepared for it, would result in the immediate occupation by Mexicans, for a time at least, of all that country bordering on the river, and would, consequently, involve the loss of the larger part of our stock and the destruction of all our property. We have no idle white population in the West, such as would be in a condition only to profit by a war. Our people are all industrious and enterprising, and nothing is wanted save absolute protection for life and property as against foreign invaders to make us in a few years the most prosperous people in the United States. It is not now so much a question of loss of property that has excited our people, but the increasing feeling of insecurity for life that has become so wide-spread, resulting from the almost daily occurrence of some brutal murder committed by bands of armed men from Mexico. I have no hesitation in saying that if murders continue as they have been in the past year, without some positive measure being taken to put a stop to them, our whole country west of the Nueces River will be depopulated. Did our troubles come from Indians or robbers having their home within the limits of the United States, so that the remedy was with ourselves, the character of our frontier rangers is too well known not to believe that we should have pursued and brought to punishment these marauders long ago. But coming as they do from a foreign country, a murderer or a robber has but to get a few hours' start, and he is sure to cross into Mexico before any officers of law or band of pursuers can possibly overtake him, and thus is discouraged all effort for capture by our people.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *February 9, 1876.*

OTHO W. BUDD sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Question. Have you been on duty on the Rio Grande?—Answer. Yes, sir.

Q. To what regiment do you belong?—A. I am first lieutenant of Fourth Cavalry.

Q. State what your experience has been in regard to raids from Mexico.—A. I went down to the Rio Grande in 1872. I was sent with my company down to Brownsville; while I was there I had occasion to

go out on expeditions to different parts of the country, and up and down the river, after Mexican cattle-thieves. On two or three other occasions I captured parties of Mexican cattle-thieves, and once or twice in the act of driving off cattle. At one time I was going by steamboat up the river from Brownsville to Ringgold Barracks and Rio Grande City, and we passed on the steamer through a herd of cattle that the Mexicans were driving across the river. Part of the cattle were on one side of the river and part on the other, and the Mexicans were stripped, and had the saddles off their horses, and were in the river driving the cattle across. I was sent up under special instructions. I spoke to the men who were on the boat, and asked if we could not in some way get a party from the boat, and go down and intercept them; but they were not in favor of trying it, so I had to give it up. I have scouted all through that country, from the mouth of the river up to Fort Duncan, and I have often found cattle-trails right to the river where they crossed in different directions, at different places, and I knew by that that the Mexicans had been stealing cattle. They never buy cattle. I believe they do buy sheep and such things as that, but they never buy cattle; and they drive over herds of two, three, four, and five hundred head. There are fords all along the river, almost everywhere, so that one can cross the river at almost any place, at certain stages of the river. I have followed those trails to the river, but they were not new enough to make it worth my while to attempt to pursue the thieves on the other side. The Mexicans live on the other side of the river in hundreds together in their ranches, and they have the appearance of cultivating the land, but the land that they cultivate is a very narrow strip just along the river, where they raise their grain, or corn, or whatever it may be, but it is not enough to sustain the Mexicans who live there four months in the year. In some of those ranches on the other side of the river I have seen as many as three and four hundred men all the time without any visible means of support; they are always going back and forth across the river. They make up their arrangements before they come to this side, and they come in small parties, one or two at a time, and cross at different places, and at the time that is decided upon they concentrate at a certain place, and round up the cattle and drive them across the river.

Q. You have been about a good deal among the ranches along the river?—A. Yes, sir; almost all the ranches along the river for fifty miles back in the interior.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

Q. They are principally Mexican ranches?—A. Yes, sir; there is a very small minority of American settlers in that country. They are principally Mexicans along the Rio Grande. Here and there you will come across an American settler.

Q. Do they cultivate the land on this side, near the river?—A. Yes, sir; along the river, but not so much as they do farther back. The land is not very extensively cultivated except in some parts. It is not a continuous line of cultivated land along the river.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. When did you leave there?—A. I left Brownsville in 1873. I went down in 1872, and left in 1873. I was a year at Brownsville, and from there I went up to Ringgold Barracks; I was not regularly stationed there, but staid for nearly two months, and was about through that country with my command, and then went to Fort Duncan, at Eagle Pass, and was stationed there a year.

By Mr. WILLIAMS :

Q. Were there any of these raids above you at Eagle Pass?—A. No, sir, excepting among the Indians; the Indians from Mexico cross over there sometimes. General McKenzie took six companies of our regiment once, and made a dash into Mexico and stopped the Indians' raiding. I do not know how it is now, but up to a year ago there had been very little raiding by the Indians since his expedition. Below Fort Duncan, down toward Laredo, there have been a good many depredations on the part of the Mexicans.

Q. The cattle-stealing is principally below Laredo?—A. Principally below Laredo, and from there down to the mouth of the river.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. In 1873 did the stock-raisers seem to have suffered much?—A. Yes, sir, they did; I could see it from actual observation; and they used to talk to me a good deal about it, and tell me of it.

By Mr. WILLIAMS :

Q. How many troops were there from Brownsville up to Fort Duncan?—A. When I was at Brownsville there was only our one company of the Fourth Cavalry there. There was no other cavalry, but there was a company of the Tenth Infantry mounted, and up at Ringgold Barracks I think there were some of the Ninth Cavalry, two companies, perhaps; I forget how many.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. Did you ever have any fight, or any chance to see those raiders closely?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What sort of men were those whom you encountered? Were they settlers?—A. No, they evidently did not belong to that country; they were strangers on this side of the river.

By Mr. WILLIAMS :

Q. Were they Spanish people?—A. They were Mexicans, there is no question about that; they were of Spanish descent.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. You have never seen any who seemed to be Mexican soldiers?—A. No, sir; I have not seen any in that department that I could say were soldiers.

By Mr. WILLIAMS :

Q. Is there any post opposite Laredo?—A. Yes, sir; Fort Mackintosh. The town of Laredo is on one side, and Laredo Nuevo on the other; and Fort Mackintosh is just in the suburbs of the town of Laredo. These raids extend principally from Laredo down the river, and sometimes above, but principally down to about half-way between Laredo and Rio Grande City.

Q. Are there any posts in the interior?—A. No, sir; they are near the river; there is not a post between the Nueces and Rio Grande Rivers.

Q. Are those cattle that they took mainly found on our side?—A. Yes, sir. There are some very heavy cattle-ranges in that country, where there are thousands of cattle. They steal cattle and horses. They are stealing all the time in those ranges along the river.

Q. Is there much crossing between the Nueces and Eagle Pass?—A. No, sir. Up in this country about Eagle Pass and Laredo, it is very largely a sheep-grazing country, and the Mexicans do not seem to care about stealing the sheep. It is principally in the heavy cattle country that the depredations are committed.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. How far inland do they come on these raids?—A. As far as the Nueces, one hundred miles. It is called one hundred and forty or one hundred and sixty miles from Brownsville to Corpus Christi at the mouth of the river. I forget which it is.

By Mr. WILLIAMS :

Q. Is there a post at Rio Grande City?—A. Yes, sir; that is Ringgold Barracks; and then next above that is Laredo. At Laredo is Fort Mackintosh; then the next post above is Fort Duncan. That is the post at Eagle Pass. Ringgold Barracks is about half-way between Brownsville and Laredo.

Q. They are too far apart to be guarded?—A. They cannot protect that line at all. It is impossible; there are not troops enough in that department to do it. I have had plenty of opportunity to see how useless the small guard is that they have there; they can do nothing at all.

Q. Is the land on the border of the river such that a post can be established there?—A. Yes, sir; there are plenty of good places. At a point about thirty miles above Brownsville, I once had a little skirmish with some Mexican thieves, and captured a lot of them. And once when I was there, I was told that they had been within two miles of the town and crossed a herd of cattle.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. When you left there with your regiment, what troops relieved you?—A. The Ninth Cavalry relieved us.

By Mr. WILLIAMS :

Q. That is a colored regiment?—A. Yes, sir. When we left there, we only left the mounted infantry company that I have spoken of, commanded by Captain Clous.

Q. What was the legal size of your company?—A. Seventy men for cavalry, is the peace establishment, and sixty for infantry.

Q. The companies are not full now?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do you consider these colored mounted men as effective as white troops?—A. No, sir; I do not.

Q. They do not take care of their horses as well as the white troops?—A. No, sir; they do not have their horses in as efficient a condition; they are not able to do as heavy duty at a moment's warning, and are not to be depended upon for that reason. Of course if a cavalryman has not a good horse, he is fit for nothing.

Q. These cattle-stealing raids were frequent while you were there?—A. Yes, sir. Every week we would hear of a raid somewhere between Brownsville and Ringgold Barracks.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. I suppose the few herds you intercepted were only a small fraction of those that were actually taken?—A. A very small fraction, yes, sir; not the one hundredth part, I imagine.

By Mr. WILLIAMS :

Q. Is there a good road all the way along the river up to Laredo?—A. Yes, sir; a good military road all the way to Eagle Pass.

Q. Near the bank of the river?—A. Yes, sir; in some places right alongside of the river, and at other places as far inland as ten miles.

Q. How high are the banks?—A. They are generally high banks, and are never overflowed except at some flat places in the bends of the

river. The banks are generally high enough on both sides of the river to be safe anywhere from overflow.

Q. In the summer the water gets very low, and is fordable along the river at almost any point?—A. Almost anywhere.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *February 9, 1876.*

WILLIAM STEELE sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Question. Please state your position in Texas.—Answer. I am the adjutant-general of that State.

Q. Are you familiar with the troubles on the Rio Grande?—A. I am quite familiar with them; I have not only known a good deal in regard to them by correspondence, but last summer I went, under Governor Coke's directions, and spent some little time there for the purpose of investigating those matters.

Q. Please state in substance the results of your observations.—A. I went down there with the impression that the reports of cattle-stealing and outrages had been a good deal exaggerated, but I came away with the impression that they had not been at all. Probably you have already ascertained the character of the country along the Rio Grande. For twenty or thirty miles back from the river-bank it is tropical chaparral filled with prickly pears, &c. The inhabitants along the lines of the river are mostly Mexican-speaking; whether they are mostly citizens who expect to remain there, or whether they are fugitives, I do not know; I think the latter are the largest class. I have brought a document with me in relation to that subject, which has come to my office.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

Q. You mean fugitives who have run away for committing crimes?—A. Yes, sir; from Mexico, and some few from our own country. [The witness produced a paper.] By this paper I see that in getting up the reports for the militia in one county, the chief-justice has made a report in which he designated the men as citizens and residents in every precinct, except one.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Is that on our side of the river?—A. Yes, sir; it is one of the counties under my jurisdiction. I was down there and saw the chief-justice myself, who is an old Mexican gentleman and does not speak English. In the first precinct he makes no distinction, in the second he puts down eighty-two citizens, and one hundred and fifty-one residents.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

Q. Where is that precinct?—A. It is in Hidalgo County. In precinct No. 4 there are nineteen citizens, and fifty residents. In precinct No. 5 there are fifteen citizens, and fifty-nine residents; counting precinct No. 1, in which there is no distinction made, it shows that there are one hundred and sixty citizens and two hundred and sixty residents.

Q. He means persons temporarily there?—A. Yes, sir; those who do not claim allegiance to the State or to the United States. In that county at the same time, I inquired of him how many Americans there were—"Americans" is the general term for all English-speaking persons, those from the North. He told me there were ten. I asked him if there

were any others who spoke English. He said there were three others, making thirteen in that county who spoke English. It is that large portion of floating population there who have produced such a state of terror upon those who really have the interests of the country at heart, that if they should see a drove of cattle being taken across the river they would be afraid to say a word. Many have been killed because they talked too much. The river is very crooked. On one trip I went up the river about three hundred miles on a small steamer. Watching the bank along, I could see, in the abrupt bends, where there were little paths coming down to the water's edge, and there would be tracks coming down but none going up on that side. I noticed a few cattle on the opposite side of the river, where they were placed to entice the others across from this side. The cattle from this side, when driven to the river, would see them, and, of course, would plunge in, anxious to get with those cattle on the other side. Sometimes they would have to swim across, but the river is mostly shallow, with bars.

Q. Did you make any observation in regard to the residents and citizens in any other counties than that one?—A. No, sir; and it was rather an accident in that case. The chief justice, in sending me his returns of militia, made this statement for his county. In going up the river I found numerous places that indicated clearly to any observant person that there had been cattle come down on this side of the river and gone out on the other side. While I was in the town of Edinburgh, in Hidalgo County, the sheriff, a half-breed, I think, asked me to stop and take a lunch with him, and while I was there complaints came from a man who had his horses stolen the night before.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. You have only that official return of the relative number of residents and citizens in that county? From your observation, does the same condition of things prevail in the other counties?—A. Yes, sir; except where there are towns of considerable size. In Brownsville there are more Americans than foreigners, but, outside of the towns, that state of things exists all the way up, sometimes as high as Camargo.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

Q. Are there a good many Americans in those little towns?—A. No, sir; there are a few; generally about enough to fill the offices of county clerk and a few little offices of that kind, where the incumbents are obliged to know something of English. I think every one I knew held an office of some kind. There were sometimes Mexicans who filled the offices, when they had education enough.

Q. How far up the river did you go?—A. I went up in the steamboat as far as Rio Grande City. At various times I have been above there on the river, and below.

Q. How far up did these raids extend?—A. From about Mier down nearly to Brownsville.

Q. Is Mier above Laredo or below?—A. It is below. I do not think the raids have been so bad immediately above Laredo as they have been below. I do not know that the cattle are quite so accessible there. You doubtless have learned something of our system of cattle-raising there, by which cattle are branded and turned out, and have no more care taken of them until they are hunted up. In the winter time, every cold norther that comes the cattle drive south. When there are a succession of northers, cattle are sometimes found one hundred and fifty or two hundred miles away from their ranges; and, in that case, these cattle-stealers are enabled to carry on their operations more extensively than at any other time.

By Mr. BANKS:

Q. Is there anything wanted more than to make it impossible that any party could cross the Rio Grande from one side to the other? Is anything wanted more than that by the Texan people?—A. I think not; I think that would satisfy every condition.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Give a general statement from what you saw there, about the state of the ranches on our side, and about the character of these raids and the people who are engaged in them.—A. There was one raid not very long before I went down, that came within a few miles of Corpus Christi, about 150 or 160 miles in the interior. The evidence was that they went over in small parties. There are a great many Mexicans scattered through all that country as herders, and in various occupations, so that parties of two or three riding by themselves in that country would not be noticed. They went to a point very near Corpus Christi and rendezvoused in some thickets there, and then commenced raiding stores along up the Nueces River, where it is pretty well settled, 150 miles from the Rio Grande. One store-keeper, Mr. Noaks, resisted and shot one of the raiders, who was afterward captured by pursuing parties. Before his death he made a statement, which I got very soon after from the sheriff of the county there, to the effect that the raid had been intended to be of large proportions, and Corpus Christi was the objective point; but that they had some dissension among themselves, and part of them had not met at the rendezvous, and so they next went up the Nueces to try and get as many valuables as they could; but the alarm was soon given, and the people gathered together as fast as they could, and they made for the Rio Grande, and divided into small parties and made their escape. I believe the mayor and authorities of Camargo, which is a Mexican place, captured two or three, but I never heard that any of the plunder was ever surrendered to the owners. One gentleman, Mr. Avery, an agent of the United States consul at Matamoros, was refused permission to take a view of the things that were captured. If you recollect the character, as portrayed in Gil Blas when he was robbed, of one of the Spanish officials—I think it answers a very good description of the manner of doing things there.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

Q. Have you any reason to believe that the people on our side were co-operating with them?—A. There are people living on this side who do that, but they can hardly be classed as citizens. In fact, it is very hard to define who is a citizen there. In this report of this county they are given as residents and citizens, and the residents largely outnumber the citizens. Many of these residents are mixed up with smuggling on this side. The Free Belt, where goods are admitted free of duty, affords fine opportunities for smuggling all along there:

By Mr. BANKS:

Q. Does that Free Belt extend as far as Laredo?—A. It extends beyond it, I think. I do not recollect the limits exactly. On both sides, those that are not engaged in cattle-stealing are engaged in smuggling, and they do not like to interfere with each other's occupations. There would be a great deal less trouble if there were English-speaking people on this side to watch them; but as it is, you can get no evidence except you buy it.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. What part do the Mexican authorities take in this business?—A.

They never have acted in good faith, in any case I have ever heard of, in returning the property. They have done nothing more than to throw impediments in the way of recovery. There was one recent case that was told me by the collector at Corpus Christi, in which Mr. Richard King, who is a very large stock-owner, both of horses and cattle, and has a pasture of 80,000 acres in one fence, had a lot of mules stolen from him out of his pasture. They had been taken to Mexico, and seized by some officers there and sold out very hurriedly, and had been bought in by the officers, who offered to sell the mules back for twenty-five dollars a head. While I was down there I secured a paper that was handed to Governor Coke, and which I am sorry I have not with me. It was an article from a Mexican newspaper, the name of which I do not now recollect, but which was said to be the organ of General Cortina, who is head chief of the whole country. That paper claims that that country we are speaking of now, between the Nueces and the Rio Grande, had never been legally ceded by Mexico to the United States, and that the Federal authorities had no right to make such an alienation, and that they had a right to do as they pleased over there, as that country belonged to Mexico. That was openly avowed. I had a gentleman with me who was part Spanish himself—a State senator, too—a man of fine intelligence, speaking the language fluently, and who had a good many acquaintances. His father had been in business in that country, and in that way, when I was with him in Matamoros, I had information that I would not ordinarily get. We were invited to the houses of some of the best citizens, and socially, at the dinner-table, they would talk more unreservedly than at other times. I recollect one old lawyer saying that he had entirely quit practicing before the courts where the decision of the court depended entirely on the order of Cortina.

By Mr. BANKS :

Q. Have you any information of the report of a commission appointed by the Mexican government?—A. Yes, sir; I have read it hastily.

Q. What is the character of that report?—A. It is a very lengthy report; but I only read it very cursorily.

Q. I mean in its conclusions; whether they were received as being in the line of truth by the people of Texas?—A. The people of Texas have never had an opportunity of seeing it. When I was down there there was only one copy accessible, which I read, and that was in Spanish. Not long before I came away a copy of it in English had been sent to Governor Coke.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. From your observation there have you ever seen anything that led you to believe that there is mutual robbery on the river; that our people go on the other side and steal?—A. No, sir; there is nothing of that kind. The only cases that have ever been known to me are where mules that were raised some sixty or seventy miles below Matamoros were brought over for sale. In several cases those mules were seized by the custom house authorities; and the plea has always been brought in in every case that they were stolen in Mexico; but the cases were so uniform that I came to the conclusion that it was a put-up thing beforehand. I never heard of a case of their coming over and claiming stolen property except in those cases.

Q. Did you gain any knowledge as to the organization of Mexicans along the river to protect their line?—A. You will find an affidavit that covers that in the printed report that I made to the governor. I believe you have a copy of it. It is the affidavit of a Mexican who is familiar

with the whole system of their police. Any American who would go there on that side of the river would be a marked man instantly. He must be perfectly familiar with their language; and even then his complexion, and other things, would mark him, and he would be watched there all the time. We have many Mexicans on this side, and, in fact, the Mexican language is the language for fifty miles back in the country, on the American side.

By Mr. BANKS:

Q. What are the points of concentration of these raiding parties on the American side?—A. All along the river are these ranches. A ranch is a house with one man usually, and a collection of little huts around it, and those are the rendezvous for these parties. There is one at Las Cuevas and another at Bolsa, that I recollect.

Q. What are the markets for the beef?—A. The Mexican government has been. I know of one contract for 18,000 head to be delivered at Monterey. The cattle on the Mexican side are carried right into the city of Matamoros and up to Monterey, and are supplied by the different ranches. When I was down there, there was a ship loading for General Cortina, and I sent a man on board of it in disguise, and he found American brands on the cattle. I telegraphed that fact to Governor Coke, and suggested that an agent should be sent to Havana to examine that ship when it arrived. He said he telegraphed the fact to the Attorney-General or the Secretary of War here at Washington, and I never knew what became of it. The man I sent on board was a reliable man, and you will find his affidavit in the same book I have mentioned.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Do you think, from the thorough organization they have on the other side, that it is possible, for any of our people to go over there without being instantly found out?—A. I do not think it possible. In coming up the river in the small steamboat that I have mentioned, I went as far as Ringgold City, about 300 miles above Brownsville, and at points all along the river I could see the rural police in uniform, or their soldiers. Every few miles I could see some on the bank apparently keeping watch of the steamboats, to see that they did not take off goods, or land something that was contraband.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

Q. Did this police belong to the State or the federal government?—A. Both. They have soldiers belonging to the federal government, and they have a rural police. I tried to get in Matamoros, a copy of the laws on that subject, but I was unable to do so. A lawyer told me that he thought they had not been embodied in such a shape that I could get them.

Q. Can these cattle be taken as far back as Saltillo and Monterey?—A. Yes, sir; very easily. It is about one hundred and fifty miles to Monterey, and Saltillo is about sixty miles farther.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Were you informed in regard to that country up to the time of your leaving?—A. Yes, sir; I had weekly reports until very recently.

Q. Give your opinion, if you please, about the necessity for action down there in the present state of the country.—A. There has been no change in it. The last report I had spoke of so much rain that it had interfered a little with the thieving operations. Where they could find a few cattle on the bank of the river they were taking them, but

the heavy rains had interfered with their large operations for the present.

Q. But the raiding is going on continually, is it?—A. Yes, sir; the committee may recollect a letter that was written by Governor Coke to the Attorney-General last year. An order was given to cross the Rio Grande in certain contingencies. The Attorney-General had written to the governor in regard to it, and the governor replied to that letter. I have a copy that I can give you if you desire. [Paper presented to the committee.]

By Mr. WILLIAMS :

Q. The troops on our side have crossed once or twice?—A. Yes, sir; General McKenzie crossed above.

Q. Has there been no crossing below?—A. Yes, sir; Captain McNally crossed to the other bank once, and succeeded in inducing them to restore about sixty-five head of cattle out of two hundred and fifty that had wandered over.

The letter that I have mentioned from Governor Coke was in reference to orders I had given for the troops in any immediate and close pursuit to cross and recross. That was referred to the Secretary of State, who referred it to the Attorney-General; and his letter to the governor drew forth the reply which has never been answered yet. Nothing more has been said about it.

There is one thing I notice in that report. They speak of robberies in Mexico from this side, and they give the names; but the committee will recognize almost immediately, every name is a Spanish name, and there is not one familiar to an American. They may possibly have been residents of our soil.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. Do you wish to make any substantial changes in regard to any statements in your official report?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did you have any conversation with the Mexican authorities while you were there?—A. I did not, personally.

Q. Did you travel any on the other side of the river?—A. I went across to Matamoros. I did not travel through the country there.

By Mr. BANKS :

Q. Are there many roads on the Mexican side toward Monterey?—A. I really could not tell you. I was up there in the Mexican war, but have not been there since.

By Mr. WILLIAMS :

Q. There are a good many paths, but few roads?—A. There are many paths, but very few roads.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *February 12, 1876.*

General E. O. C. ORD, commanding the Military Department of Texas, sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Question. Please give the committee a general statement of the condition of affairs on the Rio Grande.—Answer. I will submit to the committee my last report of the 10th September, 1875, which is a correct statement of the facts, so far as I could learn from the most reliable

witnesses, and which were afterward verified by myself on an examination of the country. I make that report part of my testimony.

[The report is appended to this testimony, marked "A."]

Q. State what has been the condition of affairs since the date of that report.—A. Since the date of that report I have received frequent communications from the post commanders and from the district commander on the border. For a short time after the arrest of Cortina, who controlled these bands on the lower Rio Grande, the raids were not so frequent. But recently the commanding officer of the district of the Rio Grande sends me, from Fort Brown, copies of telegrams and reports, which I also hand in as evidence, which show that the raids and murders have increased rapidly.

[The papers referred to are also appended to this testimony, and marked "B," "C," and "D."]

WITNESS (continuing.) Since my report, which I have just handed in, one of the raiding parties was overtaken by the troops; the commanding officer, having received information of the raid, managed to overtake them as they were crossing the river and to catch them in the act of crossing. The raiders were also followed by the Texas State troops under the command of Captain McNally, and although a large number of rancheros, when our troops crossed, turned out to protect them, (the raiders,) yet, with the aid of the Government troops, they secured a portion of the stolen cattle—probably a few that were too much crippled or bruised to be driven beyond reach. The extent of those raids, and the facilities for committing them, appear to be not really understood outside of that country. On account of the large number of ranches along the banks of the Nueces, and between the Nueces and the Rio Grande, and from the fact that that country affords special advantages to stock-raisers, and that the northerly winds frequently drive large numbers of cattle one or two hundred miles south of where the owners live, the increase of cattle and their number there on the plains north of the river have been very great. On the opposite side of the river the supply of beef has been very limited, from all that I can learn. The number of Mexicans who have been driven by revolution and by their own lawless acts from Central and Southern Mexico up to the borders of the Rio Grande, probably to escape the result of their offenses, has filled that country with lawless and desperate men. Even the rulers make little or no effort to prevent their committing offenses against the United States, as it would probably destroy their popularity if they did, and would make them odious to the majority of the people. For the same reason—the facility for crossing the river and for escape to the United States—the Mexican troops, who are generally enlisted just as sailors used to be in England, by a sort of press-gang system, take advantage of the opportunity afforded them when brought north to the Rio Grande border, and desert to the United States. That prevents the central government from maintaining a force on the lower Rio Grande to control the desperate and lawless people. I have represented these facts in my report to the General Government and have suggested the propriety of amending existing treaties, so that deserters from either side can be remitted as other criminal offenders now are under the present extradition treaties. After examining the country, which I found to be a dense thicket along the river, with here and there narrow paths, or cattle-roads, cut through, (which thicket extends sometimes 20 or 25 miles from the river toward the open plain,) and from the fact that the grazing country to the north is about the same distance from the river from its mouth for 500 miles up the river, I came to the conclusion that it was

impossible to guard the river-banks by a system of small posts or videttes, for the reason that the cattle-thieves can receive notice from the rural population (who are nearly all Mexicans) of the location of the troops. I satisfied myself that the only way to protect the property of the people on that frontier, and to prevent these raids, was to cross the river, whenever the troops struck a trail with the prospect of overtaking the cattle-thieves. They cannot see them come through this thicket or chaparral, and they cannot know that they are coming on any particular road, except only by accident. They can only get upon the trail in the rear and follow them, and as these cattle-thieves go mounted and at a full run, the prospect of overtaking them before they get to the river is more than doubtful; it is next to impossible. The local authorities on the Mexican side being under the influence of this lawless population, which I have described, and being sometimes their leaders, are averse to restoring any property, and I believe they have never yet shown any disposition to do so, no matter how strong the proof of the guilt of the party or the evidence that the property is within their reach. These officials have frequently engaged in these cattle-raids and have boasted of the success of their enterprise. Under these circumstances, and in view of the powerlessness or inability of the Mexican government to enforce its own laws, or even to protect its own property, we cannot expect them to protect ours, and I consider it not only justifiable, but the duty of the United States authorities to enforce the security of our own border and to protect the people from invasion. I could give instances, stated to me by officials on the river, of numerous raids, and of the passage of cattle in large numbers that have occurred since I have been in command of the department, but I believe that the committee has received sufficient evidence on that point from gentlemen who live on the ground. I may state, however, that so great has been the fear of the raiders, by both Americans and Mexicans, and so certainly would men be murdered if they gave information, that captains of American steamers, plying on the river, and gentlemen who have been living outside of the towns, requested me not to mention their names in any statement I might make to the Government based on their evidence, for they would in all probability be murdered by these raiders if it were known that they had given information. When the commanding officer at Ringgold Barracks, on one rare occasion, received information of an intended raid, the man who sent him the information and the Mexican boy whom he sent with it were both murdered in less than a month. I will also add that it is a matter of great importance on that frontier that troops of the best sort should be stationed there. An unfortunate condition of affairs arose between the colored troops and the native population, under which native Mexicans living on the American side were indisposed to co-operate with the officers of colored regiments. They were averse to having that sort of troops among them. For that reason I gave orders, shortly after taking command, that no patrols or small parties should be sent out from posts, except under command of a white officer, and as there are very few officers available, this, in a great measure, prevented such patrols being sent. So that white troops should in all cases be selected for service on that frontier, and at least two regiments of the best cavalry should be stationed on the Lower Rio Grande. I have been requested by the district commander there to hurry down some cavalry which I promised him recently on account of the frequency of raids, and from the fact that a revolution was progressing on the opposite side, which would probably place the worst class of people in power, and in position to

do harm, and the raiding parties, in order to supply the revolutionists with beef, would come across, probably, two or three hundred in a party.

The northerners in that locality are very cold and neither horses nor cattle will face them, and they are driven by these winds to seek shelter in the thickets and oak groves which are found farther south. They sometimes wander two or three hundred miles under the influence of these northerners. They are so cold, that sometimes hundreds and thousands of cattle perish by cold; they freeze, not so much from the low temperature as from the force of the wind, which carries off the vital heat. The cattle are all free. One man's cattle will be frequently found in two or three of the surrounding counties, in this way, under successive northerners. They keep on going south continually, from one thicket to another, or from one covert to another, to the southern country. The country along there affords better facilities both for protection and grazing than the country farther north. The mesquit-trees grow much larger, and the prickly pear, on which the cattle graze during droughts, grows in greater abundance, and the natural grasses are as strong, I think, in the valley of the Rio Grande, and the valley is about as fertile as any place that I have ever seen in Texas. Hence there is always a larger supply of cattle there than belong to that portion of the country, and the raiders, when they cut out a band of cattle, have been sometimes overtaken with from ten to twenty brands in one herd.

Q. State whether these raids are mutual from either side of the river, or whether it is possible on account of the Mexican surveillance on the frontier for American raiders to go over there. Has such a thing not come to your knowledge?—A. I inquired carefully when I was down there to ascertain if any raids had been committed by Americans on Mexicans, and I could not hear of a single instance. When, on the Upper Rio Grande, I suggested the possibility of outlaws on our side stealing horses and carrying them to Mexico, the people laughed at me, because, they said, the Mexicans were so much more expert in stealing, and because that class of people was so much more abundant on the other side, an American who should cross with stolen property would not hold it an hour after he had crossed. Besides, on the Mexican side of the Lower Rio Grande, so far as I could see, there is nothing to steal. The people on the Mexican side are nearly all supplied with beef, or pretty largely supplied, from our side; and I was told by a gentleman who was for a long time consul at Monterey, Mr. Ulrich, that the price of beef there varies with the arrival and departure of raiding bands going after cattle into Texas. Besides this they have a system of rural police among the population living in the villages close to the border of the river, who would communicate the arrival of a party of Americans so quickly that in less than six hours after Captains McNally and Randlett crossed the river with their little force, between two and three hundred of this rural police and rancheros were in front of him, and as many as 500 would have been there in less than twenty-four hours if he had remained. So that there is neither temptation to go there for plunder nor prospect of getting it out if they should get any.

Q. Do you consider the Mexican system of surveillance of the river as much more effective than ours?—A. Yes; they keep a sharper lookout in proportion, just as a band of robbers would keep a better lookout to cover their retreat than the shepherds would keep in watching their flocks. It is, hence, next to impossible for anybody to go there and return without being either discovered or without a large force being gath-

ered to resist them. That is one reason why I am anxious to have a larger military force there than we have now. The only way of recovering cattle and of preventing future raids is to cross the river, and I want a sufficient force to cross and to maintain itself on the other side for a short time if necessary.

Q. I understand you to say that the Mexican side of the river is densely settled.—A. On the southern side of the river the population is quite large, probably two or three times as great as on our side; and then they have, on the opposite side, a large population of roving Mexicans, who can be citizens on either side, and who are thus exempt from arrest on the other. These vagabonds on the northern side of the river are frequently in collusion with the robber-bands from Mexico, and for that reason the Mexican government states that those raids are not committed by Mexicans, but are committed by Americans, because some of these same fellows may have probably been naturalized, or had obtained some right under the Texas laws (which are very liberal) to remain there, and to have the benefit of citizenship, but they are nevertheless Mexicans.

Q. You do not apply that to the entire Mexican population on our side?—A. Not at all; only to the roving class, who have no permanent home. The best class of Mexicans are just as anxious as the American stock-raisers are to put a stop to these raids, and quite a company of them co-operated very actively in the recovery of the cattle by Captain McNally and Captain Randlet, when they crossed the river recently.

Q. Have you ever been on the opposite side of the river?—A. I have been.

Q. On what do the people on the other side live? What is their main occupation? Do they cultivate land?—A. There is a little cultivation, but it was one of the mysteries which I could not fathom, how so many people happen to live with so little work. There did not appear to be any sufficient amount of land cultivated to maintain them. There was a very small amount of cattle—only a few goats and some sheep.

Q. On what, in your opinion, do they live?—A. When I asked one gentleman, a citizen of Matamoros, if there was no way of affording this people occupation, and giving them some work to do, he said, "Yes; bring back Cortina, and they will soon have plenty of work." I suppose he meant that Cortina would give them employment on our side.

Q. Was not that all the work Cortina had to give?—A. I think he encouraged the trade with the interior, as far as he could do so when the owners of the *conductas*, and of the supplies coming in and going out, would pay him liberally; but I think from what I could learn that his supplies of cattle came from the north side of the river.

Q. Did you ever take any notice as to what became of all the cattle stolen?—A. In one or two instances certificates were furnished to me by special agents employed as spies, that bands of cattle were driven to the beach near Matamoros and shipped to Havana, and that large numbers of hides (the brands of which were found to be American brands) were shipped on this same steamer; that the employés of Cortina guarded the shipment of the cattle, and some of them were afterward killed in possession of the herd of stolen cattle on our side, driving it to the river-bank. All this was sworn to by the parties who witnessed the shipment, and a copy of these affidavits is filed among the papers that I sent in in connection with the account of the matter.

Q. Did you hear of any market for cattle in the interior?—A. I have stated that Mr. Ulrich told me that the price of beef at Monterey varied with the arrival of these raiding parties from the north.

Q. I believe you stated that the people on the other side seem to be in common accord in protecting these raids—both the local authorities and the resident population.—A. I was informed by a gentleman formerly of the United States Army, and now a stock-raiser on the border, that the commandant at Mier is one of the most notorious cattle-raiders and bandits in the country. And he was at that time reported to be still in office as commandant of the custom-house guard at Mier.

Q. Do you recollect the fact that a mail-rider at one time was stopped and held back for some time, by one of these raiding parties, so that he should not carry information till they were safely over?—A. They capture everybody whom they encounter. While the raiding was going on which I spoke of (shortly after I took command) the raiders were so frequently in possession of the country on our side that the roads were impassable except by large parties or under escort. The Mexican consul at San Antonio, when he wanted to go over to Camargo for his family, asked and obtained from me an order for an escort; and the Catholic bishop when he visited his people asked me for a military escort. The county judge going from one town to another requested a military escort. It was unsafe outside of the towns, and it was impossible to execute the laws at all. That was at the time previous to Cortina's arrest, and it will become so again on his return. The country was entirely in possession of the cattle-raiders, and my force was entirely inadequate to check them, or to drive them out of the country. They have always taken precautions to cover their movements, and to keep the information of their raids from spreading. As I mentioned before, where they discovered that information had been given of their movements they murdered the man who sent it and the boy who took it.

Q. From your observations there what power does the national Mexican government exercise in these matters?—A. The national government appears to have no control over the country. It cannot keep troops there because they desert, and the country is filled with malcontents and deserters, and the local authorities are under their influence. The rule in Mexico along the frontier has been, and is still, to intrust the provincial authorities with entire control and management of the frontier defense against marauders or Indians, so that I had an understanding with the governor of Sonora, when I had command of the department which includes Arizona, that we could cross the border in pursuit of marauding Indians from either side, and on one occasion a company of Mexican troops co-operated with our troops for two or three weeks on our side of the boundary. I approved of issuing rations to them and complimented them in orders. I have now an understanding with the governor of Chihuahua to the same effect, that either his troops or ours shall pursue hostile Indians, or co-operate in their pursuit on either side, and as all these raiders on the river are pretty much Indians, or of Indian descent, if the local governor of Tamaulipas was influenced by the same motives there would be no difficulty about our troops co-operating and soon putting an end to these raids.

Q. I understand you to say, then, that that power which we have actually to deal with on the frontier is not the national government of Mexico, but the local government?—A. The local government.

Q. And the national government is never applied to by the local government?—A. It is never applied to so far as I am aware of for permission to use its own means, in regard to its wishes, or even consulted. But the moment that we cross the border the local authorities then refer to the treaties with the national government, which they do not pretend to abide by, or have the slightest regard for, themselves.

Q. In this whole matter, in the manner of protecting the frontier there, do you think that any dependence can be placed on anything like treaties or mutual agreements of any kind whatever, or is it necessary to depend entirely upon our own force?—A. I think it would be just about as proper if pirates were committing depredations on our commerce in the Pacific Ocean, and if these pirates had been fitted out in Spain, and we should attempt to capture them, for them to appeal to the treaty with Spain, and to say that we had no right to touch them.

Q. You think that we can rely only on what we do ourselves?—A. That is the only reliance we have. They have no regard for anything but force, and as there is no force in the Mexican government there to restrain them, if we do not put our own force in use they will, before long, take possession of the country; they now threaten to take possession of it.

Q. Have you heard of any revolutionary movement there lately?—A. The commanding officer of the district at Brownsville reports to me that there was a prominent revolutionist at Brownsville, (Porfirio Diaz,) and I learned from the commanding officer at Eagle Pass that the revolution was in progress in Coahuila.

Q. State what, in your opinion, the effect of the presence of a revolutionary army on the frontier would be.—A. It would prevent what little control the government is now exercising over the people on the southern side. Revolutionary bands, of course, plunder everybody on their own side, and they would have no regard for people on our side. The river is no obstacle. They can cross wherever they please, and help themselves to whatever they want.

Q. Would they not naturally draw all their supplies from this side?—A. The only place they can get their supply of beef there is from the north side of the river, and they would inevitably cross the river and plunder. I ought to mention in my evidence that the sort of people whom I have described as in power, and as making up the majority of the population in Tamaulipas, are not found so numerous as you go up the river farther north to Chihuahua. I have been informed by gentlemen who traveled and lived there, that the population is industrious, thrifty, and enterprising; that the country is cultivated and handsome; that common schools abound, and that, in every respect, there is a great improvement and manifest progress made. As you go up the river this improved condition of things increases. In Coahuila also they have good common schools, and the attendance of children is good, and the people are making great progress in the arts, and are cultivating the soil with a good deal of care. In proportion as this higher civilization is found, the depredations upon the American property diminish, until, in the northern States, we are co-operating mutually to capture or destroy the wild Indians who depredate on both sides, and I think that every effort should be made to protect industrious Mexicans, and to foster friendly relations with them. The relations of the people on both sides at the north are very friendly, but not at the south. In the vicinity of Brownsville a Mexican may be polite, and may treat our officials with some courtsey when they cross, but that does not express their real sentiments or the feelings of their local rulers.

Q. What class of troops would be the most efficient there?—A. I have mentioned already very good reasons for relieving the colored troops on that frontier, and replacing them by white troops as soon as possible, and I have so represented it to the military authorities. Since the white troops went down there, there was very earnest co-operation between the resident Mexicans and the white troops. For the first time since

the Fourth Cavalry were there the resident Mexicans showed zeal and activity in co-operating with our troops. Only recently Captain Randlett, in his report, compliments the Mexicans who aided him very materially. Whereas, when the colored troops went out, the Mexicans avoided them, and, in some instances, attacked them. There was a feeling of hostility between them and the Mexicans.

By Mr. BANKS :

Q. But the relations between the Mexican people and the white troops were improving?—A. They were good at once. When the Fourth Cavalry was there they could get information and could succeed in overtaking the thieves, and did so by obtaining correct information.

Q. What is the number of the colored troops now in your department?—A. I have two regiments of infantry and one and a half regiments of cavalry, colored troops.

Q. Does the improvement in agricultural or planting interests, and the improved disposition of the colored people to labor, affect the military organization at all?—A. I was going to add that the companies have become so small on account of the almost impossibility of getting good recruits, and on account of the discharge of the old men. The commanding officer of the Department of the Gulf informs me that the colored men are not enlisting in his department; that they are settling down and working.

Q. The better their disposition to work, the less disposition they have to enlist?—A. Yes; they can get much better pay and be much better contented in civil life, and it is much better for them to remain at work, because they are more happy and contented having their families with them. Those who are discharged out there do not remain, but return as soon as possible.

By Mr. WILLIAMS :

Q. What posts have you below Laredo?—A. Only two posts below Laredo; one at Ringgold Barracks, which is opposite Camargo, on the other side, and one at Brownsville. I ought to have added in my testimony that one of the difficulties which complicate the matter seriously in connection with these raiding parties, is that the Rio Grande River is not looked upon as the real boundary-line, the river having changed since the treaty made it the border; and there are a good many of what are called *bolsas*, or pockets, in the bends of the river, which have been cut off from one or the other side, leaving, as it were, little pieces of Mexico all along on our side of the river; and the Mexican laws are enforced in these places, and the Mexican population refuse to submit to any authority from our side. In a great many places the river has taken an entirely new channel. These raiding parties can rendezvous, therefore, on this side of the river in Mexico, and we cannot disturb them without being on Mexican territory.

Q. There is no difficulty in establishing military posts anywhere along the river—that is, the ground is high enough?—A. When we get below Edinburgh the river-bottom is liable to overflow, and it is very difficult to travel after an overflow, on account of the mud, so that the people traveling up and down the river have to take to the hills, some distance from the bank. I never went up on the hilly route, but it is much longer than the bottom-road.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. How far are the hills from the river?—A. When you get up to Edinburgh the hills come close to the bank. Below Edinburgh, on our

side, the bottom becomes wider and wider, so that down near the mouth of the river the bottom-lands are twenty or fifty miles wide and the river runs off in a false river. The whole of that lower valley is irrigable and could be made a perfect garden if the river were dammed pretty well up, and property and life safe.

Q. You would have only one State to get the consent of to cross—the State of Tamaulipas?—A. I do not think that the people of that State, so long as they get supplies so readily from our side without paying for them, would consent to any interference with their beef-market.

Q. They would not consent to your crossing troops there?—A. No, sir; but so far as I am concerned, I would not ask their consent to recover our own property and to protect the country from marauders.

By Mr. BANKS:

Q. Would it not be apt to lead us into difficulties?—A. No, sir; I do not think there is the slightest danger of its leading us into difficulties. I think we can make such an arrangement with the governor of Coahuila, the State north of where the raids are committed. I directed the post-commander at Eagle Pass to write to the commandant on the opposite side to ascertain if he has any objection to our troops crossing in pursuit of wild Indian marauders, and the reply was that he would refer my letter to the governor, he himself having no authority. He did not say that he would refer it to the national government, but to the governor of the State.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. I understand you to state that there is pleasant intercourse on the Upper Rio Grande and the reverse on the Lower Rio Grande?—A. Yes. In the lower country men seem to cultivate and foment all the hostility that they can against "los Yankees," with a view to maintaining themselves in the good will of the people. Cortina's proclamation to the rancheros there is filled with vituperation and abuse of "los Yankees," and accusations against his enemies of co-operating with them to destroy him.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

Q. Do you know anything of the comparative price of beef at the ranches on our side in Texas and on the Mexican side?—A. I was told when I was at Brownsville and Matamoras that as a usual thing beef on the other side was much lower than on our side, especially after raids; but at the time I was there Cortina had been just arrested and the supply of beef had been cut off, so that beef had gone up there, and was very high, and hides were very scarce.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. I believe they raise very few cattle on the other side?—A. I did not see any in my travels in that neighborhood, except here and there a cow or two, but particularly goats and a few sheep.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

Q. Is there no beef purchased on our side to be taken over there?—A. I made an inquiry as to that, and I heard of only one case where any purchase was made on this side, and that was a small flock of sheep that had been purchased, but no cattle.

Q. How do you account for that?—A. The river is so easily forded that they help themselves to cattle.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. You think that those who want cattle buy them cheaper from the raiders than they can from the owners?—A. Yes, sir; to have a proper understanding of this whole subject, I think that one should travel in that part of Mexico. It is not looked upon by the "gente" (genteel) of Mexico as unbecoming a gentleman to take to the road and rob, in many parts of the country. I have heard of a man who had been turned out of office apologize for those becoming robbers by saying, "What else is a gentleman to do?" The existing authorities, "juaristas," had thrown him out of office, and he seemed to think that he had no resource but to take to the road and kill and rob. From what I could learn, robbers are found in almost every town and village in certain districts, and so long as they confine their depredations to a district at a distance, the people of the neighborhood do not interfere with them.

Q. The only thing that degrades a gentleman is to work?—A. I believe that that in some parts of Mexico is the prevailing idea. It is so in some of the southern parts, but in the northern parts of Mexico the population is really an enterprising, industrious, useful one; much better than the population in the *tierras calientes*.

By Mr. BANKS:

Q. Is there no other possible way of protecting this line without assuming the responsibility of crossing the river?—A. There is no other possible way of doing it. I have described the character of the country. It is almost impossible to interfere with these raiding parties by getting in front of them, as they have the advantage of about four or five hundred miles of river to cross, and they can get information of the position of our troops a few hours before they "drive" the cattle across. The only way is to get in their rear, follow them rapidly and probably strike them at the river, which, as I have stated, is very difficult.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

Q. Do they not often come one hundred and fifty miles after these cattle?—A. I am told they rob from the ranches along the Nueces, and that is from one hundred and twenty miles to one hundred and sixty miles from the Rio Grande. I am told that they drive the cattle fifty to sixty miles a day at the full run. Then they hide them for a short time, perhaps, to rest, but as a rule they go clear to the river in a single drive without holding in at all. At intervals along the river are fences, broad at the upper end and running to a point where the crossing is good. These fences were put there on purpose to facilitate the driving of the cattle across.

Q. How would it be if they were removed?—A. We cannot remove them. If they were removed, it would probably interfere with the crossing in that particular point, but they are temporary fences, and are put up in a short time. If the man who puts them up does not own the land, probably it is owned by a cousin or *compadre*, and if we undertook to remove them they would have us up before the courts for interfering with their property.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

Q. You do not think that the establishment of small posts with patrols between them could stop these raids?—A. If we could put a small post at every two or three miles, and could subsist about 10,000 troops along the river-bottom, we possibly might succeed in stopping a large number of them.

Q. Is it 500 miles by the river to Laredo?—A. I believe it is more than 500 miles. I believe it is 400 miles from the mouth of the river up to Ringgold Barracks. But for every three miles of the river there is about one mile of straight line. Some of these bends in the lower river are several miles deep.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. You would not require to have stations all around the bends?—A. No; but the trouble is that the country is a dense chaparral, composed of materials that it is very difficult to get through except in paths. The mesquit-tree grows there to fifty or sixty feet in height, and two or three in diameter, and there is a dense undergrowth just as you find it in a tropical country.

By Mr. WILLIAMS :

Q. What is your estimate of the force required from the mouth of the river up to the point where these crossings are, say as far as Laredo?—A. My estimate is based entirely on the probability that we should be authorized to cross the troops whenever it is absolutely necessary to recovering the stolen property, and when troops get on the trail with a prospect of overtaking them. I think that two regiments of cavalry on the lower river would give me an available force to concentrate at the point where the crossing is made, and to protect any party that might have to cross.

Q. Where is this other half regiment of colored cavalry now?—A. It is on its way to New Mexico. One of my regiments is exchanging with a regiment from New Mexico; the colored cavalry coming north and the white cavalry going south.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. How many troops have you there now?—A. In the department I have about 3,000 troops. I have twenty-four companies of cavalry and thirty-seven companies of infantry. The companies of colored troops, especially the infantry, are very small. Of the whole sixty-one companies I have only about 1,700 men actually present for outside duty; that does not include men on extra duty, such as opening roads through the wilderness, and building telegraph-lines and posts, &c.

Q. The statement of troops under your command means all the troops in your department?—A. Yes; about three thousand men are all the troops in my department, including those on the Indian frontier. The troops on the Lower Rio Grande now constitute six companies of cavalry and seven companies of infantry, but some of the companies do not average more than ten or twelve men for duty.

Q. And you have no troops in your department available that you can send to the Rio Grande?—A. If I should take the troops from the northern part of the department and send them to the southern part it would interfere with my operations against the Indians.

Q. So that all the force available from your department is now on the Rio Grande?—A. All the force available without interfering with the proper protection of the north, northwest, and western parts of the State. The Indians that trouble us in the northern part of Coahuila are the Apaches, Kickapoos, and several other bands.

Q. What is the actual force on the Lower Rio Grande where these raids take place?—A. I do not think we have more than four hundred men for duty; six companies of cavalry and seven companies of colored infantry.

Q. How many of these four hundred men are cavalry?—A. Over three

hundred, I think, are cavalry. The six companies of cavalry are much larger for duty than the seven companies of infantry. The white cavalry has recently gone there to relieve the colored troops.

Q. I suppose that only cavalry is available for active purposes?—A. The cavalry is much more rapidly concentrated at any point on the river than infantry would be. This sort of service requires cavalry, for these men are all mounted, and to send infantry after them would be like sending the tortoise to catch the deer.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

Q. Some infantry might be used there?—A. Yes; to occupy posts, &c. It would be scarcely proper to make permanent posts along the river-bank because the river changes so rapidly, and the crossings change so that one freshet will destroy a tolerably good crossing by making the banks perpendicular and the river deep. The posts at Laredo and Brownsville are permanent posts because they are in the vicinity of towns, and there are good roads leading to them. I think there are two or three points along the river at which temporary barracks should be constructed, for sometimes the weather is rainy and cold, and unless the troops have shelter in hot weather and protection in rainy weather, they are very apt to have a good deal of sickness.

Q. Would it not be feasible to have temporary posts at such distances as to keep patrols between them?—A. That would be my object in having these temporary posts at three or four points along the river, and then, if a raiding party were found to be on our side and we could get on the trail and find out where it crossed, and if the prospect of recovering the cattle was good, we could have troops collected immediately at that point from the neighboring stations and have them cross as rapidly as possible and in sufficient force to maintain themselves and to cover the recrossing.

The judges of the courts there have informed me that on account of the facility with which these people can obtain evidence through alibi, &c., and on account of the fears entertained by the native population in case they give any evidence against these raiders, it is next to impossible to convict any criminals brought before them for cattle-stealing, and to have been actually engaged in it. Those who can give evidence are afraid to give it, and those who are in collusion with them are ready to testify to their innocence, so that, really, civil law is inoperative against them.

Correct.

E. O. C. ORD,

Brigadier and Brevet Major-General, United States Army.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, Texas, September 10, 1875.

To the ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
Military Division of the Missouri, Chicago, Ill.:

SIR: I have the honor to report that since I took command of this department, in April last, the troops stationed therein have been kept busy scouting, building telegraph-lines and keeping posts in repair, and attending to other legitimate duties; weekly target-practice has been held at every post, and has resulted in fair progress where post and company commanders have taken proper interest in that all-important branch of a soldier's education.

The changes of station of the troops which have occurred are shown in abstract "A," which accompanies this report, and the number and character of scouts in abstract "B."

A campaign against predatory Indians is now being vigorously prosecuted by a column composed of six companies of the Tenth Cavalry, two companies of the Twenty-fourth Infantry, and one company of the Twenty-fifth Infantry, the whole under command of Lieu-

tenant-Colonel Shafter, Twenty-fourth Infantry. The Indians against whom Colonel Shafter is operating probably came from Mexico, and, after depredating on the settlements of Northwestern Texas, have retreated to the edge of, and into, the "staked plains." So far his parties have been successful only in destroying one Indian camp and material and capturing a portion of the stolen animals in their possession. He will remain in the field as long as there is a chance of finding Indians.

The most important border difficulties, however, from which the western portion of this department suffers, occur on the lower Rio Grande, where some of the most prominent officers and wealthy merchants of that part of Mexico have for some time been regularly engaged in the business of fitting out parties to plunder the stock-ranches on this side of the river, where, as was to be expected from the Americans, there was a disposition not to submit to be plundered. Citizens who appeared or gave information against the raiders were murdered. Shortly after I took command of the department, I received reports of the murder, in open daylight, of several prominent citizens (one of them a United States collector, another a United States postmaster) and the robbing of their premises; also, of an attack upon and the killing of two of a patrol of soldiers; all done by some of the armed bands of Mexicans who, it was reported, were continually running large herds of American stock across into Mexico. To such a degree were the few American inhabitants of the counties bordering on Mexico intimidated by the frequent murders and threats against Americans generally, by these raiders and their friends and allies among the large population of vagrant Mexicans on our side of the river, that they, with the exception of one family, left the country and fled to the towns. Throughout the valley of the Rio Grande, from the mouth for a distance of two hundred miles up the river, and for a hundred and forty miles back from it, crops and herds have been abandoned; people dared not travel except in armed parties; civil law outside of the towns was suspended, and sheriffs and judges reported to me that it was unsafe to attempt to execute processes of law outside of the towns, unless the officers of the law were accompanied by soldiers to protect them. Under these circumstances, the governor of the State applied through me, and directly, for a sufficient United States military force to protect the frontier, stating his inability to do so with the means at his disposal. I was directed to inform him that it is "the duty of the troops on the Rio Grande frontier to protect all the officers of the General Government, and, as far as possible, aid the State authorities in protecting the people against organized bands of marauders from any quarter," which I did; at the same time I called attention to the grave character of the invasion, and the importance of prompt and decisive measures by the Government of the United States.

The State had but one small, though active, company of cavalry on that frontier, and the United States but five, quite small, companies of the Ninth Cavalry scattered along the river a distance of about two hundred miles. The valley of the river for this distance is almost a jungle—twenty to thirty miles wide—with winding paths and roads cut through at intervals. The soil is a rich alluvium, and, even with the rude cultivation practiced by the Mexicans, produces a large yield of corn, cotton, and sugar-cane. A large number of small ranches and Mexican huts or "jacals" are scattered along, generally near the river. The population of these is entirely Mexican; their occupation appears to a traveler along the road to be principally screening themselves from the sun in hot weather and riding from ranch to ranch. At nearly all the ranches visited by me I remarked a surplus of armed men, and that horses were kept saddled. The Americans say that it is impossible to discover who are hostile and engaged in raiding, for the population is changing all the time, and Mexicans from the west bank claim a residence on either, to suit their convenience, and claim immunity as American citizens from any interference by the military without due process of law. This claim they can establish by the easy process of swearing to whatever is necessary, so that a dozen or more can assemble at a ranch in the United States, from Mexico or elsewhere, and defy interference.

In short, this valley is the only part of Texas where the Mexicans have continued in possession since the treaty of Guadalupe, and whenever Mexican troops, recruited, perhaps, from the prisons, or composed largely of criminals, have been sent to the Rio Grande border, they have deserted almost *en masse*, taking refuge on the east bank of the river, where they join the rogues who infest that country, and live upon either bank, as it may suit their convenience.

The honest Mexicans who own ranches on our side, and have some few cattle and horses left, are more in dread of the arrival of Mexican troops on the border than any one else. The river is no obstacle to the raiders, for, since the treaty made its channel the line between the two countries, frequent changes have occurred, and points of land have been cut off, and now several pieces of Mexico are found on this side of the river. These are used as places of rendezvous for the larger raiding-parties, who can cross at their leisure and quietly assemble in that part of Mexico, and, after a reconnaissance, suddenly appear at some unprotected ranch, perhaps a hundred miles from the river, kill any who resist, cut out as many cattle as they need, and run them to the river, where tame oxen from the Mexican side are kept tied and without water; these, being loosed, go for the river and home, leading the herd of stolen cattle rapidly across, where no United States authority has so far dared to follow, and where the people turn out to welcome the successful despoilers of "los Americanos."

Early in last June, after I had, as above stated, drawn the attention of the Government to the grave character of these frequent violations of our soil, and the President had directed a small naval force, with light-draught launches, to proceed to the mouth of the Rio Grande, Adjutant-General Steele, of this State, was sent to the Rio Grande to investigate the alleged invasion of that border. At his and my request, the Hon. Mr. Dwyer, of this place, accompanied him as interpreter, &c. On his return, to sundry queries of mine, Mr. Dwyer answered as follows:

"SAN ANTONIO, July 5, 1875.

"Gen. E. O. C. ORD, U. S. Army,
"Commanding Department of Texas :

"GENERAL: In compliance with your request, I have the honor to reply to your inquiries, in reference to affairs on the Rio Grande frontier, seriatim:

"1st. 'Have you any reason for believing that General Cortina is still in the Mexican service?'

"This question is settled, as General Cortina has been sent under arrest to the city of Mexico 'for disobedience of orders.' I was informed in Matamoras, Mexico, that Cortina was a brigadier-general in the Mexican army, but, as he was not in active service, was receiving half-pay.

"2d. 'Has he, as far as you could learn, been selling cattle, beef, &c., to parties supplying the Spanish government?'

"During my visit at Brownsville, Tex., I met Señor Yaguno, (or Llayuno,) a Spaniard, a trader whom I had known for fifteen years. Señor Yaguno told me he had come to Texas to buy cattle to take to Havana, Cuba. Señor Yaguno said to me, viz: 'I went some fifty miles into Texas, with intention of purchasing beeves from some of the big cattle-men of Texas, but I found out I could do better in Matamoras, Mexico, and I returned there and bought the cattle I desired from 'Cheno.' I asked who 'Cheno' was. He replied: 'Cheno Cortina, Juan Nepomuceno Cortina.'

"Señor Yaguno told me had contracted with Cortina for three thousand five hundred head of cattle, to consist of two thousand beeves and one thousand five hundred mixed cattle; that he was to pay eleven dollars per head, delivered at Bagdad, Mexico.

"Señor Yaguno told me the steamer was then at the 'Boca del Rio,' waiting for the first cargo of cattle. The name of the steamer, I believe, was 'Irene y Nine.'

"3d. 'Did you learn how he furnished the cattle, and whose they were?'

"More than two-thirds, if not all, the cattle furnished were 'Texas cattle.' Cortina made the first delivery of cattle at Bagdad, Mexico. Sergeant Hall, of Captain L. H. McNally's company, State troops, an intelligent and trustworthy man, was sent, disguised, to inspect the cattle at Bagdad and on the lighters that were loading the steamer. He reported that most of the cattle shipped had American brands—branded with Capt. R. King's, of Santa Gertrude's, Nueces County; Captain Kennedy's, Judge Parker's, and other brands of citizens of Texas.

"4th. 'Were any of his employés killed while driving cattle across, recently, to Mexico; if so, how many, &c., and who?'

"I believe all the men killed by McNally's company of rangers, on the 12th day of June, A. D. 1875, were employés of General Cortina.

"An inspector of customs of the port of Brownsville was aboard the lighter while taking cattle on the Mexican bank of Rio Bravo, and he made an affidavit (which I believe is in the hands of Adjutant-General William Steele, at Austin, Tex.) to the effect that he saw General Cortina superintend, in person, the delivery of cattle at Bagdad, Mexico, and that he recognized one Pancho Lopez, one Guadalupe Espinosa, and José Maria Olguin, alias Abuja, who were with Cortina at the time.

"The dead bodies of Pancho Lopez, Guadalupe Espinosa, and others were recognized among those killed by Captain McNally's company, and it was well known that Olguin, alias Abuja, arrived at Matamoras severely wounded, he being the only one of the cattle-thieves who escaped.

"These raiders were taking about two hundred and fifty head of fine beeves to make up the boat-load for Havana.

"5th. 'How many of the lower or more desperate Mexicans could Cortina muster to aid him in a raid; and did you learn if a large party crossed recently, intending to attack towns or villages? If so, why did the attack fail, &c.?'

"From all I could ascertain, Cortina could easily raise at least two thousand well-armed men.

"The raiders that depredated on the Nueces River came from the republic of Mexico. This is not even denied by Mexican citizens in Matamoras and Camargo, Mexico.

"It was a positive invasion of Texas. The raid was to have been more extensive, as a great many more raiders than those who eventually came to the Nueces River crossed the Rio Grande River and met at a rendezvous in the interior of Texas; but, luckily, in consequence of a disagreement among themselves as to who should assume command of the expedition, the party broke up, and most of the raiders returned to Mexico; but one of the chiefs got a party to follow him, and made the successful raid, having, within five miles of Corpus Christi,

stolen money, watches, clothing, goods, arms, and horses, and totally destroyed by fire the store of Mr. Noakes.

"Mr. Noakes wounded one of the raiders named Godina, who was hung at Corpus Christi. The raiders wounded a citizen named Smith at Noakes's store.

"I was informed by a Mexican gentleman, a lawyer and a man of standing in Matamoras, Mexico, that he knew that Cortina had organized and encouraged the raid into Texas. Eight of the raiders, on their return from Texas with their booty, were arrested in Camargo and Mier, Mexico. Every one of them was mounted on horses bearing American brands, as reported by Mr. Avery, the United States commercial agent at Camargo, Mexico.

"The raiders, from all accounts, came principally from Las Cuevas, Reynosa, La Bolsa, and Matamoras, Mexico.

"In conclusion, I would say that I gathered the above information during a tour of inspection and observation, in conjunction with General William Steele, the adjutant-general of Texas, under official instructions of his excellency Governor Coke.

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

"JOSEPH E. DWYER."

Mr. Dwyer is one of the most reliable men in this city, and was urged by me to go with General Steele because he was friendly disposed toward Mexican citizens generally, and had expressed the belief that the reports of raiding were much exaggerated, and thought the Americans as much to blame as the Mexicans.

I have learned from a gentleman of reliability that the present commander of the custom-house guards, at Mier, Mexico, is a notorious bandit, and led the party that murdered Mr. Lovell in May last and plundered the United States custom-house at Carizo. I have received letters from, or conversed with, nearly every United States and State official from Brownsville to Rio Grande City, and, without exception, they corroborate the statements which I have given. The Catholic bishop of that district, who has visited, I suppose, every ranch from the Brazos to Mier, and who doubtless has the interest of the native Mexicans at heart, and at one time thought the Americans to blame, assured me that, in his opinion, there would be no peace in that country for our citizens until the Sierra Madre should be made the boundary-line.

I believe the United States is able to preserve the integrity of, and enforce a proper regard for, its own soil without extending its limits.

The arrest of Cortina by the Mexican government, due to the order of the President sending a naval force to the lower Rio Grande, could easily have been followed up by an attack upon, and breaking up of, the nests of robbers at Las Cuevas, Guerrero, and other points well known to the Mexican authorities.

It seems to me that the circumstances of the plunder of the stock-ranches on the Rio Grande are almost identical with the piracies committed on our commerce at one time by the Algerines, who fled in safety to their own ports with their prizes. There the offenses were committed on the open sea; here they are committed with the same ease on the open plain. In both cases the pirates found a ready sale for their captures in the ports where their expeditions were fitted out, namely, Algiers and Tripoli, &c., for the Moors; Matamoras, Reynosa, Camargo, Mier, and Guerrero for the Mexicans. And in both cases the pirates were rewarded by promotion and honors. Patrolling the country along the Rio Grande with a view of intercepting raiders before they can reach the river with stolen herds in their possession, is as if we had tried to stop depredations upon our commerce by the Barbys by scattering our cruisers along the north coast of Africa, with the view of intercepting some Algerine pirate before he could get within three leagues of land with his American prize. The success of Captain McNally, of the State troops, in striking the party of Cortina's men in possession of a stolen herd recently, was due to his accidentally capturing two straggling robbers, who, by the use of the only effectual means known in such cases, but not legitimate enough for regulars to apply, were compelled to betray the position and strength of their band.

I have good reason for believing that the order from the Mexican government for the arrest of Cortina was due to the order for the movement of a naval force to the Mexican border. As Cortina was not the only leader of raiding-bands, and the others are still at their old business, some more effectual means must be adopted than simply sending troops and sailors to look on while our people are being despoiled and murdered, for it is very evident that the sailors and soldiers, however willing, can do nothing if confined to this side of the river, and an order to make reprisals, with the means to carry out the order, has sometimes resulted in indemnity as well as security.

Copies of quite a number of affidavits and statements, corroborative of what I here report, and received from United States and State officials, have been forwarded by me, through the proper channels, to the State Department. Originals of a part of these, numbered from one to eleven, are forwarded herewith.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. O. C. ORD,

Brigadier General, United States Army

Official:

PLACIDUS ORD,

A. D. C.

B.

[Copy.—Information by telegraph.]

Information from Roma, Tex., January 28, 1876—8 p. m.

The murderer of Garcia at ranch Motlos, who was caught near Roma, trying to cross river near there, confessed to the others that were with him. Three were caught, and the four reported taken out in the woods and hung. Party now after the others, and expect to catch them, as they are known.

(Signed)

A. B. MENERING,
Telegraph-Operator.

C.

[Copy.]

Received from Roma January 24, 1876—8 p. m.

A raiding-party of thieves murdered Dionisio Garcia and robbed his store on Saturday night, at the ranch Mottas los Olmos, near Santiago. As soon as alarm was given, the sheriff and a party started in hot pursuit, and captured one of them near here to-day in trying to get across the river. He was recognized by having on a hat taken from the murdered man's store.

Dionisio Garcia, late of Camargo, and highly respected, had many friends, being a good and peaceable citizen. The captured man was just trying to cross the river on horseback. It has not been ascertained yet how many there were in that party, but it is believed about a dozen men. No report of other depredations by that party. It is said that the crossings above Roma are much frequented. This is the third murder since Christmas between Edinburgh and Laredo.

D.

[Copy.]

Telegram, dated at Ringgold Barracks, Texas, January 28, 1876; received at Fort Brown, Texas, January 28, 1876—7.30 p. m.

To ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
Fort Brown, Texas:

Party of ten thieves attempted to rob Lieutenant Paulding's train this side of Laredo, while after telegraph-poles. Same party attacked ranch on Corpus road; stole sixty horses. One raider was killed and two captured. Four days' ago raiders robbed store above Roma and killed one man. One raider was afterward captured. Forty of my cavalry recruits are without arms and equipments, except 23 muskets. Did any arms come by last steamer? Two weeks ago thirty head of cattle were crossed twenty miles above this post.

(Signed)

CLENDENIN,
Commanding.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *February 14, 1876.*

J. L. HAYNES sworn and examined :

Question. State your residence and official position and means of knowing about affairs on the Rio Grande.—Answer. I live at Brownsville, Tex.; am collector of the district of Brazos de Santiago, which includes the counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Star, of which district Brownsville is the chief port; have lived on the Rio Grande, off and on, for nearly thirty years. I speak the Spanish language tolerably, and am pretty well acquainted with the people of that frontier on both sides of the river.

Q. What is the zona libre of Mexico?—A. It is a free zone extending along the Rio Grande from its mouth to El Paso, I think, and includes

the territory between the Rio Grande and a line drawn parallel to the river and six leagues, or about fifteen or sixteen miles, from it. It is called the free zone, because all merchandise imported into Mexico within this zone is free of all duties, except a slight municipal tax levied by the cities or villages within the zone into which they may be imported.

Q. What has been the effect of establishing this free zone?—A. Before its establishment, the trade of nearly all Northern Mexico was carried on in the towns on this side of the Rio Grande, but since then this trade has left our towns and passed over to the Mexican cities and towns, on the other side of the river.

Q. Has not the establishment of this free zone had a considerable effect in bringing about the present condition of affairs on the Rio Grande?—A. I think it has. The establishment of the free zone has always been regarded by the people of our frontier as a hostile measure on the part of Mexico, and it has naturally excited hostility on their part, for it has not only taken our trade away, but has established a deposit for free goods all along the Rio Grande, which are illicitly introduced in considerable quantities into this country, to the detriment of our own merchants. A good deal of smuggling is done to this side in small quantities at a time, but which aggregate a large amount annually, necessitating a large force of customs-officers to prevent its extension.

Q. Has not the zona libre induced the settlement of smugglers and other lawless characters on the Mexican side of the river?—A. My experience is that there is no honest commerce in Mexico, smuggling being the rule in that country, and the payment of duties the exception, and the smugglers have always been there since I have known the country; but the facilities to smuggle into the interior of Mexico from the free zone have been increased, for the goods now have only to pass an imaginary line, whereas formerly they had the impediment of the Rio Grande to cross, and this fact may have increased that class of population on the Mexican frontier. They have certainly not decreased. Along the margin of the river, on both sides, there are numberless ranches, the bulk of the population living on the river-banks, while farther out from the river the settlements or ranches are sparsely scattered, so that there was formerly much greater risk in smuggling into Mexico across the river, in face of the population, than now out of the towns over an imaginary line with only distantly scattered ranches, and I should judge that the illicit trade and traders have increased.

Q. Have you read the report of the Mexican commissioners, the Señor Velasco and others, on the subject of the Rio Grande troubles; and, if so, what is your opinion of its correctness?—A. I have read the report, both in Spanish and the English translation. The report is very ingenious and plausible, but it is full of fallacies and misrepresentations, and a careful review of it has proved that it is simply a very able piece of special pleading to break the force of the just complaints of our people against the long-continued system of cattle-stealing and raiding that has been carried on against them from Mexico.

Q. Will you please point out some of these misrepresentations? (A translation of the report into English was handed the witness.)—A. It would be impossible for me to enter into all the details necessary to be considered to a complete refutation of the report, in the time allowed by the committee, and I shall therefore confine myself to certain prominent facts and points presented in the report, which I propose to do in the order of their importance:

1st. In regard to General Juan N. Cortina. The commissioners say, on page 127 of the report, that "these considerations (mentioned by them) induced the commission to make a lengthened investigation with regard to General Cortina, and the influence exercised by him upon both sides of the Bravo since 1859." And from page 137 to 163 of the report the commission enter upon a labored defense of this notorious personage, including his raid upon the city of Brownsville in 1859, and his subsequent career of murder and robbery until he became a general in the Mexican army. On page 129, the following paragraphs appear:

The commission has already referred to the condition of the Mexicans in Texas subsequent to the treaty of Guadalupe. Their lands were especially coveted. Their title-deeds presented the same confusion as did all the grants of land made by the Spanish government, and this became the fruitful source of litigation by which many families were ruined. The legislation, instead of being guided by a spirit of equity, on the contrary tended toward the same end; attempts were made to deprive the Mexicans of their lands; the slightest occurrence was made use of for this purpose, and the supposition is not a remote one that the cause of such procedure may have been a well-settled political principle, leading as far as possible to exclude from an ownership in the soil the Mexicans, whom they regarded as enemies and an inferior race.

At the commencement and during the disorganization which was prolonged after the treaty of Guadalupe, robberies and spoliations of lands were perpetrated by parties of armed Americans. It is not extraordinary to find some of them whose only titles consist in having taken possession of and settled upon lands belonging to Mexicans. After these spoliations there came the spoliations in legal forms and all the resources of a complicated legislation.

The commission here charge a deliberate attempt on the part of the people and the legislature of Texas to rob the Mexicans in Texas of their lands. If true, it would be a very grave charge; but it is absolutely false as to the legislation of the State. That portion of the State between the Nueces and the Rio Grande Rivers was, previous to 1836, a part of the State of Tamaulipas, from which State the titles to the lands in this territory were issued. On the 19th of December, 1836, Texas declared the Rio Grande to be its boundary, but it was not until the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, in 1848, that this claim was finally made good. The titles issued by Tamaulipas were not known to our records nor to be found among our archives, and legislation on the subject became necessary. On the 8th of February, 1850, an act was passed by the legislature of Texas authorizing the appointment of a board of land-commissioners to investigate these titles. (Paschal's Digest of Laws of Texas, art. 4440.) The board reported a part of their work, and on September 4, 1850, an act was passed to confirm the titles in Webb County, including about fifty leagues, or two hundred and twenty odd thousand acres of land. (Paschal's Digest, art. 4459.)

Upon a further and fuller report of the board, the legislature, by act approved February 10, 1852, confirmed directly, by name, to the Mexican grantees in Nueces, Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Zapata, Webb, and Kinney Counties, about two thousand leagues, or over eight millions of acres of land. (Paschal's Digest, art. 4461.) By act approved February 11, 1858, the titles in El Paso County were confirmed. (Paschal's Digest, art. 4466.) By act of February 11, 1860, parties whose titles were not confirmed were authorized to bring suit in the district courts for confirmation, and under this act over two hundred leagues, or nearly a million of acres, were confirmed by decrees of the courts. (Paschal's Digest, art. 4481.) On the 15th of August, 1870, the foregoing act was substantially re-enacted, with a limitation as to time, and the district court of Travis County, under this act, has confirmed the titles to nearly a million of acres more of these titles. (Paschal's Digest, art. 7068.) Over ten millions of acres of land have thus been confirmed to grantees of titles issued by Tamaulipas. The grantees of these

lands and their heirs now own and occupy these lands, excepting a few, who have sold their lands, and one reason of the prosperity of the Mexican towns on the Rio Grande, in comparison with our towns, is this fact, the Mexicans receiving large incomes from their lands and stock-ranches in Texas, which they spend in improving their own towns. The recent constitutional convention of Texas expressly recognized all these confirmations, and gave the owners five years' additional time within which to have their lands surveyed and plotted on our maps, a resurvey being the only condition imposed by the various acts of confirmation. The supreme court of Texas has acted with equal justice to these parties, the titles issued by the former governments having been fully sustained; and I cite, among many others, the following decisions: *Hancock vs. McKinnèy*, 7th Texas; *Titus vs. Kimbro*, 8th Texas; *Jenkins vs. Chambers*, 9th Texas; *Treviño vs. Hernandez*, 13th Texas, and *Cavasos vs. Treviño*, 35th Texas. The land involved in the case of *Treviño vs. Hernandez* is situated in Cameron County, and the question arose as to certain acts of the Mexican authorities between December 19, 1836, and the American occupation of the Rio Grande in 1846; and the court held that these authorities were *de facto* in power, and that their acts and decisions should be respected. There can be, therefore, no just complaint against the laws and their execution in Texas, in this regard, on the part of the Mexicans; and the allegation of the Mexican commission against our State and people on this subject is proven by our laws and decisions to be not only deliberately, but maliciously false. There may be a few individual cases in which Mexican land-owners have been defrauded of their lands by Americans, but they must be necessarily rare, for the Mexicans have occupied their lands with stock, and very few of them desire to sell, and their original titles being confirmed by Texas, there is no litigation about them unless it be between different heirs of a deceased grantee. After the confirmation of these grants, the legislature passed an act by which any person who might have located a Texas land-certificate upon any of these older titles, should have the privilege of lifting his location and planting it elsewhere upon vacant domain; and under this act the locators have lifted their conflicting locations, and thus prevented litigation. So that, in fact, the land-titles of the Mexicans between the Nueces and the Rio Grande are in a better condition than those in other portions of the State, thus putting to shame the baseless allegations of the Mexican commission on this, the most serious charge brought by them against the people of Texas. I know all about this question, for I have been for many years the agent of a majority of the land-owners of Starr, Zapata, Webb, and Hidalgo Counties, in perfecting their titles and procuring their patents under the various laws of Texas confirming the same.

2d. The next most serious allegation of the Mexican commission is the charge that Mexico, and not Texas, is the sufferer from the robberies on the Rio Grande frontier, and that Americans coming from Texas are the originators and instigators of the robbery, and that the people of Texas have become utterly corrupt and demoralized, socially and politically. The following paragraphs from the report are cited:

1st. A general rule may be established, although admitting of several exceptions, that the originators and instigators of robbery in Mexico are Americans coming from Texas; that the agents and employes are Mexicans, naturalized in the United States as residents of Texas, and under the jurisdiction of that State, and others residing in Mexico, or having no fixed place of abode.

2d. A no less general rule may be formed that Texas is the place that has received, and has always received, the benefit of the robberies committed in Mexico. There, without the

slightest scruple, the dealers in horses receive the stolen goods, purchasing the animals at reduced rates. (Page 33.)

Demoralization is not peculiar to the Rio Bravo Valley, and neither is it a question of race or nationality. Between this river and the Nueces the majority of the inhabitants are of Mexican origin, from whence it necessarily follows that the generality of robbers there must belong to that race, but as these practice cattle-stealing under one form, the American proprietors of the Nueces practice it under another. Extreme demoralization prevails in this region, but by no means greater than in all the rest of Texas. Some extracts from the newspapers convince of this. (Page 72.)

This document shows the grossest immorality in a considerable portion of the inhabitants of Texas. By the newspaper extracts we have inserted above, it may be observed that those crimes have been committed in such counties where there are no Mexican residents, and where forty or fifty criminals combine to control whole cities, placing themselves above the authorities. Notwithstanding our revolution, the Mexican frontier has never arrived at such a condition, nor are the crimes committed between the Rio Bravo and the Nueces attended with such circumstances as those committed in the remaining portion of Texas. When the moral condition of our frontier is far superior to that of Texas, it does not seem proper that the causes of the existing criminality of the counties situated alongside of the Bravo should be looked for on the Mexican border. There are great centers of corruption and unprecedented immorality in Texas, and it is more reasonable to suppose that its pernicious influence spreads to the region of the Bravo and the Nueces, for the general motives from which that corruption had sprung would be necessarily felt there, and even reach our border. To look upon the Mexican border, which is less vicious, for the cause of the depravity prevailing in Texas, is tantamount to reverse entirely the rules of nature. (Page 76.)

Just after the conclusion of the Mexican war in 1848, a very considerable trade sprang up on the Rio Grande by horse-traders coming there to buy the cheap horses of Mexico for sale to stock-raisers in Texas for herding their stock. These parties generally bought in open market, and I have no doubt but that they bought much stolen stock, for it was notorious that stock was stolen in Mexico and brought to this side of the river for sale by the thieves, who were universally Mexicans, for the Americans did not cross over the river to steal, but a few of them may, and were, doubtless in collusion with the thieves. But the traffic, taken as a whole, was legitimate and honest trade, as the purchasers from the interior could not speak Spanish, and of course could not know whether the Mexicans who sold to them were honest or dishonest. At that time the country between the Nueces and Rio Grande was unsettled, but, upon the confirmation of their land-titles, the Mexicans soon began to re-occupy their lands between the two rivers with stock, and the horse-trade with Mexico came to a close, as purchasers from the interior of Texas soon found a nearer market on the Nueces. The most important testimony presented upon this subject by the Mexican commission is the evidence of Don Trinidad Garza y Melo, (page 17,) who was the supreme judge of the State of Nuevo Leon in the years 1868-'69, who gives the data of three hundred and eighty-six criminal cases tried before him during the years succeeding the close of the Mexican war, of which one-third were for horse-stealing, the frequency of which he attributed to the disorders growing out of a common pasturage, the extent of the country, and the proximity of the Bravo, to the bank of which the stolen animals could be so easily and quickly transported, with the certainty of sale and positive certainty of not being pursued or molested. The Mexican commission omitted to state one important fact in this connection, which was, that of the three hundred and eighty-six cases tried before Judge Garza y Melo, *not a single American appeared, the criminals being all Mexicans, nor has a single American, to my knowledge, ever been arrested or tried in Mexico for horse or cattle stealing.*

The Mexican commission carry the idea of the corruption and demoralization of the people of Texas through their whole report, and it is again and again repeated and insisted upon. In fact, the conclusion

at which the commission arrives is, that the people of Texas are really divided into two classes, radical thieves and rebel cut-throats. I wish to call the attention of the committee to the evidence presented by the commission to sustain this view of the social condition of Texas. They quote the debates in the House of Representatives, (page 106,) in which the democrats of that body denounce the State police as "ruffians" and "robbers," and, on the other hand, from the messages of the republican governor, Davis, to the legislature in regard to crime, (page 74,) and from this testimony, and various extracts taken from partisan press, each party charging the other with criminal acts or intents, the commission arrives at the conclusion that society in Texas is utterly demoralized and corrupt, and that this corruption "has spread its pernicious influence to the regions of the Bravo and the Nueces," and that it has even reached "our (the Mexican) border." I submit to the committee whether such evidence is sufficient to justify the conclusions of the Mexican commission. If so, the whole country is in a sad state, for by accepting what the opposing political parties allege against each other as true, our whole country would be condemned.

In this connection, I call the attention of the committee to the classification of the witnesses that appeared before the commission, page 8, who were divided by the commission itself into five classes, but really reducible to two: first, respectable persons and those vouched for as respectable; and, secondly, condemned criminals and accomplices of thieves. The commission classifies them as follows:

- 1st. Persons of known respectability, whose depositions required no security.
- 2d. Persons of veracity; but who, being unknown to the commission; were required to give security.
- 3d. Persons unknown, whose declarations could not be certified to, not having securities.
- 4th. Persons of bad faith, condemned by the tribunals or accused by public opinion as accomplices of the cattle-thieves.
- 5th. Persons who were totally undeserving of credit. (Page 8.)

With said witnesses, I submit that it was not difficult to prove anything that the commission desired; and, in this respect, the testimony is not inferior to the reliable utterances of political partisans and newspapers against each other. By the testimony of such witnesses, various parties are named as implicated in the robbery of stock from Mexico or as originators and instigators of such robbery, whose name are scattered through the report, and it will be seen by reference thereto that they are nearly all Mexicans, only a few Americans being implicated; but the names of these are iterated and reiterated through the whole report as if this repetition would increase the number. Some of these, like Capt. Richard King, of Nueces County, are men of wealth and high character, and I consider it unnecessary to notice the allegations against them, for they need no defense from such testimony as that confessedly presented by the commission.

3d. I have thus noticed the two gravest charges of the commission, and will only call the attention of the committee to one or two other minor points of the report, as it would be impossible to show all its fallacies without writing a review as voluminous as the report itself.

The commission assert, page 47, that "Cattle-stealing in Texas has taken divers forms, which will be readily understood by consulting the laws of that State, as said laws constitute one of the necessary elements in order to thoroughly understand the nature of the question relating thereto;" and, after reciting the various provisions of our criminal code to punish theft of cattle, the commission concludes as follows: "So, when the confederate war broke out, cattle-stealing was committed in

Texas in all its forms." By such a process of reasoning it might be shown of Texas, and of all other civilized States that have laws to punish murder, arson, burglary, and other crimes, that these crimes were committed in all their forms and constituted the ordinary occupation of the people. "The laws of Texas," says the report, "afford very interesting data in regard to cattle-depredations committed there in late years. From 1850 to the present we notice an ever-increasing demoralization, which assumed colossal proportions since the confederate war." This is the kind of evidence the committee present to prove the demoralization. Because laws to suppress crimes are enacted, the crimes are assumed to be of colossal proportions.

The commission brings a long array of complaints against the confederates for acts committed against Mexico during the war, (pages 198-202,) in which, however, it is admitted that a political chief of Tamaulipas entered into a kind of treaty with the confederate authorities, the principal stipulation of which was to prevent any invasion of the confederacy from Mexico and *vice versa*. It is a part of the history of the war that the most friendly relations existed between the Mexicans and the confederates, and that the former grew rich from the traffic in cotton that was exported from Texas through Mexico to the markets of the world; and even to this day the Mexicans speak regretfully of the "cotton-times," which was to them a perfect bonanza. In the light of these public and historical facts, the report deserves but little attention on this score.

The commission asserts that "about 1862 Octaviano Zapata, who was one of the refugees from the Clareño ranch, entered the service of the United States. He organized in Mexico a party of from sixty to eighty men, paid by agents of the United States' Government at the rate of \$200 for the enlistment of each man. Said force was maintained in Mexico, avoiding the persecutions of the confederates, and whenever a favorable chance presented itself, they would cross over to the American side of the river, and carry on hostilities to the confederates." (Page 67.) And, further, that "Regino Ramon, in the capacity of first lieutenant in the United States Army, organized a force of Mexicans, and went to war. * * He was to receive a third part of all the prizes captured from the confederate forces, or from all those who, although they did not actually belong to said forces, had manifestly taken part in the rebellion." (Page 68.) Again, the commission asserts that, upon the occupation of Brownsville in 1863, and afterward near the close of the war, "on both occasions, the military commander appointed commissioners to examine the pastures, to collect all the cattle belonging to confederates, and to transport the same to the bank of the river, subject to the orders of said forces. This proceeding was adopted under the principle that the confederates had forfeited all their property." (Page 71.) The records of the War Department will prove that all these assertions are as false and malicious as the allegation of unfriendly legislation against Mexicans by the State of Texas. Upon nearly every page of the report similar misrepresentations might be pointed out, but it would take too much of the time of the committee to attempt to refute the thousand forms in which they are presented and repeated.

But I would call the attention of the committee to a short episode of Mexican history reported by the Mexican commission in their defense of Cortina, on pages 149, 150. It is shown that, on the 5th of October, 1863, Cortina, then a lieutenant-colonel in the Mexican army, overthrew and imprisoned Governor Ruiz, and made José Maria Cobos, who crossed over from Brownsville that night, governor of Tamaulipas. On the 6th,

Cobos proclaimed himself also commander of the forces. That night he and his second in command were arrested by Cortina, and before breakfast on the 7th they were shot to death. Ruiz was re-installed as governor on the 9th; but a few hours after, Cortina again revolted, Ruiz fortunately escaping, and Jesus de la Serna was made governor. Ruiz collected a force and returned to Matamoras; and on the 1st of January, 1864, was again installed as governor, and on the 12th was again driven out by Cortina, who then proclaimed himself governor; and the general government (says the report) "accepted the condition of things which had been consummated at Matamoras, and shortly after conferred the rank of general on Cortina." (Page 151.) And yet the commission gravely claims that "when the moral condition of our frontier is far superior to that of Texas, it does not seem proper that the causes of the existing criminality of the counties situated along the Bravo should be looked for on the Mexican border."

Q. Can you give the committee any account of recent outrages on the Rio Grande frontier of Texas by Mexican raiding-parties?—A. The best answer I can give the committee on this subject will be to lay before you a portion of the report of a permanent committee of the citizens of Brownsville, made during the last summer, upon this subject. I will preface the report by stating that it was drawn up by me upon information laid before the committee which was exacting as to the correctness of the statements submitted to them, and no statement was admitted unless vouched for by the most indisputable evidence. Of course, the members of the permanent committee were not personally cognizant of many of the facts brought before them, but they were all sustained by either sworn testimony or by official reports of unquestionable veracity; and I submit it as the fullest and best answer to the question propounded that I can make. The report was sent to the honorable Secretary of the Department of State, with the accompanying documents and an accompanying letter, signed by all the committee, which was composed of the most reliable and prominent citizens of Brownsville:

Report of the permanent committee, appointed at a meeting of the citizens of Brownsville, Texas, April 17, 1875.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

The permanent committee, to which was referred the matter of the recent misrepresentations made by Señor Mariscal, the minister of the republic of Mexico at Washington, in regard to the Rio Grande frontier, whose correspondence on the subject we attribute to incorrect information of our true condition on his part, beg leave to report, that in order that our Government may be correctly informed on the subject, it will be necessary to present a brief review of the history of this frontier from the adoption of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, and the final settlement of the Rio Grande as the coterminous boundary between the United States and Mexico, and to give an account of all known causes of complaint that have arisen between the people inhabiting the opposite banks of the Rio Grande, which duty we shall endeavor to perform fairly, correctly, and without prejudice.

In this investigation your committee has confined itself to the territory embraced in the counties of Cameron, Duval, Encinal, Hidalgo, Starr, Webb, and Zapata, these limits being nearly 40,000 square miles in extent, with a population, according to the census of 1870, of 27,128 inhabitants, equal in area, but not in population, to the great State of Ohio. It would involve too much delay and expense to extend our inquiries beyond this section; and a more extended investigation is rendered partially unnecessary from the fact that the principal causes of complaint existing have originated within the boundaries specified and the Mexican territory adjacent, on the right bank of the Rio Grande.

* * * * *

NEW OUTRAGES.

Since the report of the commissioners to Texas was made to the Secretary of State, and laid before Congress, new and startling outrages have been perpetrated, which we now proceed to notice. These new outrages sustain all the facts set forth in the foregoing portion of

our report, and present new evidence of the thorough organization of the banditti operating from Mexico against this section of our country, and of the determination of the secret society, organized by Cortina in 1859, "to exterminate their tyrants." It will be seen that this fixed resolve is being carried out with relentless ferocity. We only present for consideration that class of outrages that show combination and organization on the part of the perpetrators, originating and proceeding from Mexican territory, leaving out of view entirely those outrages or crimes to which every society is subject, many of which might be traced to the same source with those that we shall notice.

I. During the months of March and April, 1873, Alberto Garza, a notorious outlaw from Guerrero, Mexico, with a party of cattle-thieves, crossed to this side of the Rio Grande, and located himself near Piedras Pintas, in Duval County, in the neighborhood of which there are dense thickets, affording means of concealment, where he engaged regularly and systematically in killing and skinning cattle. On the 19th of April he offered two hundred hides for sale at Piedras Pintas that had just been taken from the cattle on the range. And it was not until the owners of the cattle collected in force that he retreated to Mexico.

II. On the 5th day of June, 1873, the United States custom-house or deputy collector's office, at Carrizo, in Zapata County, was robbed by a party of Mexicans.

III. On the 6th of July, 1873, Dr. J. C. Crocker was murdered and robbed by an organized band of Mexicans about fifteen miles west of Captain King's ranch, in Nueces County.

IV. On the 7th of November, 1873, the store of R. Schubert, a merchant at Concepcion, in Duval County, was entered by a party of twenty or thirty armed Mexicans, who overpowered Schubert and his clerks, and gutted his store, taking between \$2,500 and \$3,000 in money, besides arms, goods, &c., with which they recrossed into Mexico, at the ranch of Las Cuevas, in the lower edge of Starr County.

V. On November 30, 1873, Henry Grey, a son of E. N. Grey, of Concepcion, Duval County, was killed by a party of Indians and Mexicans. The same party killed, in all their raid, twenty-four men, and wounded fifteen, Mexican herdsmen in Duval and Webb Counties, and stole between seventy-five and one hundred head of horses, and scattered the sheep-stock of the country so that the owners suffered great loss. G. W. Sank, recently killed, in the Corpus Christi raid by another party of Mexicans, was wounded by this party. Don Hypolito Mendiola was killed at his ranch near Laredo. This party was pursued by Captain Rufugio Benavides, of Webb County, and one of them, an old Mexican, was wounded and captured. The rest fled and found refuge in Mexico, from whence they came upon this raid.

VI. On May 5, 1874, a young man by the name of Watson, traveling with two companions, was tied up with his companions and robbed by a party of armed Mexicans about twenty five miles from Corpus Christi, Nueces County.

VII. John Albertson, traveling from Brownsville, Texas, to Corpus Christi, was, on the 3d of February, 1874, tied up with the members of his family and robbed, in the upper part of Cameron County, by a party of armed Mexicans, and his wife was subjected to the most horrible outrage by members of this band of robbers.

VIII. On May 5, 1874, a Frenchman named Martinet was tied and robbed of about \$1,800 by a party of armed Mexicans between the Omito and Lampasitos ranches, about seventy-five miles southwest of Corpus Christi.

IX. On May 9, 1874, a party of twenty-five to thirty armed Mexicans appeared at the ranch of Peñascal, near the line of Nueces and Cameron Counties, and not very far distant from the scene of the preceding case, (No. VIII,) where they attacked the people, brutally murdering John F. Morton, Michael Morton, P. F. M. Coakley, and Herman Tilgner, and robbed their store of its contents. One of these raiders was afterward caught, tried, and hung at Corpus Christi. From his confession, several parties became known, and it was established that they were all Mexicans from Mexico.

X. On the 7th of June, 1874, a party of five armed Mexicans attacked the house of Mr. Thaddeus Swift, of Refugio County, and brutally murdered Mr. Swift and his wife, both of them being cut to pieces and horribly mutilated with knives, the object being robbery. For the terrible details of this tragedy we refer to the annexed affidavit of Mr. F. M. Swift. Three of the assassins were hunted down and hung by the outraged neighbors. Two of them escaped to Mexico. One of these is Juan Juarez, or Juan Flores, as he called himself. This man had claimed to be an American citizen, and had registered himself as a voter. He was arrested in Guerrero, Mexico, and a demand made for his extradition under our treaty with Mexico. He confessed his guilt with cold assurance, but claimed to be a Mexican citizen and not subject to rendition. His case was transferred to the Mexican federal court at Matamoros, where, upon his examination, he again confessed his guilt. We refer to the copy of his confession, herewith attached, taken from the record of his case. He has been finally delivered to our authorities, not in accordance with the treaty, but upon the payment of a large reward, (or bribe,) paid in money by the relatives and friends of the murdered Swift family.

XI. On August 2, 1874, an attempt was made by a party of marauders to murder Mr. Roach, living about thirty-five miles from San Diego, in Duval County, and to rob his store; but, being prepared for the danger, he made a successful defense.

XII. On November 3, 1874, the store of Mr. George E. Blaine at the Los Olmos ranch, near the line of Nueces and Hidalgo Counties, was robbed by a large party of armed Mexi-

cans, the loss being \$500 to \$600 in money, and about \$2,500 in goods. No lives were lost on this occasion, Blaine making no resistance to the robbery. The thieves had declared their intention to kill Blaine, and he was only spared by the timely arrival of a party of twelve Americans who happened to be encamped in the vicinity, and who rushed to the rescue in time to save Blaine's life, they having been advised by a courier of what was transpiring.

THE CORPUS CHRISTI RAID.

XIII. The success that had attended the robberies of stores in the scattered out-settlements emboldened the robbers to make a more daring attempt and a more general pillage, and on the 26th of March, 1875, began what is generally called "the Corpus Christi raid," from the fact that it was supposed that an attempt would be made by the raiders to sack Corpus Christi. We present the following brief account of the raid, taken from the Valley Times:

"From all the information we can glean from those who were present and eye-witnesses of the recent Mexican raid, we give the following:

"From Mr. Doddridge we learn that rumors of the gathering of a party were conveyed to him about a week ago, but nothing was thought of it more than that of any other idle assemblage.

"Their first overt act appears to have been the demand made upon Campbell, near Tule Lake, for horses, as narrated yesterday.

"Procuring a few animals, which were ridden by the captors without saddles or bridles, the crowd went to Page's, nine miles from Corpus. Here they made a clean sweep of everything valuable. Two ladies in the house betook themselves to the chaparral, while Mr. Page was carried off.

"The next place visited was Frank's store, at the Juan Sais ranch. There were eighteen or twenty of them here. Three or four, presenting pistols at Frank's head, demanded all his valuables. Of course, no resistance was made, Frank yielding them everything. Overhauling his stock, they took everything they wanted, exchanged their old clothes for new, and even stripped Frank to his underclothing.

"They stopped at this store for some time, supplying themselves with horses, saddles, &c., from the travelers passing either way. As soon as a vehicle or horseman would arrive, he was immediately surrounded, a score of pistols and guns leveled, and the demand for surrender made. In this manner was Mrs. Sidbury, Mrs. Savage, Miss Laura Allen, Messrs. H. A. Gilpin, Jos. Saunders, S. G. Borden, George Reynolds, Joe Howell, with Mr. W. W. Wright's team and wagon, the driver of Gilpin's team, W. A. Ball, Mr. Reynolds's little daughter, Frank, Page and son, and a number of Mexican women and children captured, and all their valuables appropriated, some of the ladies having part of their clothing taken from them. The miscreants attempted to disrobe Mr. Reynolds, but one of their number interfered and prevented it by the threat of a pistol.

"It was at Frank's the first killing was done. One of the robbers asked a Mexican to join the party in their raid. He refused, when a pistol was placed to his head, the trigger pulled, and his soul sent to eternity. It was a terrible, cold-blooded deed.

"After leaving Frank's the Mexicans, driving their prisoners before them like sheep, started for the Motts. Their first effort there was against the store of Mr. Thomas Noakes, which they found closed.

"Opening the door, the first man who presented himself was shot twice by Mr. N. Immediately afterward a man named Smith, in the store at the time, rushed out the front door, was met by the party and shot down, mortally wounded. Aggravated, it is supposed, by the unexpected resistance, the store was fired. Noakes took refuge under the counter, and afterward got out of the building and into a place of safety. The destruction of his property was so complete that the calves in the pen were roasted. His loss is at least \$10,000.

"At the Motts the women prisoners were liberated and allowed to go to their homes. After staying here an hour, the party started off toward Peñitas. In the neighborhood of Mr. Hunter's house they were brought to a stop by Pat Whelan and his party of ten, who charged the devils at once. Received by a volley, in which poor Swanks lost his life, he being shot through the stomach, it was returned with vigor. Thirty-five to ten were heavy odds to fight, and after exhausting his ammunition fruitlessly, Whelan was obliged to give up the contest and return to the Motts for ammunition and re-enforcements. Receiving those, pursuit was resumed almost immediately.

"The Mexicans had with them two wagons piled with plunder, which were on ahead under an escort. One of them belonged to Reynolds.

"The following, to a great extent identifying the party, was received here by a lady yesterday, from Piedras Pintas, and is reliable:

"Alberto Garza passed through Piedras Pintas March 25. He shot one of Silverio Salinas's vaqueros three times, because he would not give him his horse. He was thought to have twenty-five men with him, and on his way to San Diego."

"Friday night Mr. Lee Riggs, R. W. Archer, and two others, coming from Lagartaville, were shot at near a creek. Camping six miles this side of the place, and about fifteen miles above

Nuecestown, about three o'clock in the morning, a party of between twenty and thirty armed Mexicans passed them. But for being concealed in a little hollow, suggested by the attempt spoken of, they would have undoubtedly lost their lives."

The raiders having sacked the country in the neighborhood of Corpus Christi, turned their course toward the Rio Grande. On the night of April 2 they surrounded the town of Roma, in Starr County, on the Rio Grande, and were prepared to sack that town and rob the custom-house, a deputy collector of customs being located there, but were prevented from doing so by the presence of a company of United States troops stationed at the place. They then withdrew from the place and crossed the river into Mexico in the immediate vicinity. These facts are shown by the deputy collector of customs, herewith attached.

The raid having attracted universal attention on this frontier, the Mexican authorities of Mier and Camargo, in which jurisdictions the raiders crossed into Mexico, took action in the case and arrested eight of the raiders. These prisoners were started for Matamoras, and the judge of the district court of this district was notified of the fact by the United States consul at Matamoras and advised to be prepared by the time of the arrival of the prisoners at Matamoras. Judge Dougherty immediately telegraphed to Corpus Christi to procure witnesses to identify the criminals, and was answered that plenty of witnesses would be ready to attend at Matamoras. But while the prisoners were *en route* to Matamoras an order was received from General Escobedo, from San Luis, Mexico, that the prisoners should be sent to Monterey, about two hundred miles into the interior, and not to Matamoras. For the particulars of these facts we refer to the letters of the United States consul to Judge Dougherty, herewith attached.

It is claimed that this order of Escobedo was issued in good faith in order to keep the prisoners from being subject on their arrival at Matamoras to the influence of Cortina, and to keep them beyond his protection. But it appears to us that this is a flimsy pretext to send them where there would be no possibility of their being confronted with the necessary testimony to convict. The allegation, however, although it may prove the punic faith of the Mexican authorities, also proves the character of Cortina with his own government.

During this raid Miss Lizzie Joy arrived at Corpus Christi from Laredo, and made affidavit that she had left Laredo on the 20th, and on the 26th saw the dead bodies of two Americans near the roadside hacked to pieces with knives, and their horses hitched near and in a famishing condition. Miss Joy was traveling with a train of carts, and the cartmen buried the dead bodies. The next day two other bodies were discovered hanging near the roadside; these latter bodies were Mexicans. As there was no other party out except the Mexican raiders upon Corpus Christi, these four additional deaths to those already recounted are attributable to them. We annex the published account and the affidavit of Miss Joy in this case.

XIV. On the 16th day of March, 1874, Vidal la Haille, a Frenchman, traveling from Corpus Christi to this place, was killed and robbed by Ricardo Flores and a party of armed Mexicans in this county near Olmos, the line between this and Nueces County. Flores is a registered voter of this county. He was arrested, and, upon investigation before a magistrate, was committed to jail to answer for the murder before the district court, but broke jail and fled to Mexico. He is now in Matamoras, Mexico, where he has been since his escape. A requisition has been made under the treaty with Mexico for his rendition, but without success, Flores being under the all-powerful protection of General Cortina.

XV. On the 27th day of February, 1875, a party of armed Mexicans, seven in number, crossed the Rio Grande from near Reynosa, Mexico, and went to El Sauz, in Hidalgo County, where there is a post-office, and they entered the store of Mr. J. L. Fulton, the post-master, when they made an assault upon him and his clerk, Mauricio Villanueva, a young Spaniard, in which both these parties were killed. The object was to plunder the store of Fulton; but the neighbors having become alarmed by the shots, assembled and sent to Edinburg, about seven miles distant, for assistance, which the robbers perceiving, they fled across the Rio Grande without accomplishing their purpose of robbery. Mr. Fulton was an officer of the Thirty-sixth Regiment of United States Colored Troops, and had settled here after the close of the war. He was an industrious, law-abiding, peaceable, and useful citizen.

XVI. On the 23d day of March, 1875, Alexander Morel, a citizen of Hidalgo County, was killed by a party of Mexican cattle-thieves, from Reynosa Vieja, in Mexico, who had crossed the river to ply their vocation. The details of his death are given in the annexed letter of his brother, Victor Morel. *The body of the deceased was not found until the thieves sent word to his brother, Victor, where he would find it buried.*

XVII. On the 16th day of April, 1875, George Hill, a resident of Tio Cano ranch, in Cameron County, was killed by a party of Mexican cattle-thieves who had crossed the Rio Grande to pursue their nefarious traffic. Hill was out hunting stock, and came upon the party unexpectedly, and was evidently killed to prevent discovery. The evening after his death the thieves crossed their plunder to Mexico, near Santa Maria, which fact came to the knowledge of and was reported by the customs inspectors stationed at Santa Maria. Mr. Hill was a hard-laboring farmer and stock-raiser, who had settled here after the close of the war, in which he served as a member of the Fourth Wisconsin Cavalry, and he has left a large and helpless family of small children, thus robbed and deprived of the protection of their father.

XVIII. On the 19th of April, 1875, a party of twelve armed Mexicans crossed the Rio Grande, from Guerrero, Mexico, and appeared at Carrizo, Zapata County, where there is a post-office, and where a deputy collector of customs and two mounted inspectors are stationed. The raiders entered the store of Dr. D. D. Lovell and murdered him in cold blood. They then robbed his store of several thousand dollars in money and goods. They then proceeded to the office of the deputy collector of customs, robbed the place of all the property in the office, except the money, which was in a large iron safe which they could not break open, but broke off the knobs, leaving it useless. The deputy collector was absent, and the inspectors fled, being two only against the twelve robbers. Dr. Lovell was the postmaster at Carrizo, and the post-office, as well as the store, was gutted of its contents. Dr. Lovell was an intelligent and enterprising citizen, who had built up a considerable trade at Carrizo, where he had settled at the close of our late war, in which he had served honorably as a volunteer in the Fourth Wisconsin Cavalry, which regiment, within two days, lost two of its members, Dr. Lovell and George Hill. These deaths, occurring at distant points from each other, but at nearly the same period of time, prove the thorough organization and understanding between the Mexican thieves scattered all along the Mexican border of the Rio Grande. The sheriff of Zapata County, writing to Judge Ware, states the loss of Dr. Lovell at \$4,000, and that he lost \$1,000 taxes collected, that was on deposit with Dr. Lovell.

XIX. On the 1st day of December, 1874, a large party of Mexican cattle-thieves encamped near the ranch of Carlos Danache, of Cameron County, about fourteen miles from Brownsville, and they sent word to Mr. Danache, who had been active in the pursuit of these *caballeros*, that they were encamped near his place and would be pleased to see him. Mr. Danache gathered a party of friends and went to their camp next morning, but found it abandoned. And at their camp he found a Mexican hung and the dead body so badly mutilated that it could not be identified, but supposed to be some honest man who had made himself obnoxious, like Danache, to the thieves. We refer to the affidavit of Mr. Danache in this case, herewith annexed.

XX. On the 18th day of January, 1875, Albert Dean and Joseph Dunn, mounted inspectors of customs stationed at Rio Grande City, Starr County, were attacked by a party of five Mexicans, armed with Winchester carbines, who had just crossed from Mexico, and whose outfit was undergoing examination by the inspectors, and their outfit, consisting of raw-hide ropes and other paraphernalia of the cattle-thief, indicated the object of their visit. This was about two leagues below Rio Grande City.

In the same neighborhood, G. W. Lowe, another mounted inspector of customs, accompanied by Joseph Dunn, was ambushed and fired upon from the chaparral on the 22d day of April, 1875, the ball cutting through his clothing across the breast, which indicated the intention of the assassin. For particulars in these cases we submit copies of the official reports in relation thereto.

XXI. On the 26th day of January, 1875, a fight occurred between a party of United States soldiers and a party of Mexicans, at the rancho Solises in Starr County, about eighteen miles below Rio Grande City, in which two soldiers and one Mexican were killed and two other Mexicans were wounded. Many versions of this affair have been published, and it has been the subject of judicial investigation before the grand jury of Starr County. Your committee confesses its inability, in the conflicting evidence, to arrive at a correct conclusion. We therefore present several of these published accounts, together with the official report of General Hatch, and annex them to our report. The newspaper articles in regard to this affair prove that there is no unjust prejudice against Mexicans on this frontier, nor any undue partiality in favor of the United States troops, which latter might be expected from the fact that these troops do give much protection to our frontier.

From the foregoing account of outrages, extending through the last two years, it will be perceived that the raids of the Mexican bandits upon this frontier have not been confined to cattle-stealing alone, but have taken a wider range and resulted in the robbery of the mercantile establishments, post-offices, and custom-houses scattered over the country and beyond the protecting guns of the garrisoned towns, and in the systematic murder of isolated Americans engaged in this region in business either as merchants, farmers, or stock-raisers; and that the fiat for "exterminating their tyrants," issued in 1859, is being carried out to its bloody consummation. As before stated, we have not recounted many murders traceable to the same hands, but have confined our relation to those acts proving organization and a common purpose.

WRONGS PERPETRATED AGAINST MEXICANS.

It is often alleged that Mexicans resident in Texas suffer great wrongs at the hands of Americans, and that they receive no protection in their persons and property in our courts. Your committee do not pretend to assert that such wrongs have not been committed against Mexicans by Americans in their individual capacity, but we do most earnestly deny that there has existed or that there could exist in this section of the State of Texas any combination or organization of citizens for such a purpose; but, on the contrary, we maintain a well-known truth when we say that the courts, Federal and State, are always open and ready to redress

such private and individual wrongs. The population between the Rio Grande and the Nueces, according to the census of 1870, is twenty-seven thousand, of which at least nineteen-tenths are of Mexican origin, and the voting population holds nearly the same ratio. The right of suffrage and the selfishness of politicians has prevented and will continue to prevent any such injustice as organized hostility to a community that controls the polls and elects our officers. A lean minority can never so oppress a preponderating majority, and the absurdity of the allegation is proven by the bare presentation of the statistics.

INVASIONS OF MEXICO.

And it is equally impossible for Americans of this section of the State to organize themselves into predatory bands for the purpose of invading or raiding upon our neighboring republic. The existence of such organizations would be immediately communicated to those menaced by such bands through their relatives and friends among our residents and citizens of Mexican origin. And, besides, in Mexico they have a most admirable system of rural police, the want of which in this State is one of the causes of the success of the invading bandits in their raids upon our stock-ranches. In Mexico the people are gregarious and live in villages or ranchos, and it is a very rare thing to find an isolated dwelling or household. In each of these ranches an officer is appointed, called an *encargado*, or superintendent, who has the authority of a justice of the peace, and whose duty it is to give information to the officers of the municipality, parish or county, (to use our own similar subdivisions,) to furnish horses to couriers, to make arrests, to call out the rural police, and to exercise a general supervision over their ranches. No predatory band, however small or however numerous, could penetrate Mexico from this side the Rio Grande without all its movements and designs being known and promptly reported, as the banks of the Rio Grande are lined with ranches from its mouth up to Laredo on both sides. The speedy arrest, trial, and punishment of any predatory band would be as certain and as prompt as the decrees of fate. Upon the subject of the organization of the rural police of Mexico we present the most incontestable and indisputable proof in a sworn statement of its organization and powers, and the impossibility of evading its vigilance, made by the present first *alcalde* of Matamoras, Señor Castillo Montero, a copy of which is hereto attached, the original being on file in the archives of the Mixed Commission at Washington in the case of King, Kenedy & Co. before the commission. There is another and complete refutation of any charge that Americans are guilty of raiding upon Mexican soil, existing in the fact that not a single American has ever been captured in any such expedition, which, as we have shown by the description of the rural police of Mexico, would have been an inevitable consequence of any such criminal attempt.

RENDITION OF STOLEN PROPERTY.

We have already shown the justice of the legislation of Texas toward Mexicans, residents and non-residents, in securing to them the titles to their lands, and this spirit is still further shown by the laws of the State enacting that the possession of property stolen in a foreign country is a continuation of the felony and providing for the punishment of the felons. (Paschal's Annotated Digest, articles 2438, 2439 and 2453.) This act is enforced in our courts. It would make this report too voluminous to cite the records; and we present case No. 308 in the justice's precinct No. 2, Cameron County, as a sample of many others. In this case Leonidas Guerra, of Matamoras, Mexico, made an affidavit before the justice as to the loss of certain animals, upon which a search-warrant was issued, which warrant was indorsed by Hon. W. H. Russell, district judge, in order to secure its execution in any county where the property might be found, and the following is the return on the process: "Came to hand May 22, 1872, and executed same day by delivering to Leonidas Guerra 37 head of stolen property. Roswell H. Gillette, special bailiff, Bee County;" to which county Mr. Guerra had pursued his property, and where it was restored to him. The records of the United States custom-house of this port (Brownsville) prove that the Federal officials are equally prompt to do justice by the delivery of stolen property when the proper claims and proofs are presented by Mexican claimants. (See annexed certificate of the collector of customs of the port.) These official documents prove another very important fact bearing upon this discussion. They show that, in nearly every instance, the stolen property was found in the hands of Mexicans, there being but one case in which it was traced to the hands of an American, and in this case the party showed beyond question that he had purchased the stolen horse from a Mexican. The evidence is cumulative, and we might say conclusive, that Americans are not engaged in this nefarious traffic, but that Mexicans alone have been proven to be guilty. This class of thieves steal from both sides of the river with rigid impartiality.

The courts of Mexico are practically closed in this respect to our citizens, although Mexico has the same laws in regard to the continuation of a felony that exist on our own statute-books. Their laws are good, but we assert, upon the unvaried fate of all attempts to reclaim stolen property in that country, that the laws are not only not executed, but that they are intentionally and habitually violated and disregarded. This question, however, was

fully investigated by the United States commissioners to Texas, and reported upon by them, (see report, pp. 6 and 7,) and we do not, therefore, consider it necessary to enter upon the details of the many cases that might be cited, as such a course would only be cumulative upon a subject sufficiently investigated officially by our commissioners to Texas, upon whose report and the accompanying evidence we rely for the correctness of our statement of the facts.

POPULATION BETWEEN THE NUECES AND RIO GRANDE.

As heretofore stated, the great mass of the population between the Nueces and the Rio Grande is composed of people of Mexican origin, the proportion of this class to all others being quite nine to one, or nine-tenths of the whole number of inhabitants. According to the census of 1870, pages 321, 322, sixteen thousand four hundred and seventy-eight of the twenty-seven thousand enumerated are foreign-born, all of them except say the odd hundreds being of Mexican birth; eighteen thousand three hundred and ninety-eight are children of parents, both of whom are of foreign birth; over nineteen thousand are children of a foreign father, and over nine thousand of a foreign mother. The white or American inhabitants certainly do not exceed three thousand in number in all this region.

This fact is one of the causes of our troubles. The Spanish is the usual language of this frontier; few or no schools exist outside of our towns, and but a limited number even in the towns, and our few American people learn the language usually spoken, while the mass of our population speak their mother-tongue, very few of them learning to speak or use English. The result is that this people generally have retained their ancient manners, customs, and traditions, and continue their intercourse with the people from whom they sprang, with whom their relations are more intimate than with the people of this State to whom they have become territorially and politically attached. The natural prejudices of race and class that exist among all peoples of different nationalities add to the complications of such a condition of affairs, and prevent, to a certain extent, the proper and prompt execution of the laws, which, from the great extent of our counties and the sparseness of our population outside of the line of river-ranches, could not be enforced with vigor even under more favorable circumstances. It is a general and notorious complaint on the part of our officers of justice that our population of Mexican origin are not prompt to give information against raiders and cattle-thieves, and that they are reluctant to testify in the courts against them, and that when questioned on the subject, they too often reply with their expressive shrug of the shoulders and the inevitable *quien sabe* with which they avoid direct testimony.

In justice to our preponderating population of Mexican origin we cheerfully bear testimony that the great majority of them are honest, industrious, and laborious people, and they own a greater part of the soil in this section of the State, upon which they graze thousands upon thousands of head of stock—cattle, horses, mules, and sheep, and they suffer very greatly from the operations of the cattle-thieves. To a stranger to our frontier, their failure to prosecute the cattle-thieves and to testify willingly against them would appear very extraordinary, but not so to any one acquainted with the actual condition of affairs. These people were educated amid the chronic revolutions of their mother-country, where they learned the lesson of submission to the law of force, and, for the reasons already given, they have never become sufficiently familiarized with our different system of government to throw off their dread of armed force; hence the armed bandits who depredate upon them as well as their American-born neighbors are regarded with such terror that our Mexican-born rancheros are actually afraid to perform their duties as good citizens by exposing and punishing them; nor is this fear confined to this class of our population, but extends very generally among our stock-raisers, American as well as Mexican born, all being more or less subject to the reign of terror brought about by the force of arms and the fear of assassination.

There is another fact which adds greatly to the difficulties of dealing with the cattle-thieves. Many of them have located on this side of the Rio Grande, squatting upon any public domain they may find vacant, and even upon private lands, where they build a temporary shelter of sticks and mud, (*jacales*,) hardly sufficient to protect them from the rain and the sunshine, and are by their locality the better able to give aid and information to their confederates in crime on the other side of the Rio Grande. There is a considerable number of these squatters hid away among the live-oaks, called the *Encinal*, about midway between the Nueces and Rio Grande, this encinal region being a sandy ridge where water is easily obtainable, and where the squatters are protected by the *encinos*, or live-oaks, from which it obtains its name. After the recent Corpus Christi raid, some Americans of Nueces County banded together to avenge the wrongs of their neighbors, and it was against these squatters that they directed their vengeance, the land-owning Mexicans and known rancheros having been left undisturbed at their ranches.

There is also another and a serious evil with which we are afflicted. By the provisions of our State constitution every male person who shall have declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States and who shall have resided in the State one year is entitled to register as a voter. Many of the squatters, heretofore described, make this declaration of intention in order to make entry of land as a settler and to register as voters, whereby they manage to secure a certain degree of impunity by placing themselves under the protection

of politicians, who are called upon to defend them in the courts, by which service the aid of these characters is secured in our elections. This evil is a very grave one, for the Mexicans who make these declarations of intention to become citizens are very generally of that class who spell their middle names with an X, and very few of them have, as yet, gone beyond taking this primary oath, and the invariable rule with them, when they commit a crime, is to fly to Mexico and claim exemption from the provisions of the treaty of extradition on the ground that they are not citizens of the United States but are Mexicans. Advantage has been taken of these notorious facts by the authorities of Mexico to charge that the cattle-thieves are American citizens; whereas the truth is that they are not citizens of this country and never likely to become such, but nomads, living on one or the other bank of the Rio Grande, having no fixed residence, but changing their locality as may become necessary to ply successfully their vocations, and Mexicans in all things and always.

The abuses to which this interpolated provision of our constitution (for it is not in the article fixing the right of suffrage) is subject is well illustrated in the case of a Mexican of intelligence and of a higher class than the cross-mark patriots under review. Mr. Castillo Montero, the present first alcalde of the heroic, loyal, and unconquered city of Matamoras, under the ayuntamiento of which General Cortina is president, got up a little revolution some years ago at Tuspan, near Tampico, in which he shot one of his neighbors, who was the alcalde of Tuspan, the scene of the revolution, but the revolutionary attempt came to grief and Montero fled to this city for safety. The people of Tampico and Tuspan stupidly regarded the revolutionary execution of the alcalde as murder, and Montero was regularly indicted for that crime, under which a demand for his rendition under our extradition treaty was being prepared, which Montero avoided by declaring his intention to become a citizen of the United States in the United States district court for the eastern district of Texas. Afterward, through the influence and under the protection of Cortina, he returned to Matamoras, and is now the first alcalde of that city, notwithstanding the indictment pending against him. A lawyer of that city (Mr. Valdes) recently published the facts of this case to prove that Montero was not eligible to the office he held, having abjured his allegiance to Mexico and sworn allegiance to the United States, when Montero acknowledged that the oath of intention was simply taken to avoid arrest, and not with any intention of renouncing his allegiance to Mexico or of becoming a citizen of the United States, thus confessing his fraudulent intent. Mr. Valdes was sued by Montero for libel, tried before an associate alcalde, fined \$2,000, and convicted and sentenced to two years' imprisonment for his publication. This case is cited to show the abuses to which our liberal naturalization laws are subject on this frontier by Mexicans who may wish to profit by a *quasi* citizenship of this country; and at the same time it is an illustration of the beauties of Mexican justice as administered under the *regime* of General Cortina.

RETALIATIONS.

As we have stated above, the recent raid of Mexican banditti near Corpus Christi brought about a retaliatory raid on the part of a few unthinking Americans living near the Nueces River. These men came down to the Encinal country among the squatter Mexicans, and found them, it is said, with stolen hides buried in their yards or concealed about their premises, when they burned down the jacales and killed some three men, according to the best information we can gather. There is no defense for such lawless acts. The guilty parties should have been arrested, not murdered, and turned over to the proper authorities for trial and legal punishment. But this American raid was soon squelched by Captain McNally, of the State troops, who opportunely arrived and published an order disbanding all unauthorized organizations, which order was promptly obeyed as it was well known that it would be duly enforced. We fear that such illegal and retaliatory organizations will add to our troubles, and it is to prevent them, as well as to prevent raids of armed bandits from Mexico, that we earnestly call the attention of the Government to the condition of this frontier. Unless the Government gives the people protection, they will be compelled to protect themselves or to abandon the country. To show the extent of the danger and the alarm of our people we refer to the annexed proposition, headed "To the rescue," in which certain citizens of Nueces County propose to keep under their individual pay a company of volunteers to protect themselves from the cattle-thieves. The amounts they subscribe for the monthly pay of such a company is sufficient evidence of the losses to which they have been subjected and of the danger with which they are menaced by the bandits, while it at the same time illustrates the general condition of this frontier.

COMPLICITY OF MEXICAN OFFICIALS WITH THE CATTLE-THIEVES.

1. In the year 1866 or 1867, Messrs. Hale & Parker, stock-raisers in Hidalgo County, lost about ninety head of beef-cattle that were traced to Mexico and found in the possession of Andres Mnguerza, collector of customs at Reynosa. Angel de la Vega, agent of the owners, claimed the cattle and prayed that they had been stolen from Texas and crossed into Mexico against the will of the owners, but Mnguerza refused to deliver them on the ground that they had been introduced into Mexico without a permit. A part of the beeves were

sold by the collector and the rest were turned over, as rations, to the troops stationed at that place. The action of this Mexican collector and his construction of the law contrast not very favorably with the course of the American collectors toward Mexican claimants in similar cases. For evidence of the action of Collector Muguierza, we cite the affidavit of the agent, Vega, on file in the case of Hale & Parker vs. Mexico, No. 548, before the Mixed Commission at Washington.

2. In the year 1866, John McAllen, another agent of Messrs. Hale & Parker, went to Matamoras to reclaim another lot of stolen cattle, and, instead of accomplishing his purpose, was arrested and imprisoned by the alcalde of that city, and insulted in the grossest manner. For the particulars of this case we refer to a copy of the affidavit of Mr. McAllen, who is one of our most worthy citizens, the copy being hereto annexed, the original being on file in the above-cited case before the Mixed Commission.

3. In the month of July 1874, Anastacio Cavazos, a resident citizen and stock-raiser of Cameron County, lost the greater portion of his stock, amounting to about one thousand head, which were stolen by armed bands of Mexicans, and openly sold in the market of Matamoras. In one instance he recovered fifteen dollars for twelve beeves that had been thus stolen from him and there sold, the amount being about the average price of a single beef. While engaged in recovering this pitiful sum, the thieves crossed over again and drove off nearly his whole herd. For the full particulars of his case we refer to his affidavit herewith filed.

4. About the 1st of June 1875, a Spanish steamer appeared off the mouth of the Rio Grande for a cargo of cattle for the Cuban market, to be delivered under a contract with General Cortina, who, shortly after the landing of the steamer, appeared at Bagdad with a body-guard of some seventy-five armed men. Only about half of the five hundred head necessary to complete the cargo were ready for delivery. Mr. Hall, first sergeant of Capt. McNally's company of State troops, which company had reached this vicinity but a few days before, was sent aboard the lighter, an American vessel that was to take beeves out to the steamer, and he was charged to ascertain the brands of the cattle shipped by Cortina, and he found sixteen different American brands in the lot that he recognized, noted down, and reported. An inspector of customs of this port was also aboard the lighter on the 2d of June, while she was taking on cattle on the Mexican bank of the Rio Grande, and he recognized the following persons among the guard of Cortina, to wit:

Pancho Lopez, Guadalupe Espinosa, Rafael Salinas, Telesforo Dias, and José Maria Olguin, alias *El Aguja*. On Saturday the 12th day of June, Captain McNally had a fight with a band of cattle-thieves near the old battle-field of Palo Alto, about twelve miles from Brownsville, and about the same distance from the mouth of the Rio Grande, in which he killed eleven of the thieves, wounded three others, and recaptured from them two hundred and fifty-three head of stolen beeves, of various American brands, that the thieves were driving in the direction of the mouth of the Rio Grande; and, from the fact that Pancho Lopez, Guadalupe Espinosa, and Rafael Salinas were killed, and José Maria Olguin, alias *El Aguja*, was wounded in this action, and that they had been recognized with Cortina during the delivery of his contract, which was short the amount of the stolen herd, the evidence is irresistible that the thieves were sent over by Cortina to steal the necessary number of cattle to complete his contract. One of the thieves killed by McNally was one Jack Ellis, who had been sentenced to the penitentiary in Nueces County, but had escaped jail with another of the band, Camilo Lerma, a notorious murderer, both of whom have been residing since their escape at Matamoras under the sègis of General Cortina. We annex certificate as to the identity of the thieves by the inspector of customs on June 2, and also newspaper accounts of the fight of Captain McNally with the thieves, to which we refer for particulars. On the 12th day of June the body of Wm. F. McMahan, a peaceable school-master, who had left Brownsville to go to the Jarra ranch, about sixty miles north of this place to teach school, was found horribly mutilated, the head, arms, and legs being severed from the body and scattered over the prairie. It is not doubted that the band of thieves destroyed by McNally committed this horrible outrage, as the clothes of Mahan were recognized upon one of the dead thieves brought to Brownsville for identification and interment.

RÉSUMÉ OF THE EVIDENCE.

From the incontestable facts presented in the foregoing report, there can remain no doubt that the crimes of cattle-stealing, robbery, murder, and arson are committed to a fearful extent throughout the region of country included in our investigations, as well as in many other counties not included; there can exist no doubt that the thieves are almost exclusively Mexicans, having their organization and headquarters in Mexico; there is not a particle of doubt that vast numbers of stolen cattle are driven from Texas to Mexico for sale and consumption; and, from the extent of this traffic, and the open, public, and notorious disposition of stolen cattle in Mexico, there can be no doubt that the Mexican authorities are cognizant of the facts, and that many of them are in complicity with the cattle-thieves.

CONCLUSION.

We have in the foregoing report referred as briefly as possible to the condition of our

frontier, and have cited the principal causes of our troubles. There are many points that might have been mentioned, many others dwelt upon with greater detail, but these have been omitted in order that our report might not become so voluminous as to weary. In conclusion we would call the attention of the Government to the reports of the military officers on this frontier, which, we are satisfied, will bear out the conclusions at which we have arrived.

And, finally, we may add, that it is to the interest of our Government and people, especially of the people of this frontier, to preserve amicable relations with the government and people of the neighboring republic of Mexico. We have a large trade passing through this frontier with that country, and our commerce, as well as our local industry in stock-raising, has been seriously injured by the continued disorders with which we have been afflicted. It is to the interest of the manufacturers, the merchants, and the ship-owners of the North, as well as that of the herdsmen and merchants of our own locality that this question should be speedily settled, and we believe that it can only be settled by the strong arm of our own Government, which we invoke to act with promptness and vigor.

J. L. HAYNES.	EDWARD DOWNEY.
JOHN S. FORD.	J. GALVON.
WILLIAM NEALE.	J. L. PUTEGNAT.
G. M. RAPHAEL.	R. B. KINGSBURY.
F. J. PARKER.	H. S. ROCK.
WM. KELLY.	J. G. BROWNE.
A. GLAVECKE.	F. YTURRIA.
M. TREVINO GARZA.	GEORGE WILLMAN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 1, 1876.*

H. C. CORBIN sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Question. You are an officer of the Army?—Answer. I am.

Q. Where are you stationed?—A. At Fort Brown, Texas.

Q. When did you leave there?—A. I left on the morning of the 15th February last.

Q. Do you recollect the time of the fight of Las Cuevas?—A. I do.

Q. What has been the state of the frontier since that time until the time you left?—A. It has been very much the same as before. In fact, you might say that the condition of the frontier has been unchanged since that time.

Q. Do the raids continue?—A. Yes, there were depredations being committed on this side of the river when I left there. On the 12th or 13th of February, a large herd of horses was taken from Captain King's ranch, or from about there, and several of his men were killed. Five or six horses were recovered that had become fast in the mud on the opposite side of the river. That was all that were recovered out of seventy-five head. The raids are of frequent occurrence there.

Q. That fight has not made any material change?—A. I consider that no material change has taken place. In fact, I have heard no suggestion that there has been any change.

Q. And from all that you have seen, and know, the raids are probably going on in the same way to this day?—A. Yes; I believe they always will continue so long as the Rio Grande is the boundary.

Q. How long have you been stationed down there?—A. I was stationed in 1867-'68 in New Mexico and Arizona, but since 1869 I have been stationed on the Rio Grande.

Q. How long have you been on the river between Laredo and Brownsville?—A. Three years and six months.

Q. What has been your experience there in reference to these raids?—A. My first experience of the raids was in the spring of 1870. I was then in command of Fort Clark, Texas. A gentleman named Strick-

land, who resided near there, who owned a large stock of horses and horned cattle, was continually complaining of his stock being stolen and taken away; and, under instructions from the State Department, the trail of one of these raids was followed into Mexico. In the absence of any consular officer, I did all that I could to recover the stock. General Sherman's orders were, particularly to me, to apply to the alcalde for an order to deliver the stock; but when I came to investigate the matter I found that the alcalde was the very man who was the ringleader of the raiding party. During the whole winter of 1869, and the summer of 1870, there were continuous raids on the ranches about there, which were committed principally by a band of Indians, who used to be hired by the people on the other side to come to Texas, carry off the cattle, and sell them to them. But that was remedied by General McKenzie following them into Mexico and destroying the tribe. My next experience was at Fort Brown in 1872. Raids and incursions there were so frequent and numerous in and about the vicinity of Starr and Cameron Counties, that I do not know how to commence relating them. When I was in command these depredations came to my official knowledge, and in my capacity as commanding officer at Fort Brown, in connection with Mr. Haynes, the collector, I protested against the raids to the civil authorities of Matamoros. Complaints to the Mexican authorities have always been very well received. From their promises, and from the conduct of the Mexican officials, they were apparently disposed to do all that they could to stop these raids; but, judging from the result, it was quite the contrary. They promised everything, but never accomplished anything, so far as stopping these incursions is concerned. About the 7th February, the officer in command of the troops operating in the field about Edinburgh, had information that a party of Mexicans was going to cross into Texas to drive off cattle and horses, and the troops followed the raiders so closely that the raiders were compelled to disperse, and to make their way back to Mexico in parties of one or two.

Q. Do you know Cortina?—A. Yes; I know him personally.

Q. Did you ever have any information as to what became of the cattle that were driven over into Mexico?—A. I never had any personal information. I have been informed, officially, that these cattle have been sold in the market of Matamoros, and that some particular cattle had been shipped to foreign ports under the direction of Cortina.

Q. The Mexicans never did anything to stop the raiding?—A. Nothing to my knowledge. They have always received representatives of our Government with the greatest consideration and kindness. They are great in promises but poor in action.

Q. Do you know Colonel Cristo?—A. Yes; I know him very well.

Q. His case was about the same as Cortina's?—A. About the same.

Q. Did any case ever come to your knowledge of parties raiding from this side into Mexico and stealing from the Mexicans?—A. Never. I never heard of such a case.

Q. Have you any knowledge of the manner in which the Mexicans guard the frontier? Is it pretty well guarded?—A. I believe they have what is called a custom-house guard at the principal crossings of the river; that is, at Matamoros, Camargo, Piedras Negras, and the Presidio del Norte. But I understand that they have nothing to do with the guarding of the frontier further than regards the passage of goods on which there are customs duties. They have no established military garrison, no troops operating in the field on the frontier, except a garrison at Matamoros.

Q. Have you traveled much through that country?—A. Yes; I have traveled frequently through the country.

Q. What did you notice to be the effect of these raids?—A. To a very great extent they have depopulated the country. I have noticed that more particularly in the towns. Great numbers of the country-people have come into the towns to live, saying that they were afraid to stay in the country. It has happened, in quite a number of instances, that Americans, who have gone out there with the purpose of raising cattle and making their homes in that country, have abandoned their homes and gone into the towns, and I think they have done wisely.

Q. Do you consider it dangerous to live in that country?—A. I consider it dangerous for any American to live on the frontier. I don't know but I might say that it is dangerous for any one, whether American or not, if he had any money or had any stock, or was an honest man.

Q. Have you ever observed the manner in which the people on the other side live?—A. Yes.

Q. What seems to be their principal occupation?—A. They have no apparent means of support. I believe that a large part of the money that circulates in Matamoros is derived from stolen cattle, hides, &c. Of course I don't mean to say that the whole city of Matamoros lives on stolen cattle, but that a large amount of the money in circulation is derived from that source.

Q. Had Cortina been released when you left there?—A. I was told, a few days before I left there, that Cortina had been released, but that on the protest of some of the government officers, as well as the people, he was re-arrested. At the time I left there I was reliably informed that he was again out, and there was a general apprehension on the part of the better class of citizens at Matamoros that he would return, and his return to Matamoros would be very objectionable to the officers of the Mexican government at that place.

APPENDIX A.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE FILES OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

APPENDIX A, No. 1.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *January 29, 1876.*

The Secretary of War has the honor to transmit to the House of Representatives, for the information of the Special Committee on the Mexican Border Troubles, in response to letter from said committee of the 20th instant, copies of reports and correspondence in 1874, 1875, and 1876, relative to troubles on the Rio Grande frontier.

In reply to the inquiry of the committee whether the Department "can dispose of a sufficient force to give complete protection to the Rio Grande border from the mouth of the river to Laredo, and at such points between Laredo and Fort Denison as may need protection without detriment to the general service, the force necessary, in the opinion of the committee, being two full regiments of the best class of mounted troops, with infantry to garrison the main stations," the General of the Army reports as follows :

I doubt the possibility of preventing all raids across the Mexican border from Brownsville

to Eagle Pass—382 miles—but they may in a great measure be prevented by increasing the strength of the companies on that frontier.

Congress, by simply authorizing the President at his discretion to increase each company serving there to one hundred enlisted men, would meet the emergency more economically than by any other course possible.

One such regiment of infantry, say the 11th or 24th, with one regiment of cavalry, the 8th, and a part of the 10th, thus increased, would suffice.

I am convinced that a single company of one hundred (100) men is more efficient than two of the present small companies.

The only cavalry regiment that could be sent to the Rio Grande this winter would be the 3d, now on the Union Pacific Railroad, and that would leave this road exposed to raids from the Sioux, who are always mistrusted.

WM. W. BELKNAP,
Secretary of War.

APPENDIX A, No. 2.

HEADQUARTERS RINGGOLD BARRACKS,
Texas, January 4, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, during the month of December the cavalry companies attached to this garrison at the post, and stationed at outposts, were actively employed scouting, patrolling, and guarding the crossings of the Rio Grande.

It was important that the troops should be active, a number of marauding parties having crossed the river from Mexico, to cross cattle, taking advantage of the winter northers, which drive many cattle south during their prevalence.

These marauding parties were pursued and scattered, a few captured and turned over to the civil authorities, the cattle gathered by them turned back to their range or restored to the owners.

Authentic information was furnished by citizens of Mexico, greatly to their credit, as this is unusual, of the crossing of one Cardenas with a force too strong for any police force they could send to intercept him, about twenty miles above Roma. This band was pursued by Captain Beyer, of Company C, Ninth Cavalry, and detachment of Company G, Ninth Cavalry, were scattered, and finally escaped into Mexico, though closely pursued ten days; the cattle that had probably been gathered by parties on this side of the river awaiting the arrival of the thieves, turned back to their ranges.

This man Cardenas was an officer in the regiment raised by Governor Davis on this frontier during the rebellion. There is no difficulty in obtaining evidence of his organizing an armed raid for the purpose of running a large number of cattle off. Cardenas lives about eighty (80) miles in the interior of Mexico, and organized his raid with more system than the ordinary marauder, and is thought to be wholly independent of the small thieving parties who live near the river. The authorities in the border Mexican States seem to be powerless in checking raids of this proportion, though I am assured that the better class of citizens deplore them, and would willingly prevent these incursions were they so situated that they could. The Mexican government should be held responsible and take some measures to prevent their occurrence.

I have wished for a long time that some of these bands would make an active resistance against some of the detachments, and that the punishment would be such that the result would have great impression upon all others.

Unfortunately the thieves seem to understand this, and on the ap-

pearance of troops in their vicinity, their energies are devoted to crossing the river, and with their knowledge of the country, and a fresh horse to be obtained everywhere, they have little difficulty in accomplishing their object.

The severe wet northers nearly all the time have been severe on men and horses.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
EDWARD HATCH,
Colonel Ninth Cavalry, Commanding.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
 DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, Texas.

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, Texas, January 19, 1875.

A true copy respectfully forwarded to the assistant adjutant-general, Military Division of the Missouri, for the information of the lieutenant-general commanding.

The information in regard to these parties has been furnished to General Fuero, commanding on the Mexican frontier.

C. C. AUGUR,
Brigadier-General, United States Army, Commanding.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, February 5, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit for your information copy of a report from the commanding officer of Ringgold Barracks, Texas, of scouting-operations from that post and pursuit of cattle-thieves from Mexico, and of a raid organized by one Cardenas, of Mexico.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
WM. W. BELKNAP,
Secretary of War.

The Honorable the SECRETARY OF STATE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 8, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, accompanied by a copy of a report from the commanding officer of Ringgold Barracks, Texas, of scouting-operations from that post, and pursuit of cattle-thieves from Mexico, and of a raid organized by one Cardenas, of the latter country.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,
HAMILTON FISH.

Hon. WM. W. BELKNAP,
Secretary of War.

APPENDIX A, No. 3.

FORT MCINTOSH, TEXAS,
January 29, 1875.

SIR: In conformance with instructions from these headquarters in letter dated January 25, 1875, I have the honor to submit the following:

About 8½ o'clock p. m. January 17, 1875, Lieut. B. M. Custer, 24th United States Infantry, and myself stopped at the office of Dr. H. Spohn, in the town of Laredo, Tex. We had not been seated more than fifteen minutes, when we heard our horses, which we had tied to a fence on opposite side of the street, ridden rapidly away. We immediately started in pursuit, and, by the aid of lanterns, trailed the horses as far as the river Rio Grande. Early the next morning I crossed the river, found the trail, and obtained permission from the alcalde in New Laredo, Mexico, to follow the thieves. All of that day, January 18, 1875, and part of the night was wasted in trying to hire horses and men.

Early the next morning, accompanied by two soldiers and two Mexicans, I again crossed the river, and by circuitous routes followed the trail as far as the town of Guerrero, Mexico, accompanied by one Mexican, having left the other with the two soldiers on this side. I entered the town, obtained the assistance of the officials of Guerrero, and in two hours the thieves had been captured and horses with their trimmings in my possession.

One of the horses was seen, followed to a corral in the town of Guerrero, and taken by Corpl. Charles Connor, Company F, 24th United States Infantry. The other, with the thieves, was captured by the civil authorities of that place. I crossed the river that evening and slept in Carijo, Texas, that night, the 20th inst. I started for Laredo the next morning, and arrived at that place the second day following, the 22nd inst.

The thieves had been sent to the town of New Laredo, Mexico, under guard furnished by the alcalde, at which place they arrived about 11½ o'clock p. m. On the 22d instant, after an examination which took place before the alcalde of that place, they were sent to Matamoros for sentence. I cannot help mentioning the kindly treatment and assistance I received from all the Mexican authorities. The alcaldes in the towns of Laredo and Guerrero, Mexico, did everything in their power to assist me, especially in Guerrero, where the alcalde, Agustin Dias, and his assistant-justices, interested themselves in the matter as much as if the property had been their own, and of far greater value. The soldiers, Corpl. Charles Connor and Prvt. A. Q. Murphy, Company F, 24th United States Infantry, deserve great credit for their conduct throughout the entire trip; also one of the Mexican trailers, Blas Dubilino. Had there been any mounted troops at this post, or even horses, it is my firm conviction that the thieves could have been overtaken that night, the 17th instant, or at the farthest by the middle of the following day.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. S. BEACOM,

Second Lieutenant Twenty-Fourth United States Infantry.

To the POST-ADJUTANT,
Fort McIntosh, Texas.

[1st indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS, FORT MCINTOSH, TEXAS,
January 31, 1875.

Respectfully forwarded to the assistant adjutant-general, Department of Texas :

Lieutenant Beacom's conduct in the case within reported is deserving of great praise and public mention also, not so much on account of the animals and thieves overhauled, as affording an example to others who lose property on this frontier, of what success may follow like persistent and properly directed efforts.

CHARLES C. HOOD,
Captain Twenty-Fourth United States Infantry,
Commanding Post.

APPENDIX A, No. 4.

HEADQUARTERS RINGGOLD BARRACKS, TEXAS,
March 10, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to call attention to the inclosed reports :

That of Mr. Avery, United States commercial agent at Camargo, Mexico, states what I already know, that there is a body of men, numbering from seventy-five to one hundred, now on this side of the river at a point named Los Diez. On examining the point named these men are found dispersed among the ranches of the Solesis, Grullia, and Los Diez, their horses picketed or ranging near them. They are represented as citizens of Texas, and should the military make any arrests they will be so considered until we can catch them in a body armed. We are utterly powerless to make arrests. I inclose a tracing of the vicinity. The region is well known to me; it is a labyrinth of lakes and thickets, the ford at Los Diez being one of the most shallow and best on the river.

The party mentioned at the bend of the Tortuga is on debatable ground, between a large lagoon on the Texas side and the main channel of the Rio Grande. It is presumed that the president of the territory at the Bolca bend, decided by the United States court as Mexican territory, confers the same title to this land to Mexico. The territory was not alienated by the change of river channel subsequent to the treaty of Hidalgo Guadalupe.

Garcia, the chief mentioned, is or was a resident of Rio Grande City, an old adherent of Cortina. Although I have heard many rumors of a raid in force, I am under the impression that Cortina contemplates some movement, probably revolutionary, in Tamaulipas. Many of the river ranches on the American side are in sympathy with him, and will assist him with men, horses, and, what is quite as necessary, supply his commissariat with stolen cattle. Small parties at various points cross on foot; whether they have crossed to avoid impressment or for the purpose of stealing, I am unable to learn.

Mr. Fulton, reported murdered, was a justice of the peace and hide-inspector, and as he has endeavored to enforce the law delegated to him doubtless accounts for his death.

During the month of February, I visited all outposts of the garrison, and I have no reason to change my views as to the manner of assuring security to life and property in the territory adjacent to the Rio Grande.

To do so will require an armed force; whether furnished by the State or Army, this armed force should have authority to enforce such regulations as may be deemed necessary outside of the towns, to preserve good order and protect the country from marauding bands. Certain points on the river should be designated as crossings, and men and stock should be allowed passage only in daylight; and any attempt to pass otherwise should be held as a violation of rules, and evidence of evil intent.

I would respectfully invite attention to the fact mentioned in Mr. Avery's letter, evidence that the State of Tamaulipas consider the residents of the Solesis and Gruilla ranches, citizens of Mexico. Trivial as the circumstance may seem at present, grave events might grow out of the case. The absurd ignorance of the authorities of the State of Tamaulipas extending its laws beyond any first-class power in existence; stretching its municipal authority beyond a foreign boundary; summoning by its local magistrates its citizens, who have acquired the right of domicile in foreign country, to appear before its tribunals, not for crimes committed by the citizen in violation of its own laws, but to obtain evidence to frame an indictment against the armed authority of a neighboring power, shows that they believe that they still have jurisdiction on this side. The people of the ranches mentioned are Mexicans, and few have declared their intention of becoming American citizens. In this precinct there are nearly a thousand families with eleven registered voters, five of whom are entitled to vote.

I think the necessary arrangements are already made to drive out these marauders, and probably within a week they will all be out of the country. If this band in and about the Solesis, Diez, and Grullia ranches are not over the river by to-morrow, they will be driven out.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWARD HATCH,

Colonel Ninth Cavalry, Commanding.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,

Department of Texas, San Antonio, Tex.

[Indorsements.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,

San Antonio, Tex., March 23, 1875.

A true copy.

Respectfully forwarded to the assistant adjutant general, Military Division of the Missouri, for the information of the Lieutenant-General, commanding.

J. H. TAYLOR,

*Assistant Adjutant-General, in the absence
of the Brigadier-General Commanding.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION MISSOURI,

Chicago, March 31, 1875.

Respectfully forwarded through headquarters of the Army.

One would infer from this report that the channel of the Rio Grande has changed, and that the people who were once in Mexico are now transferred to the American side of the line, and, from their ignorance, it is hard for them to realize their changed condition.

The report does not go sufficiently into these details of the troubles to enable me to express a decided opinion on the case.

P. H. SHERIDAN,

Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

EDINBURGH, TEX., *March 1, 1875.*

SIR: On the evening of the 27th ultimo, about 7 p. m., the sheriff of this county applied to me for a detachment of men to proceed to the ranch of Fulton, about nine miles below here, a Mexican having just come in and reported that he had seen men firing and running in and around his house and store. I immediately saddled up, and, with fourteen men, accompanied the sheriff. Arriving at Fulton about 8.45, we found a group of frightened Mexicans, who reported that six men (Mexicans) had attacked the store about dark, killing Mr. Fulton and his assistant, a Mexican. The body of the clerk was lying just at the door, shot through the head, and Fulton's body about two hundred yards distant, also shot through the head. He had evidently run from the store, where he had had a struggle with the robbers, from one of which he had seized the pistol and wounded one. They robbed his person, and, with their wounded comrade, crossed the river near the ranch. It is not known how much money was taken; a small sum was found in the drawers of the counter, which was probably forgotten in their haste.

It is the general impression that one or more of Fulton's employés were accessories, as there were seven or eight men in and around the premises at the time of the attack, who tell very contradictory stories, although all of them deny all knowledge of the perpetrators. I placed a detachment of one non-commissioned officer and six privates at the disposition of the sheriff, to assist in taking care of the murdered man's goods. I also offered him as many men as he might require to assist him in making arrests.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRANCIS MOORE,
Captain Ninth Cavalry, Commanding.

The POST-ADJUTANT, *Ringgold Barracks, Texas.*

CAMP, COMPANY C, NINTH CAVALRY,
Roma, Tex., March 1, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to report that during the month of February, 1875, Company C, Ninth Cavalry, performed the usual scouting and patrol duties assigned to it.

The following scouts were made during the month: Captain Beyer, Ninth Cavalry, with two sergeants, two corporals, one trumpeter, one blacksmith, and seventeen privates, left this camp on the morning of February 10, 1875, on a scout through the following counties or portions of same: Starr, Zapata, Duval, and Webb, returning to Roma, Tex., February 21, 1875. Distance marched, about 300 miles.

Patrols were frequently sent out during the month, who patrolled the Rio Grande between here and Carizo.

No report of any cattle-stealing or of depredations committed have reached me.

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

C. D. BEYER.

Captain Ninth Cavalry, Commanding Company C.

The POST-ADJUTANT, *Ringgold Barracks, Texas.*

CAMP COMPANY C, NINTH CAVALRY,
Roma, Tex., March 4, 1875.

SIR: Referring to your letter dated headquarters Ringgold Barracks, Texas, March 1, 1875, upon the subject, I have the honor to report that I have good grounds to believe that there are parties living at the following-named ranches, fronting on the river, viz, Alamo, Casa Blanco, Los Arrieroz, Saluenuio, Cleapenio, Lapinis, Laclee, Clarenio, and Tapozan, who are engaged in cattle-stealing as well as hide-peeling, and that they are aided and abetted by the inhabitants of the above-named ranches. I am further convinced that all inhabitants of ranches along the river are cognizant of the movements of cattle-thieves, and of the time and place when and where stolen stock is crossed into Mexico.

I have no doubt but that there are some rancheros who would inform the proper authorities relative to the movements of cattle-thieves, and are only deterred from doing so on account of the danger they would run of having their ranches destroyed, and perhaps being murdered by the thieves; but, as a general thing, the rancheros care very little about cattle being stolen, as long as the thieves exempt their stock and only steal from Americans living in the neighborhood of the Nueces River and other streams in the interior, as can be easily proven by the large number of cattle running at large between the river and the sand prairies bearing Mexican brands, showing clearly that the thieves do not steal cattle from their Mexican friends living near the river, which they could easily do, but rather go into the interior and steal from Americans, well knowing that, if they stole any stock belonging to Mexicans, they could not easily cross the river with their stolen stock, because the Mexicans would guard the various crossings and fords at or near the various ranches on the river.

I would further state that I have never received any information from the resident or civil authorities that would lead to the arrest or capture of cattle-thieves, but, on the contrary, residents have given the cattle-thieves information relative to the movements of my scouting-parties, thereby frustrating all efforts on our part to put an end to cattle-stealing.

All information I have ever received in regard to movements of cattle-thieves was given me by personal friends of mine who reside in Mier and Guerro, Mexico.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. D. BEYER,

Captain Ninth United States Cavalry.

The POST-ADJUTANT, *Ringgold Barracks, Texas.*

EDINBURGH, TEX., *March 4, 1875.*

SIR: I inclose a communication from the justice of the peace of precinct No. 4, of this county, inclosing another from the justice of the peace of precinct No. 5, on the subject of a raid from Mexico. As the Las Cuevas country is beyond my boundary, I respectfully refer the papers to post headquarters, knowing nothing more of the matter than what the communication contains.

Since the recent murder of the justice of the peace of precinct No. 2, (Fulton,) magistrate and others prominent in this county, are more or less panic-stricken.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRANCIS MOORE,

Captain Ninth Cavalry, Commanding.

The POST-ADJUTANT, *Ringgold Barracks, Texas.*

CAPTAIN MOORE,

Post Commander at Edinburgh:

SIR: I received a communication from justice of the peace, precinct No. 5, which I inclose, so that you may judge what it contains, and act on it. It is a notice that a squad of men (don't say how many) are ready at the Cuevas, supposed to cross on this side.

I remain yours,

J. B. BOURBOI,

Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 4.

[Translation in brief.]

PRECINCT No. 5, *Hidalgo County, Texas.*

To-day at about 8 o'clock I have received news that in the rancho St. Miguel, Los Cuevas, an armed force are there with the purpose of crossing on this side of the Bravo. It is not known for what purpose or what object, nor the number of men, because I have not received the news by writing but verbally; but it is certain and positive.

THEODOCIA MINGUIN.

To JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, *Precinct No. 4.*

COMMERCIAL AGENCY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Camargo, Mexico, March 6, 1875.

SIR: I respectfully submit to you the following information that I have obtained regarding an expedition that is now on foot in this vicinity. My information is derived from persons whom I consider reliable, residents of the ranches below this place, and who are in position to be well posted in the matter, and in imparting the following facts they could have no motive to deceive me.

From what I am told, it appears that, some three weeks ago, Cortina sent confidential letters to his retainers and friends, on whom he can rely, requesting them to be prepared, with arms and horses, for some expedition, of what nature they would be further informed. I am now told that, acting under these instructions from Cortina, many of the rancheros of Las Cuevas and vicinity have already organized, or are preparing to organize, on the Texas side of the river in considerable force. I am told that the appointed place of rendezvous is in a *potrero* in a bend of the river near Diaz ranch, between the Solis ranch and the river.

What may be the ulterior motive for this gathering, I am not able to state. It may be for

the purpose of joining in some revolutionary movement in the State of Tamaulipas as partisans of Cortina, or it may be for the purpose of making a formidable raid on some point in Texas; but the fact that they have their place of meeting on the left bank of the Rio Grande, I consider of sufficient importance to call your attention to the matter.

A resident of La Grulla ranch called on me to-day to translate for him a communication from your headquarters asking a copy of the declaration he had made respecting an outrage committed at his ranch by a party of soldiers. He told me that he and others had been notified to appear at the juzgado to-morrow to give their information respecting the affray between the citizens and soldiers at Solis ranch in January last. This information is called for by the State government. I will endeavor to obtain a copy of the declarations for you.

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

LUCIUS AVERY,
United States Commercial Agent.

General EDWARD HATCH,
Commanding, Ringgold Barracks.

BUENA VISTA, TEX., *March 7, 1875—8 p. m.*

GENERAL: I am informed by one of Mr. Munguia's sons that his father, while hunting a manada of Mares, in the bend at Tortuga, that he was arrested by a band of armed Mexicans from the other side of the river. He was taken before their commander, when he was released upon promise that he would not say anything to anybody. This old man is an old friend of the *chef*: The chief of the band is well known in Rio Grande City. His name is José Maria Garza. Chato, the informer, says that they are good many. I understand that he intends coming up the river, as he has another party of men from the Tepehuaje, that will cross the river as soon as he is near the La Grulla or Salado. I have requested the justice of the peace to find a man so I might send Captain Moore a letter informing him of the news. The Tortuga is about twelve miles from Edinburgh. I have tried several of my Amigos to get upon their horses and go with me, so we might give Mr. Garza and his party an American call; but it is no go, for they say they haven't the proper weapons to call; consequently, I think they should be punished as invaders. I will remain at home all day to-morrow, and if you send any troops, I will be very glad to take them to the spot.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

VOR. MOREL.

General E. HATCH.

P. S.—I have just been to see the justice, and he refused me a man, on the ground that he had no instructions. I have tried to get some one to go to Edinburgh, but they all refuse. Our only hope is from Ringgold Barracks.

Yours, &c.,

VOR. M.

EDINBURGH, TEX., *March 8, 1875.*

SIR: In obedience to your communication of the 1st instant, I have the honor to report that during my present tour of duty here, (since January 15, 1875,) I have no information or knowledge of cattle being crossed into Mexico in the limits of this sub-post, nor have I ever at any time received information from civil officers or others that could lead to the detection of thieves crossing or stealing cattle.

From information derived during my service on the river, I believe that cattle are usually stolen and crossed by residents of Mexico, aided and abetted by friends and allies living along the river on this side. It is hard to believe that cattle could be crossed at many points where it is alleged that they have been crossed without the knowledge, consent, and aid of at least some of the rancheros living there. Even men of good standing do not consider it any business of theirs to give information, so long as the cattle being stolen are not their own or friends', giving as a reason, that the thieves would revenge themselves on the informants.

I fully believe that few or no cattle could be stolen or crossed if the rancheros living along the river were rigorously opposed to it; but so long as they give active and quiescent aid to the thieves, it will take the whole Army of the United States to effectually stop it.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRANCIS MOORE,
Captain Ninth United States Cavalry, Commanding.

The POST-ADJUTANT,
Ringgold Barracks, Texas.

[Postal card.]

JOHN E. MIX,
Rio Grande City, Texas :

SIR: Tell some officer to tell General Hatch to watch Las Cuevas and immediate crossings, as upward of one hundred and fifty thieves have gone up to rendezvous at that place to make a big raid. They intended a dash on Brownsville three nights, but it was frustrated by our vigilance. More anon.

Yours, fraternally,

A. GLARVECKE.

MARCH 8, 1875.

[Extract from letter received from Captain Moore, stationed at Edinburgh.]

EDINBURGH, March 9, 1875.

GENERAL: * * * * *
All quiet here. Sam Russell, from Brazos, has been here for some days, settling affairs of Fulton.

I kept a guard at the place until the goods and property were removed. Everybody left the place as soon as the soldiers were withdrawn.

Rhodes, justice of the peace, precinct 5, Hidalgo County, reports a large body of men opposite him, about nine miles above Santa Maria. He applied to Captain Purrington and myself for troops some days ago. Of course, I could do nothing, as it would take a regiment for all who wanted troops. The trouble is, that the scoundrels live in our midst, and when they see a chance to make a haul, send over the river for a few friends, who come over to rob and kill; but I have no faith in any large parties.

* * * * *
F. MOORE,
Captain Ninth Cavalry.

APPENDIX A, No. 5.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, La., March 30, 1875.

Lieutenant-General SHERIDAN,
Commanding Military Division of the Missouri, Chicago, Ill.:

The following telegram has been received from Colonel Potter, at Brownsville, Tex.:

MARCH 29, 1875.

Brig. Gen. C. C. AUGUR,
Commanding Department of the Gulf, New Orleans, La.:

There are many reports of a raid on the ranches in the vicinity of Corpus Christi, and of a threatened attack on Corpus Christi. Some ranches have doubtless been robbed and burned, some people killed, and some taken prisoners. The prisoners are reported to have escaped. These marauders have been driven from the vicinity of Corpus by the citizens, and at last accounts were retreating, with the citizens in pursuit. I have sent all my mounted force to intercept the robbers. General Hatch has sent troops for same purpose.

Many depredations have been committed along the river above this point of late, and several persons have been killed. I believe these robbers are Mexicans, and that the most of them are from the other side of the river.

There are probably several parties out for stealing cattle and robbing ranches. No reliable information as to numbers. Will inform you if I learn anything more definite.

J. H. POTTER,
Colonel Twenty-Fourth Infantry, Commanding.

The above telegram came in response to one from me desiring to know if the telegrams in the paper referring to this invasion were true. There appears to be sufficient truth in them to show this to be the most serious raid made by Mexicans into our territory for many years.

You know as well as I that the Mexican federal government has no control of affairs in the Rio Grande frontiers, and is powerless, if so

disposed, to restrain these raiders, some of whom are doubtless most of the time residents on our side of the river, and in case of arrest, could easily prove themselves to be good and quiet American citizens, and could cause the officers arresting them to be in turn arrested by the civil authorities for false imprisonment, as is frequently done.

It is not necessary, however, to say anything about the condition of the frontiers to you, who have been so long familiar with it.

Colonel Potter has one company of cavalry; Colonel Hatch has five; and were it not that the residents on this side are mostly Mexicans, and in sympathy with the raiders, and keep them informed of the whereabouts of the troops, they might accomplish something.

They may do so as it is, though it will be under great difficulties.

C. C. AUGUR,

Brigadier-General, Commanding.

APPENDIX A, No. 6.

[Telegram.]

AUSTIN, TEX., *March 30, 1875.*

His Excellency U. S. GRANT,
President United States :

SIR: The depredations of organized bands of robbers from the republic of Mexico have of late increased in frequency and atrocity to an extent which threatens the depopulation of the Lower Rio Grande country. The alarm in the country between the Nueces and Rio Grande consequent upon these raids, in which our people are ruthlessly murdered and their property forcibly taken by the foreign desperadoes, is wide-spread, and unless relieved by some assurances of protection, must result in a general break-up of the settlements. On the 26th of this month a large party of these robbers penetrated the interior as far as within eighteen miles of Corpus Christi, robbing stores and ranches, and murdering and capturing citizens, and capturing and destroying United States mails. I appeal to your Excellency for protection for the people of that country against these invasions of outlaws from Mexico, since they have been of almost weekly occurrence for several months past, and are increasing in force and boldness.

The citizens of that country have been compelled for the most part to move to the towns for protection, and no security exists outside of these corporations for life or property, and the people in the towns even hold themselves in constant readiness for defense.

I trust that your Excellency will deem it proper to give security to the people on the Rio Grande border in view of the assurance I now give you that an extreme necessity exists for it.

Very respectfully,

RICHARD COKE,
Governor of Texas.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, March 31, 1875.

The GOVERNOR of Texas :

The President being absent, your telegram has been sent to me. Orders will be given to the military authorities to take immediate steps toward the protection of the people of Texas on the Mexican frontier.

WM. W. BELKNAP,
Secretary of War.

[Telegram.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,
 ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
 Washington, March 31, 1875.

General W. T. SHERMAN,
Commanding United States Army, Saint Louis, Mo.:

The following telegram from the governor of Texas to the President, who is temporarily absent, is communicated to you by direction of the Secretary of War, who desires that all available means be used to afford protection to the settlers:

[Here follows telegram, copy of which is on the two preceding pages.]
 On the President's return, further measures will be taken.
 Please acknowledge receipt.

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Adjutant-General

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,
 Saint Louis, Mo., April 4, 1875.

General W. W. BELKNAP,
Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.:

Dispatch of March 31 received when I was at Fort Leavenworth. I regard recent events on the Texas frontier simply as an aggravated case of occurrences in that quarter of long existence. The troops on that frontier can only help the civil sheriffs, and by papers mailed to-day you will see that General Ed. Hatch, of the Ninth Cavalry, is doing all the case admits of. I think the department commander, General Ord, ought to be at San Antonio, but not knowing his orders, will not hurry him.

W. T. SHERMAN,
General.

APPENDIX A, No. 7.

The following telegram was placed in the hands of the Secretary of War by the Secretary of the Treasury April 1, 1875:

UNITED STATES CUSTOM-HOUSE,
 Corpus Christi, Tex., March 31, 1875.

B. H. BRISTOW,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.:

United States post-office, Nueces town, twelve miles from here, robbed and burned; three men shot therein and in the neighborhood on the 26th, by a party of marauders from Mexico. Citizens and families at ranches and on public roads within four miles of and beyond there captured, robbed, and cruelly abused by same party. Whole country under arms. It is felt that citizens and their helpless families are at mercy of outlaws. Large armed parties reported to have crossed from Mexico at various points on Rio Grande in this and Brazos Santiago districts. Collector Ploto left here 25th on inspecting and collecting trip to the Rio Grande.

J. W. WARD,
Special Deputy in Charge.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, April 10, 1875.

The Hon. the SECRETARY OF STATE :

SIR: I have the honor to transmit for your information copy of a telegram of J. W. Ward, special deputy collector of customs at Corpus Christi, Tex., dated 31st ultimo, to the Secretary of the Treasury, reporting robbery and burning of post-office at Nueces by marauders from Mexico.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. W. BELKNAP,
Secretary of War.

APPENDIX A, No. 8.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,
Saint Louis, Mo., April 20, 1875.

Hon. W. W. BELKNAP,
Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.:

A dispatch just received via Chicago, signed by Lieutenant Custer, Twenty-fourth Infantry, collector of customs, and sheriff of Corpus Christi County, Texas, states that "the country between Corpus Christi and the Rio Grande is in a state of confusion and war, and is full of armed bands of Mexicans, robbing and devastating the whole section. Five ranches have been burned, and several people killed and wounded. Wires cut between Corpus Christi and Brownsville. A courier sent from King's ranch brings intelligence that they are surrounded by a large party of Mexicans, and ask for aid."

I have telegraphed division headquarters that "the duty of the troops on the Rio Grande frontier is to protect all the officers of the General Government, and, as far as possible, to aid the State authorities in protecting the people against organized bands of marauders from any quarter, but the State authorities should understand that on them rests the duty in the first instance and that we only assist them. Should it amount to a hostile invasion from Mexico, the President may order more troops and a more positive course of action."

It is doubtful whether these bands of thieves and marauders come wholly from Mexico, and whether it amounts to an invasion. The application should come from the governor of Texas. The Ninth Cavalry is on the frontier and the Tenth further north, but in the department and available, and the Tenth, Eleventh, Twenty-fourth, and Twenty-fifth Infantry.

If the State authorities will do their whole duty, these troops appear to me all-sufficient.

W. T. SHERMAN,
General.

APPENDIX A, No. 9.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, STATE OF TEXAS,
Austin, April 24, 1875.

GENERAL: Your dispatch of the 20th came during my absence from the capital. I have to say in reply that I will, to the extent

that I have the power, co-operate most heartily with you in an effort to give protection and peace to the people of the Rio Grande border.

Your suggestion, that I direct civil officers authorized to make arrests to accompany your mounted troops on duty in that country, I have no authority or power to accede to. Justices of the peace and sheriffs or their deputies would be necessary for the issuance and execution of warrants of arrest. These are local officers, who have authority only within the territorial limits of their respective counties, and whose duties are defined by law. They are not subject to the orders of the governor or under his control. I will request these and all other officers of the State government to use all their legal authority in aid of the efforts of your troops to bring to punishment the marauders who have been, and are now, invading Texas from Mexico. This is all that I can do in that direction. The tenor of the dispatch of the General of the Army to you, embodied in yours to me, indicates that the State authorities are expected to deal with these troubles in the first instance, to be *aided* when necessary by the troops under your command. I cannot but believe that this view results from want of information of the actual condition of affairs on the Rio Grande. The country between the Rio Grande and Nueces has been invaded and plundered, and many of the citizens killed, by organized bands of marauders from Mexico. Of this there is no doubt or question. I am in daily receipt of information of the most atrocious outrages committed in that country by these bandits. There is no domestic disturbance there. The courts are being held and the law administered as usual, except when interfered with by the invaders from Mexico.

The civil officers need no aid, and none is asked for in executing the laws of the State among the people of the State, but that country has in many parts been actually depopulated. The people have left their ranches and gone to the towns for protection. Many have been killed and a large amount of property has been burned and otherwise destroyed, and much has been taken and carried into Mexico. No security exists there for life or property, and the people are imploring assistance and protection. All this is the work of marauders from Mexico, not a casual, exceptional, or rare condition, but the climax of the series of outrages that have been for years past perpetrated on that country by the same people, which have grown bolder each year, until they have become intolerable, and must be checked or the country abandoned to these foreign robbers. The general government of Mexico acknowledges its impotence to restrain these invasions, while it is believed to be susceptible of proof that the authorities of some of the States of the republic instigate and approve them.

It does seem to me that these circumstances clearly distinguish the question here from that presented in an isolated and casual case of an unauthorized foray of foreign marauders, whom the State should deal with for an infraction of the laws, and mark it as one proper to be dealt with by the National Government with energy and vigor. To throw upon Texas the burden of defending a national boundary against such constant, persistent, and open attacks, while she is contributing her quota to the support of the Army and Government of the United States, would surely be unjust, while, to my mind, a clear deprivation of her constitutional right to be defended at the expense of the common Government. She is already maintaining at heavy expense two companies of mounted men on the Lower Rio Grande, but the great extent of the line to be guarded and the character of attack to be met demands much more extensive and comprehensive means and measures,

besides resources beyond the ability of the State to command. The expense of assisting in the defense of the Indian frontier which the State has been compelled to incur is very onerous, and if to this is to be added that of protecting the Mexican frontier, the burden will be greater than the State can bear.

If the condition of affairs on the Rio Grande were properly understood at Washington, I do not believe that any difference of opinion would exist between the authorities there and the government of Texas as to where the burden of protecting the people of the Rio Grande border should rest. I hope it will yet be properly understood and acted on there. In the mean time I tender to you, general, all that is within the power of the State government to do, in co-operation with the efforts of the United States forces under your command, in procuring peace and a feeling of security for the people of the Rio Grande country.

I would be pleased to be informed by you from time to time of such facts on this general subject in connection with the movements of your troops as you may be at liberty to communicate and as might be important for me to know.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

RICHD. COKE,
Governor of Texas.

General E. O. C. ORD,
San Antonio, Tex.

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, Tex., April 28, 1875.

A true copy, respectfully forwarded through headquarters Military Division of the Missouri, for the information of the General Commanding Army of the United States.

E. O. C. ORD,
Brigadier-General U. S. A., Commanding.

[Second indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
Chicago, May 4, 1875.

Respectfully forwarded to the headquarters of the Army.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

[Third indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Saint Louis, May 6, 1875.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War, asking instructions if those heretofore in force are not in accordance with law and the practice of the National Government.

If the marauders on the Texas frontier be, as generally supposed, mere horse-thieves, it is the duty of the State authorities to arrest, try, and punish them as violators of the State laws, and the General Government is not bound to do anything more than assist. If these marauders come from Mexico in such force and numbers as to amount to war and invasion, then it falls to the duty of the General Government to protect the State against invasion.

I regard this case to fall under the first category named, or at most is a mixed case, calling for investigation and prudent conduct on the part of the authorities, both State and national.

W. T. SHERMAN,
General.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, May 12, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, for your information, copy of communication from the governor of Texas, with reference to affairs on the Rio Grande frontier, forwarded to the Department on the 6th instant, by General Sherman.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. W. BELKNAP,
Secretary of War.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF STATE.

APPENDIX A, No. 10.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, STATE OF TEXAS,
Austin, May 29, 1875.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It again becomes my duty to call your attention to the extraordinary condition of affairs in that portion of the territory of this State bordering the Rio Grande River, and extending back for the most part to the river Nueces. The invasion of that country by predatory bands from the republic of Mexico, to which your attention was called by my communication of March 30, continues unabated, and is of a character to be no longer borne. Citizens are being murdered, thousands of cattle being driven across the Rio Grande, the roads are infested with bands of robbers, ranches and plantations are abandoned, the owners seeking safety in flight to the towns, and on account of the terror in the country, and the absence of any security for life or property, revenue-officers of the State are unable to assess or collect taxes.

The country must be defended, or our people and jurisdiction be left to the mercy of foreign robbers. The forays which have devastated and are daily desolating that country, have been for a year past and are now growing bolder in execution and more extensive in their proportions, and give abundant evidence that they are the manifestation of an organized and settled purpose to overrun that country. General Cortina, a notorious Mexican bandit, who, on a former occasion, invaded that country with a large force, is believed to be one of the principal instigators of the present war on that border. I have two companies of State troops on duty in that country, but they, as well as the forces of the United States, are powerless as long as the Rio Grande River is an inviolable line, beyond which the invaders cannot be pursued. There is, in my judgment, no efficient mode of defending the Texas border other than through retaliatory measures on the territory and people west of the Rio Grande. The information I give you as to the deplorable condition of that country, and the imminence of a sanguinary border-war, is corroborated fully by General Ord, in his correspondence with me. Necessity for prompt action exists, and must be taken by the State authorities unless the arm of the General Government is interposed in our defense. I respectfully but earnestly ask that relief be

given, and the State authorities relieved of the responsibility of dealing with this subject, which pertains properly to the national administration.

I invite the attention of your Excellency to the inclosed extract from a letter written by myself on this subject to General Ord, commanding in this department, which gives my views more in detail.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

RICH'D COKE,
Governor.

His Excellency U. S. GRANT,
Washington, D. C.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, STATE OF TEXAS,
Austin, May 24, 1875.

GENERAL: *

* Referring to yours of the 15th I have to say that, on the 30th day of March last, I communicated to the President the condition of the country between the Rio Grande and Nueces Rivers, in as strong terms as I could command, and urged the necessity for immediate relief. I gave him full information of the continued invasions from Mexico, which then, as now, destroyed all security for life or property in that country. I will immediately communicate again to him the same facts. I differ, however, somewhat with you as to the proper remedy for this state of affairs. I do not believe that a remedy for the evils this country labors under is to be found in a suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus*, or of the civil laws, if authority existed in any executive officer to order such suspension.

The prime cause of the disturbed condition of the Rio Grande border is the continuous invasion, by lawless men from Mexico, of that country. The Mexican population on this side of the Rio Grande are usually a tractable, docile people, perfectly submissive to lawful authority, whether civil or military; that has always been their history. There are a great many most excellent citizens among them, indeed the great majority of them are of that character. If lawless men from Mexico, who invade that country, were kept out, the civil authorities would have no difficulty in dealing with law-breakers among the citizens of Texas of Mexican origin. These invasions have been occurring so regularly, have been so bold, and have been marked with such impunity, that the Texas Mexicans, who are simple people—many of them very ignorant—peculiarly exposed as they are to the depredations of these robbers, have been led to doubt the ability of our Government to give them protection, and through ignorance and fear for the safety of themselves and property, rather than sympathy for the marauders, have in some instances given them aid and comfort. If assured of protection against the vengeance of these bandits, they are well disposed and loyal to our Government, and will perform their part in expelling them from the country. I do not believe that there is any necessity for putting these people under martial law, or for suspending the writ of *habeas corpus*, but think that they should be relieved of the domination of invaders from Mexico by holding the people and territory on the west side of the Rio Grande responsible. If this were done, and the power of the Government manifested in behalf of the people on this side of the river, the work would be accomplished, and, in my judgment, *nothing less* will do it. Impunity has emboldened the invaders, and has subjugated a large portion of the Mexican population on this side to passive acquiescence in their raids. If terror were stricken into the invaders, and their insignificance demonstrated by prompt action on the part of our Government, the Mexican citizens on this side would be relieved of their fears, and feeling assured of the ability as well as the will of the Government to protect them, would need no other stimulus to a discharge of their duties as citizens. No force that the United States Government will probably keep on the Rio Grande can prevent the invasions which disturb that country. Peace cannot be secured by confining the operations of troops to this side of the river. As long as the west bank of the river is an inviolable sanctuary for the marauders they will depredate on us as heretofore. There is no stipulation in the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo which entitles us to demand the delivery of Mexican citizens who come upon our territory and commit offenses. They may murder and rob at pleasure, and be perfectly safe if they can cross the Rio Grande before pursuers can catch them. The river is fordable almost anywhere above Brownsville, and the country is peculiarly favorable for predatory operations. Whenever Texas is successfully defended against the invaders it must be done through retaliatory measures upon the people and territory west of the Rio Grande. In my judgment, as long as the Mexican government is unable or unwilling to control her lawless population there is no other mode of defense. I have sent General Steele, an officer of intelligence and discretion, to the Rio Grande to investigate and report upon the condition of that country, and the causes of the disturbances there, and the best means of

quieting them and producing a feeling of security among the people. I instructed him to pass through San Antonio and confer with you on the subject.

I would be much pleased to see you here *en route* north. I desire sincerely to act in full harmony with you in whatever is done for the restoration of peace on the Rio Grande, and believe that a personal interview having that object in view will result advantageously. A meeting of the board of directors of the State Agricultural and Mechanical College, of which the governor is president, was some time ago ordered at Bryan on the 1st of June. I will leave Austin on the last day of this month to attend that meeting, to be absent until the 6th or 7th proximo. I speak of this because you express the intention to pass through Austin about the 1st of June, and a desire to see me, and with the hope that your business or convenience will permit an accommodation of your movements to the necessity which constrains my absence at the time indicated, as I desire very much to confer with you.

Very respectfully,

RICH'D COKE, *Governor.*

General E. O. C. ORD.

Brigadier-General U. S. A., Commanding Department of Texas, San Antonio, Tex.

APPENDIX A, No. 11.

CHICAGO, ILL., June 3, 1875.

COLONEL: Before leaving San Antonio, Tex., I received a letter, dated May 24, from the governor, Richard Coke, in which he argued that, as a matter of policy, propriety, and ability, it devolved on the General Government to at once take steps to check the invasion of the country on the Lower Rio Grande, by Mexican marauders, in armed bands, who were plundering the country, murdering inhabitants—Americans—and driving peaceable citizens into the towns; and the governor states, in his letter, that there is no law, State or Federal, authorizing him to call out a force to repel the invasion, and he does not see how he can do it.

About the time his letter was dated, his adjutant-general passed through San Antonio, *en route* to the frontier, consulted me, and then went on to examine into the extent and character of the invasion, and since my arrival here I have received the following dispatch:

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., May 29, 1875.

Brig. Gen. E. O. C. ORD.

Care Assistant Adjutant-General, Military Division, of the Missouri, Chicago, Ill.

The following telegram was received to-day, from Gov. R. Coke, State of Texas:

“Your dispatch received. I have written the President to-day, if the Federal Government does not act promptly in defense of Rio Grande border, the State authorities must, and will with such force as is adequate to its protection, certainly not less one thousand men, and most probably more.”

J. H. TAYLOR,

Assistant Adjutant General.

I learned from post-commander at Ringgold Barracks, on the 28th, that the State troops had replaced a company of the Ninth Cavalry, which I had called in from Edinburgh, and that they would probably, under orders they had received from the governor, cross the river in pursuit of marauders. As the force of State or United States troops now there is entirely too small to warrant its crossing, and that of the Mexican bandits, I am informed by the military commanders there and by Colonel Davis, inspector-general, are able to muster probably two thousand well-armed men on their side of the river, and about a thousand on the side that we used to claim, all ready to assemble on short notice, such crossing would probably be disastrous. I therefore recommend that a regiment of white cavalry be at once placed at my disposal for service on the lower river, and, if practicable, a light-draught iron clad be sent to the Brazos, by the Navy Department, provided with a sufficient number of steam-launches to patrol the river Rio Grande. The

latter measure would, I am informed by intelligent gentlemen living on the river, be better than a regiment of cavalry to stop the marauding; it could show continually where parties had recently crossed into American territory, or might be crossing, and as the telegraph is being laid on the banks, cavalry stationed along the river (an exceedingly crooked one) could get notice and proceed to the point and take the trail. As it is now, these bands can, and do, assemble at points on the east bank of the river, decided to be Mexican territory, and, under cover of the dense chaparral covering the country, can be well in the interior before cavalry could get on their trail, though the latter may have patrols out nightly and be within a few miles of the crossing.

I will add that the civil and military authorities all agree in their statements that the country on the east bank of the river, outside of the towns, is virtually in the hands of these marauders; that no civil process can be served on them or the inhabitants (their confederates) where the civil officer is not accompanied by a strong force; that the few Americans left on the lower river are in daily dread of being plundered and murdered; that they write to me, in the language of Deputy-Collector Box, of Edinburgh, "In fact we, the Americans living in this county, live all the time in dread. It has become so common for the bandits to cross the river and murder Americans, that we think it is only a question of time as to our lives."

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

E. O. C. ORD,

Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Col. R. C. DRUM,

Assistant Adjutant-General U. S. A.,

Headquarters Military Division of the Missouri,

Chicago, Ill.

APPENDIX A, No. 12.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,

Saint Louis, Mo., June 14, 1875.

The ADJUTANT-GENERAL UNITED STATES ARMY,

Washington, D. C. :

Telegram of 12th instant through proper channels from headquarters Department of Texas states that Captain McNally, commanding company of Texas troops, had an engagement June 12 near Palo Alto, about fourteen miles from Fort Brown, with Mexican cattle-thieves, killing twelve of them and losing one killed and two wounded. Bodies of killed carried into the post and recognized as belonging to Matamoros.

Report says party crossed to rescue that attacked by Captain McNally, and a company sent from Brown to cut it off. Colonel Potter has been called on to report if he needs more troops. Should he need them, orders have been given to furnish. General Ord says infantry may be needed from New Orleans if Cortina crosses. General Sheridan advises the Government to send a vessel of war to mouth of Rio Grande, and also a good swift tug to patrol the Rio Grande. Thinks there is a steam-tug at Savannah, or launch at New Orleans which might answer for the latter.

In absence of General Sherman,

WM. D. WHIPPLE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

APPENDIX A, No. 13.

[Telegram, dated Washington, D. C., June 15, 1875. Received at West Point, N. Y.]

General W. W. BELKNAP,
Secretary of War :

Colonel Potter, at Fort Brown, telegraphs through Colonel Taylor, at San Antonio, dated yesterday, that Cortina is arming followers and threatens to revenge those killed by McNally's company. Colonel Potter wants more troops in obedience to my instructions. Colonel Taylor has ordered to Brown three more companies cavalry and one of infantry, increasing his garrison to six companies of infantry and five of cavalry, enough, unless as may be expected, the Texas troops drive the Mexican rancheros from our side of the river to Cortina, who will be tempted to use them in a border war. As soon as I can learn about the steam-launches, shall start for Texas.

E. O. C. ORD,
Brigadier-General.

APPENDIX A, No. 14.

[Telegram.]

CHICAGO, June 16, 1875.

General W. T. SHERMAN, *Saint Louis, Mo. :*

The seemingly well-authenticated fear that Cortina may organize a force to retaliate on account of the just punishment administered a few days ago to the Mexican band of marauders has caused General Ord to increase the garrison at Fort Brown by three companies of cavalry and one of infantry. This, it is thought, will be enough to meet all the wants of the service in and about Matamoras; but the naval vessels and steam-tug should be sent as heretofore requested.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant General.

[Telegram.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, June 16, 1875.

Lient. Gen. P. H. SHERIDAN, *Chicago, Ill. :*

The Secretary of War directs me to inform you that the following letter has been addressed—but still held under advisement—to the Secretary of the Navy :

The President will be pleased to have you station one or two naval vessels at or near the mouth of the Rio Grande River, Texas, and to instruct their commanding officers to cooperate with and assist the United States and State troops by patrolling the river to the head of navigation, to prevent marauding bands crossing from or recrossing to Mexico. Steam-launches would probably perform the best service on the river.

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Adjutant-General.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
Chicago, Ill., June 16, 1875.

General E. D. TOWNSEND,
Washington, D. C.:

There is a well-founded fear that Cortina may retaliate for the just punishment administered a few days ago on a band of Mexican robbers; and, although the garrison at Fort Brown has been increased by three companies of cavalry and one of infantry, still I would recommend that the President make his conditional order about naval vessels and a tug to the Rio Grande a positive one.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
Chicago, Ill., June 16, 1875.

H. T. CROSBY,
Chief Clerk War Department, Washington, D. C.:

I still have some doubts if Cortina will retaliate, but I believe it would be good judgment to send the naval vessels and the tug at Savannah to the Rio Grande. Three companies of cavalry and one of infantry have been ordered to Fort Brown.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, June 17, 1875.

Lieut. Gen. P. H. SHERIDAN,
Chicago, Ill.:

Telegram received. It is now learned that the President's instructions for stationing naval vessels on Rio Grande have already been issued, being sent by him direct to Navy Department.

Secretary of War has also requested the President to direct the sending of a tug to the Rio Grande from Savannah or New Orleans. General Ord, now here, has telegraphed this information to his headquarters with necessary instructions.

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Adjutant-General.

APPENDIX A, No. 15.

HEADQUARTERS FORT BROWN, TEXAS,
June 19, 1875.

SIR: I inclose herewith the affidavits of Mr. O'Shaughnessy, Mr. Asheim, Mr. Sandavol, and Mr. Rock; also, certificate of Mr. Smith,
H. Mis. 144—6

inspector of hides and animals, all of which documents bear on the question of cattle-stealing, murders, and marauding generally in this portion. I invite your attention especially to the affidavits of Mr. O'Shaughnessy and of Mr. Rock.

The body of Mr. Mahan was found much mutilated, and was buried by Mr. Stillman, justice of the peace for Cameron County. (See copy of his letter inclosed.) He was doubtless murdered by the party that Captain McNally destroyed.

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

J. H. POTTER,

Colonel Twenty-fourth Infantry, Commanding Post.

The ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
Department of Texas, San Antonio, Texas.

A true copy:

PLACIDUS ORD,

First Lieutenant Nineteenth Infantry, and Aid-de-Camp.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Eastern District of Texas:

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority, Joseph P. O'Shaughnessy, who, being sworn, says:

My name is Joseph P. O'Shaughnessy; I live in Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas; I am marshal of the city of Brownsville.

On Saturday, June 12, 1875, I went with a detachment of United States cavalry to the Palo Alto prairie, about twelve miles northeast from Brownsville, for the purpose of collecting the dead bodies of Mexican raiders, which had fallen that day in a fight with captain McNally's command, Texas State troops. He arrived on the battle-ground after 12 o'clock Sunday morning. We found and placed in two wagons the bodies of eight dead Mexicans, which were transported to Brownsville. These were all we could find, though not all that were killed.

One of the Mexicans we picked up and placed in one of said wagons had on a new suit of clothes—made of linen material—blue and gray in color. I remarked at the time "There is a suit of cheap clothing which has been sold by Solomon Asheim." The corpse on which this clothing was found appeared to be of a man who was a little taller than William F. Mahan, who is generally called Mc, or McMahan. Their bodies were about the same size. I know Mahan well; we served together on the Brownsville police force.

I know Mahan was killed several days before said fight by report. It is a fact well and notoriously known to the people of Cameron County.

JOS. P. O'SHAUGHNESSY.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on the 16th day of June, A. D. 1875.:

[SEAL.]

F. J. PARKER,

*Clerk United States Circuit Court,
Eastern District of Texas, at Brownsville.*

A true copy:

HELENUS DODT,

*First Lieutenant and Adjutant Twenty-fourth Infantry,
Post Adjutant, Fort Brown, Texas.*

A true copy:

PLACIDUS ORD,

First Lieutenant Nineteenth Infantry, Aid-de-Camp.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Eastern District of Texas:

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority, Solomon Asheim, who, being sworn, says:

My name is Solomon Asheim; I live in Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas; I am engaged in selling merchandise—dry goods, ready-made clothing, etc. I am also treasurer of the county of Cameron. On the 6th of June, 1875, I sold to William McMahan, a school-teacher, located in the precinct of Cornelius Steilman, esq., a coat and pants, the same

being linen, blue in color, interlined with gray. I have not at any time sold any such clothing to a Mexican. Said clothing is sold at \$3 per suit, and has been exhibited at my store on account of its cheapness. It attracted considerable attention and was easily distinguishable from the other clothing.

At the same time I paid McMahan a month's salary as school-teacher, to wit, fifty dollars and a few cents over, in United States currency. He exchanged said currency for specie, and told me he would carry a portion of it into the country to pay his board. I heard he left Brownsville the next morning, and very soon after news came that he had been killed on his way to his school. McMahan was an inoffensive and harmless man. He was married to a Mexican girl; they had two small children.

SOLOMON ASHEIM,

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16th day of June, A. D. 1875.

[SEAL.]

F. J. PARKER,

Clerk United States Circuit Court Eastern District of Texas.

A true copy:

HELENUS DÖBDT,

*First Lieutenant and Adjutant Twenty-fourth Infantry,
Post Adjutant Fort Brown, Texas.*

A true copy:

PLACIDUS ORD,

First Lieutenant Nineteenth Infantry, Aid-de-Camp.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Eastern District of Texas:

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority, Jesus Sandobal, who, being duly sworn, says:

My name is Jesus Sandobal. I live at the ranch of Estero Grande, fifteen miles above Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas. I have lived in what is now Cameron County since 1846. I was in the employ of the Quartermaster's Department of the United States when the battle of Palo Alto was fought, and served until the end of that war; and since the conclusion of peace I have lived in Cameron County, and nowhere else. Raiding upon the people of Texas by bands of armed Mexicans commenced in the year 1859, when Juan N. Cortina entered Brownsville at the head of an armed party of Mexicans and committed murders and other outrages. This occurred on the morning of September 23. Since that date raids of a similar character have been made upon the people of Texas by armed Mexicans on various occasions, and they have been continued up to date. After the conclusion of the civil war in this country, bands of raiders were organized in Mexico to invade the territory of the United States. They murdered many citizens of Texas, robbed the people of that State at will, and carried the stolen property into Mexico and sold it.

This was done with the knowledge and consent of the Mexican authorities. The appointment of an encargado or magistrate at each ranch, whose duty it is to preserve order, to protect citizens of Mexico in the enjoyment of their rights, to arrest offenders, to prevent stolen goods from being carried across the Rio Grande, and to report everything of interest to his superior. The fact that armed bodies of men, called the rural police, act under the orders of the encargado, and aid him when required in the discharge of his duties, gives that official extraordinary powers.

Now, with these officers and these organizations it would be impossible for a body of armed men to leave Mexico without the knowledge of the authorities; and for such a body to return from Texas with droves of stolen horses and cattle without the knowledge of the authorities is not within the range of possibility. In Matamoras there is a registrar of brands, whose duty it is to record the brand of every horse or cow brought within that jurisdiction. Said officer is cognizant of the sale of all animals within his jurisdiction. Besides, the city of Matamoras levies a tax of 25 cents for every horse or cow sold within the corporate limits.

The authorities of that city have been compelled to know of the introduction of animals stolen from the people of Texas. They could not be sold within her limits without the protection of her authorities. I know many cattle, stolen from the people of Texas, have been sold in Matamoras, because I have seen them and knew the brands. I also know that the taxes on said cattle were collected by officers appointed by the city authorities or elected in accordance with the law. I have seen cattle sold in Matamoras, as above stated, having brands of Capt. Richard King, Clarke, Wright, Rabb, and many others, both of Americans and naturalized citizens of the United States.

I have information, derived from trustworthy sources and from personal observation, that similar transactions have taken place in Reynosa, Camargo, Mier, and Guerrero. I

know that the raiding-parties were composed of citizens of Mexico, with few exceptions. The leaders were well known, and they have, on all occasions, carried their plunder into Mexico.

Should a party of Americans commit a robbery in Texas and carry the stolen property into Mexico, they would be arrested and the property taken from them. I do not know of any such occurrence, nor have I heard of any, and I am positive such a thing has not happened. I believe it would be impossible for an armed party of fifty Americans to enter Mexico, murder, rob, and burn houses, remain several days and return to Texas. The organizations before mentioned, the strength of the different ranches in population, the facility for the transmission of news, all go to show the impracticability of such an undertaking.

I am positive no party of Americans have ever crossed the Lower Rio Grande to plunder the people of Mexico since the conclusion of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. I know that men who were confederate soldiers have not robbed people in Texas and carried their stolen property into Mexico, at least on the Lower Rio Grande; and I am sure they have not committed robberies in Mexico and brought the property to this bank.

I have been a peaceable citizen of the United States since 1853; at least, I have voted and held office for that season. I have many enemies in Mexico. They say I am Americanized and consequently criminal—a traitor to Mexico. They have persecuted me, threatened my life, and attempted to assassinate me. For seven months I have not slept in my house. I have slept in the chaparral, and have been a solitary sentinel over my own person. On the 21st day of April of the present year, three armed Mexicans, from beyond the Rio Grande, went to my house and asked for me. They told my wife if she did not tell where I was they would kill her. I was luckily not at home. I am positive that General Juan N. Cortina is implicated in the robberies upon the people of Texas.

On the 1st day of March of this year he was at the ranch of Laguna Redundo, and there received from Capt. Alijas Sanches a drove of cattle, about two hundred in number, which had been stolen in Texas. I know from men of undoubted veracity that General Cortina has many cattle on his ranches which were stolen in Texas and have yet the brands of the rightful owners. Capt. Savas Garcia, of the regular army of Mexico, and formerly of General Cortina's brigade, invaded Texas on various occasions with his company. They had their government arms in their hands. He committed many robberies in Texas, and crossed many cattle into Mexico.

I have seen cattle stolen from Texas at General Cortina's ranch of Magotes with the brand of Captain Garcia upon them.

I think it was in 1873 that General Cortina became enraged at Captain Garcia. He accused him of having sold the largest and best part of a drove of stolen cattle, instead of having turned them over to Cortina. The general spoke of hanging Garcia.

Garcia, in order to appease his offended commander, passed his command over the Rio Grande and went to the ranch of Jardin, where he collected a large number of cattle. A party went out from Brownsville; Garcia heard of them, and made a hasty retreat into Mexico. The American party found a number of cattle with the brands of Captain Garcia freshly burned.

The robberies have continued since the frontier commission was in session. I cannot say how many cattle have been driven into Mexico, but I am positive there is now on hand but 10 per cent. of what was on hand five years since.

The Mexicans say they will drive the Americans and the Americanized Mexicans out of this country or kill them. They claim the country and all the property.

JESUS SANDOBAL.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3d day of May, A. D. 1875.

[SEAL.]

F. J. PARKER,
Clerk Circuit Court United States,
Eastern District of Texas.

A true copy:

HELENUS DODT,

First Lieutenant and Adjutant Twenty-fourth Infantry,
Post-Adjutant, Fort Brown, Texas.

A true copy:

PLACIDUS ORD,

First Lieutenant Nineteenth Infantry,
Aid-de-camp.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Eastern District of Texas:

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority, Herman S. Rock, who, being sworn, says:

My name is Herman S. Rock; I live in Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas; I have been mounted inspector of customs and deputy inspector of hides and animals.

In June, 1871, Capt. D. Lively, myself, and others, went to a ranch about fifteen miles northwest of Brownsville, which, I understand, is called Jardin. We found there more than sixty beeves which had been stolen from various citizens of Texas, which had been freshly branded with the brand of Capt. Savos Garcia, of the Mexican army, as I was then told, and have every reason to believe. Some of those cattle had been crossed into Mexico, a row occurred about dividing them, and a portion of the drove was left on this side. On the 6th of the present month, Sheriff Brown, Lino Saladana, myself, and others went out for the purpose of aiding Captain McNally's command in finding a party of seventeen raiders which had crossed into Texas from Mexico on the night of the 4th instant.

We succeeded in making prisoners of two raiders, and learned the names of the party, to wit: Camilo Lenna, Capt. George Kimenes, Lieut. Pancho Lopes, Manuel Garcia, Juan El Guarachi, Guadalupe Espinosa; Jacinto Ximemas, Cecilio Benevides, Tibutio Fuentes, Casimiro Garcia, Telesforo Diaz, Rafael Salinas, Encarnacion Garcia, José Maria Olguin *alias* Aguja, Guillermo Cavo Cortado, Guadalupe Escuval. The name of one man was not known. It has since been ascertained to have been Dorates de la Garza.

On Saturday, the 12th instant, we overtook the raiders. They halted, formed, and opened fire on us. A running fight ensued, in which all the raiders were either killed or wounded.

The State troops captured about two hundred and sixty beeves. I rode through them and looked at the brands. I am confident the beeves turned over to the inspector of hides and animals of Cameron County, by Captain McNally, are part of the cattle captured on the 12th instant, more than forty of them having been lost. I know that quite all of said beeves belong to citizens and residents of Texas, and some to Mexicans having lands and stock in Texas. I am acquainted with a great many of the owners; know their brands, and their places of residence, and that the beeves above mentioned were stolen from them. Among the horses captured from the raiders, two belonged to Morgan Bavedoz and three to Theodore Garcia, both of Cameron County, and said animals were stolen from owners by the raiders. It is a fact generally conceded and publicly known that all the above-named raiders were in the employ of General Juan N. Cortina, of the Mexican army, or that they were stealing beeves to sell to him.

H. S. ROCK.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this the 17th day of June, A. D. 1875.

[SEAL.]

J. F. PARKER,

Clerk United States Circuit Court,
Eastern District of Texas, at Brownsville.

A true copy:

HELENUS DODD,

First Lieutenant and Adjutant Twenty-fourth Infantry,
Post-Adjutant, Fort Brown, Texas.

A true copy:

PLACIDUS ORD,

First Lieutenant Nineteenth Infantry,
Aide-de-camp.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR OF HIDES AND ANIMALS,
Brownsville, June 17, 1875.

This is to certify that on the 14th day of June, 1875, Captain McNally, of the Texas State troops, turned over to the undersigned authority two hundred and sixteen head of beef-cattle, which had been captured from a party of armed Mexicans, in the county of Cameron, on the 12th instant, by the command of said Captain McNally, and that said cattle were sold for the benefit of whom it may concern.

I further certify that the following is a list of the names of the owners of brands, as far as ascertained, of the residence of owners, the number of cattle lost by each owner, &c., to wit:

- Hale & Parker, of Cameron County, eleven head.
- Richard King, of Nueces County, three head.
- John McAllen, of Hidalgo County, three head.
- Manuel Treviño, (Mexican consul,) one head.
- Mrs. Martha Robb, of Nueces County, five head.
- Telesforo Treviño, of Cameron County, two head.
- Juan N. Cavasos, of Cameron County, three head.
- Damacio Cantee, of Cameron County, four head.
- James Scott, of Nueces County, two head.
- Felipe Longoria, of Cameron County, four head.
- Rosali Hinojosa, of Cameron County, two head.
- Gregorio Hinojosa, of Cameron County, one head.

Henry Scott, of Refugio County, two head.
 L. Latham, of Live Oak County, one head.
 T. H. Clark, of Nueces County, five head.
 Leonardo Fernandez, of Cameron County, one head.
 John Wade, of Nueces County, two head.
 Vicente Torres, of Cameron County, six head.
 Prudencio Hinojosa, of Cameron County, two head.
 B. A. Bennett, of Nueces County, one head.
 Anastasio Cavasos, of Cameron County, two head.
 Seamdino Gutierros, of Cameron County, two head.
 Manuel Ramirez, of Nueces County, two head.
 Salvador Cardenas and family, Hidalgo County, five head.
 Santos Moreno and family, Nueces County, four head.
 Calvin Wright, of Goliad County, two head.
 Matthews & Colman, of Aransas County, three head.
 Hall Brothers, of Nueces County, one head.
 Pedro Cavasos, of Cameron County, one head.
 Sebastian Davila, of Hidalgo County, one head.
 Ventura Cisnero, of Cameron County, one head.
 José D. Garcia, of Cameron County, one head.
 ——— Canteo of Cameron County, two head.
 Estevan Garcia, Camargo, Mexico, owns property in Starr County, Texas, five head.
 The Guerra family of Camargo, Mexico, own land and stock in Starr County, seven head.

I further certify that I have not been able to identify the owners of other brands and their places of residence.

Given under my hand and seal of office at Brownsville on the 17th day of June, 1875.

[SEAL.]

JOHN JAY SMITH,
*Deputy Inspector of Hides and Animals,
 District of Cameron County, Texas.*

A true copy:

HELENUS DODT,
*First Lieutenant and Adjutant, Twenty-fourth Infantry,
 Post-Adjutant, Fort Brown, Texas.*

A true copy:

PLACIDUS ORD,
First Lieutenant Nineteenth Infantry, A. D. C.

LA JANTA, June 13.

DEAR SIR: The body of Mahan was found yesterday near the rancho Mesquite. I went over to-day and saw the remains; not having any interpreter could not hold an inquest. Gathered the remains together and had them buried where found.

Yours, truly,

C. STILLMAN,
Justice Peace, Precinct No. 4, C. C.

HENRY KLAN, Esq.

A true copy:

HELENUS DODT,
*First Lieutenant and Adjutant Twenty-fourth Infantry,
 Post-Adjutant, Fort Brown, Texas.*

A true copy:

PLACIDUS ORD,
First Lieutenant Nineteenth Infantry, A. D. C.

APPENDIX A, No. 16.

HEADQUARTERS FORT BROWN, TEXAS,
 June 23, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith a certificate from Collector Haynes, in regard to the men employed by General Cortina in the shipment of alleged stolen cattle. I do not think there can be any doubt-

as to General Cortina's complicity in the marauding cattle-stealing business.

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

J. H. POTTER,
Colonel Twenty-fourth Infantry, Commanding.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
Department of Texas, San Antonio, Texas.

CUSTOM-HOUSE, BROWNSVILLE, TEX.,
Collector's Office, June 21, 1875.

This is to certify that George W. Mieler, mounted inspector of customs for this district, stationed at Clarksville, at the mouth of the Rio Grande, has reported to me that he went aboard of the schooner Inez Huston, that had cleared from the port of Bagdad, Mexico, to lighter cattle to a Spanish steamer off the mouth of the Rio Grande, in Mexican waters, the cattle being shipped from Bagdad for Cuba, while said schooner was taking aboard the cattle on the 2d of June, 1875, on the Mexican bank of the river; and that on that day, and while aboard the schooner, he saw General Cortina superintending the shipment, accompanied by a large armed guard, among whom he saw and recognized the following persons: Pancho Lopez, Guadalupe Espinosa, Rafael Salinos, and José Maria Olguin *alias* El Aguja, all of whom were killed or wounded in the fight of Captain McNally with cattle-thieves near the old battle-ground of Palo Alto, in Cameron County, on Saturday the 12th day of June, 1875, upon which occasion Captain McNally recaptured from the said cattle-thieves some two hundred and fifty head of beeves that the thieves were driving in the direction of the mouth of the Rio Grande.

J. L. HAYNES, *Collector.*

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, Tex., July 5, 1875.

A true copy. Respectfully forwarded to the assistant adjutant-general Military Division of the Missouri for the information of the Lieutenant-General commanding.

E. O. C. ORD,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

[Second indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
Chicago, July 14, 1875.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

[Copy furnished Department of State in War Department letter of July 22, 1875.]

APPENDIX A, No. 17.

Telegram, dated Matamoros, 2.30 p. m., November 19, 1875. Received 4.20 p. m., November 19, 1875.

To HAMILTON FISH,
Secretary of State, Washington:

Avery telegraphs from Camargo. Courier arrived from Las Cuevas this morning. Fighting had occurred there. It is certain that United States troops or citizens from Texas have passed. Great excitement here. I believe that Texans have crossed, and United States troops are menacing Las Cuevas. If troops cross, Mexicans will probably resist, and a conflict be precipitated.

THOS. F. WILSON.

Telegram sent in cipher from the Adjutant-General's Office, dated Washington, November 19, 1875, 9 p. m.

To Brig. Gen. E. O. C. ORD, *United States Army,*
Commanding Department of Texas, San Antonio, Texas :

The following received by telegraph not understood. The Secretary of War says, What does it mean ?

(Here follows substance of telegram to Secretary of State.)

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Adjutant-General.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, Tex., November 20, 1875.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL

United States Army, Washington, D. C. :

The following telegrams explain affairs on Rio Grande :

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF THE RIO GRANDE,
Fort Brown, November 18, 1875.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL

Department Texas, San Antonio, Texas :

Randlett struck yesterday back of Las Cuevas train of two hundred and fifty stolen cattle ; followed to Rio Grande ; saw herd crossing and thieves on Mexican side hauling them out the river ; demand made by him on Mexican authorities to surrender cattle and thieves ; if not complied with this a. m. has crossed into Mexico to recover them. Clendenin gone down to assist with all available forces from Ringgold. Alexander has just started with two companies for Las Cuevas. I made demand on Christopher for rendition of cattle and thieves ; line to Ringgold cut this morning.

POTTER, *Commanding.*

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF THE RIO GRANDE,
Fort Brown, November, 19, 1875.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL

Department Texas, San Antonio :

Cattle demanded by Clendenin have not been delivered. McNally's company joined Clendenin last night and crossed the river at 1 a. m. Had a fight after daylight. Reports four Mexicans killed ; four hundred Mexicans in line, part regular troops. Clendenin seized the ferry-boats at Camargo. Citizens of Camargo reported arming. I expect Alexander to arrive at Las Cuevas this p. m. Mails which left here yesterday morning for Corpus reported robbed ninety miles from here.

POTTER, *Commanding.*

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT RIO GRANDE,
Fort Brown, November 19, 1875.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL

Department Texas, San Antonio, Texas :

Alexander arrived at Las Cuevas. Reports that forty men of Eighth Cavalry crossed this morning before his arrival, by Randlett's order, Clendenin having left for Ringgold to support McNally, who was driven, by Mexicans, to the river. This was done in violation of orders given by me yesterday. I have directed Alexander to return troops to north bank. He has answered, "It will be done immediately. Have carried out your other instructions in regard to notifying Mexican authorities, and returning property." Alexander reports large numbers of troops are concentrating in front of him.

POTTER, *Commanding.*

E. O. C. ORD, *Brigadier-General.*

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,
Saint Louis, Mo., November 20, 1875.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL, *Washington, D. C.:*

General Sheridan has received and forwarded here the following dispatch from General Ord:

[Here follows substance of Colonel Potter's telegram of November 19, 1875, to Assistant Adjutant-General, Department of Texas, before cited.]

McNally commands State troops. It does not appear by above that United States troops crossed Rio Grande. Have telegraphed Colonel Potter as follows:

Make your dispositions as if nothing more than the usual cattle-stealing had occurred. Direct Clendenin to return to his post. Notify Mexican authorities that your troops are ordered not to cross the Rio Grande. Return private property seized at Camargo or elsewhere. Send two companies of infantry from your post to Ringgold to relieve the pressure on you for quarters. Did I understand your telegram right that McNally and State troops only crossed the river?

E. O. C. ORD,
Brigadier-General.

By command of General Sherman:

WHIPPLE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,
Saint Louis, Mo., November 22, 1875.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL, *Washington:*

Despatch from Colonel Potter, 20th instant, through military channel, is as follows:

[Here follows dispatch of Colonel Potter of November —, 1875, as cited in General Ord's telegram of 20th November, 1875.]

General Ord adds: "I recommend that article be added to treaty providing for returning of deserters from either side and abolition of free zone, which is main cause of trouble."

By order of General Sherman:

WHIPPLE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

[Telegram.]

SAINT LOUIS, *November 26, 1875.*

ADJUTANT-GENERAL, *Washington, D. C.:*

Dispatch from commanding officer Fort Brown, 23d instant, says McNally returned to north bank 20th. Now at Ringgold, and has company at Edinburgh. Authorities at Camargo promised to deliver part of cattle and thieves if caught. Alexander at Edinburgh. Ordered to return here. It is reported that some four hundred cattle, two herds, have been run into Mexico since 17th.

By command of General Sherman:

WHIPPLE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

CHICAGO, *Illinois.*

Dispatch from General Ord forwarded by you received and sent to Adjutant-General. General Sherman says General Ord should be instructed not to cross the border without orders from Washington.

WHIPPLE,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

APPENDIX A, No. 18.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF THE RIO GRANDE,
Fort Brown, Texas, January 7, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith inclosed reports of Majors Alexander and Clendenin, Eighth Cavalry, and Captain Randlett, Eighth Cavalry, of the operations opposite Las Cuevas, Mexico, on the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th of November, 1875.

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

J. H. POTTER,

Colonel Twenty fourth Infantry, Commanding.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,

Department of Texas, San Antonio, Texas.

[Inclosures.]

FORT BROWN, TEXAS, *November 29, 1875.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that in obedience to orders I left this post on the 18th instant, with Companies C and I, Eighth Cavalry, and proceeded to Edinburgh, reaching that point (seventy miles distant) at 4 o'clock, and on the 19th. There I halted until 11 o'clock a. m., feeding and resting the horses and men, having informed Captain Randlett that I was in supporting distance of him. At 11 o'clock I moved out toward Captain Randlett's camp. When about three miles from Edinburgh, I received a dispatch, by courier, from Captain Randlett, saying that the Texas troops, under Captain McNally, had crossed to the Mexican side of the Rio Grande, and were fighting. I pushed on rapidly, although the weather was intensely hot, and reached his camp about 4.30 p. m., having marched one hundred miles from Fort Brown in twenty-eight hours. I found Captain McNally, with his company of Texans, and Captain Randlett, with about forty men of the Eighth Cavalry, on the Mexican bank of the river. They had just concluded a truce with the authorities of Camargo, agreeing to a suspension of hostilities until 9 o'clock a. m. of the 20th.

The United States forces were at once withdrawn to this bank; but Captain McNally, who was not under my orders, declined to withdraw until the Mexican authorities delivered up the stolen cattle and thieves. The morning of the 20th the alcalde of Camargo came to this bank to see me, and we had a long conversation, which was not of sufficient importance to need mention, save that he said they had a number of the stolen cattle, which they would deliver the next day at Ringgold Barracks. After receiving your dispatch of the 20th, I advised Captain McNally to withdraw to this side, which he did. I then proceeded to Ringgold alone, reaching there at 1 a. m. the 21st. That afternoon the Mexicans delivered about seventy-six head of cattle at Ringgold. Immediately after their delivery, I returned to my camp opposite Las Cuevas, arriving about 2 a. m. on the 22d. Under orders from your headquarters I returned to Edinburgh, and thence, by easy marches, to this post, where I arrived on the 27th instant. From the best information I could get, seven of the thieves and their confederates were killed, and a number wounded. One of these men was killed by the Mexican authorities while taking him to the jail at Camargo, and another was hung by Mexican rancheros living on this side. The return of the cattle shows the effect of this demonstration.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. J. ALEXANDER,

Major Eighth Cavalry.

Lieutenant HELENUS DODT,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, District of the Rio Grande.

RINGGOLD BARRACKS, TEXAS,
December 5, 1875.

SIR : I have the honor to report that at 11 o'clock p. m., November 17, 1875, I received, per courier, a note from Capt. James F. Randlett, Eighth Cavalry, informing me that he had pursued a party of Mexican cattle-thieves to the banks of the Rio Grande; caught them crossing cattle into Mexico, and had opened fire upon them, but owing to the lateness of the hour could not cross the river in pursuit. He also asked for assistance, forage, and rations. At 1 o'clock a. m., November 18, I left the post with thirty men of Companies H and M, Eighth Cavalry, commanded by Lieutenant Farnsworth, Eighth Cavalry, and one Gatling gun, under charge of Lieutenant Merritt, Twenty-fourth Infantry; also, with rations, forage and extra ammunition. I arrived at Captain Randlett's camp, near Las Cuevas, about daylight.

Captain Randlett informed me that he had made a written demand upon the alcalde of Las Cuevas, Mexico, for the return of the cattle crossed over, and the thieves.

Under these circumstances, I did not deem it proper to cross the river, on account of the negotiations in progress.

About 8 o'clock a. m. a reply was received from the alcalde, stating that he had sent out the rural guard, and that a fight had taken place between them and the thieves, and that he had recovered sixty head of cattle.

I replied to his note, demanding the return of the cattle and arrest of the thieves, and that they should be delivered to me on this side of the river or to the commanding officer at Ringgold Barracks.

I thought it bad faith to cross the river after opening communication with the alcalde, although under instructions from the commanding officer of the district of the Rio Grande, dated Fort Brown, Texas, November 16, 1875, I would have been justified in doing so. I sent a courier to Ringgold Barracks, Texas, with telegraphic dispatch to the district commander, stating the situation of affairs. At 10.30 p. m. I received a telegraphic dispatch from the district commander, directing that if I had not crossed over to await the arrival of Major Alexander, Eighth Cavalry, with two companies of the Eighth Cavalry, before crossing, as he did not think I had sufficient force. This dispatch was signed by the acting assistant adjutant-general, district Rio Grande, in the usual form. Another dispatch directed company and detachment commanders to report to Maj. A. J. Alexander, Eighth Cavalry, who was to assume command on his arrival at Las Cuevas. As there seemed to be no further use for my presence with the command, I handed Captain Randlett the dispatches and informed him that I would return to Ringgold Barracks in the morning and forward him additional forage and rations.

During the day Captain McNally, a Texan ranger, came to the camp from Edinburgh, and informed us that his company of rangers would arrive that evening, and that he would cross over to the Mexican side of the Rio Grande. After receiving the dispatches referred to above, I went to McNally and urged upon him to await the arrival of Major Alexander; also, that I could not cross any United States troops until his arrival. He said he had received information that the cattle were in a corral on the other side, and that he could recover them. I replied, "If you are determined to cross, we will cover your return, but cannot cross at present to help you."

The tenor of telegrams from the district commander was such as to justify our crossing over to Mexican soil; but the policy of so doing seemed to hinge upon the United States forces at Las Cuevas. I did not deem it best to interfere with McNally, who claimed to have received secret instructions from the commanding general department of Texas, which Colonel Potter, commanding district, had seen; and also Major Alexander of my regiment.

During the night of November 18, McNally crossed the river and had a skirmish with the Mexicans next morning. I ordered the Gatling gun placed in position on the bank of the river, and directed Captain Randlett to protect his return to this side, but not to cross until Alexander arrived, unless he saw plainly that McNally was about to be massacred.

I left camp at 8 a. m. and arrived at Ringgold Barracks at 10.15, and immediately seized the two ferry-boats near the post. One of them I sent down to camp on a hay-wagon for Major Alexander's use in crossing the river. Within fifteen minutes after I had seized the ferry-boats, a party of twenty-five armed Mexicans arrived on the bank of the river opposite the post, who had been sent from Camargo to seize the same boats.

Thinking the Mexicans might attempt retaliation, I kept a sharp lookout at the post. I had but few men left and a large amount of Government property which could easily have been destroyed at night by a handful of men.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. R. CLENDENIN,
Major Eighth Cavalry.

ACTING ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
District of the Rio Grande, Fort Brown, Texas.

D COMPANY, EIGHTH CAVALRY,
Edinburgh, Tex., December 1, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to respectfully submit the following report of operations of my command since its departure from Fort Brown, November 9, 1875:

In obedience to Special Orders No. 156, Headquarters Fort Brown, Texas, November 8, 1875, (copy hereto appended and marked A,) I left Brown on the morning of the 9th November, with First Lieut. A. J. Farnsworth, and forty men of A company, Eighth Cavalry, and Second Lieut. J. W. Wilkinson, and forty-four men of D company, Eighth Cavalry. We reached Edinburgh, sixty miles from Brown, on the Rio Grande, on the 11th. On the 12th Farnsworth, with A company, proceeded *en route* to Ringgold Barracks, and I established my camp at Edinburgh.

On the 13th I commenced to patrol the country in small parties from my company, to discover tracks of cattle-thieves, and make acquaintance with character of country and with its people.

At dark on the evening of November 16, a Mexican citizen of Texas, residing thirty miles in from the river, came into camp and gave me information that a party of fifteen thieves had passed his place a few days before, *en route* from Old Mexico to the Texas cattle-range for cattle, and would probably recross the river next day. I questioned the old man closely, and, satisfied that he was reliable, I sent telegram to the district commander, of which the following is a copy:

"EDINBURGH, November 16, 1875.

"To ACTING ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
"District of the Rio Grande, Fort Brown, Texas:

"I believe a party will attempt to cross cattle to-morrow at Las Cuevas. I will start at 9 o'clock to-night to intercept them. I take thirty men with me. Will inform you of my movements and results. Would not it be well for a party to co-operate with me from Ringgold? Fifteen of the party have been seen. It is believed that others are to join them from the other side to-morrow. I shall keep the ambulance until after my expedition. I suggest the party co-operate from Ringgold, for fear I may drive the thieves up the river and they escape me.

"JAMES F. RANDLETT,
"Captain Eighth Cavalry."

To this, the following is copy of reply received:

"FORT BROWN, TEXAS, November 16, 1875.

"To Capt. JAMES F. RANDLETT,
"Eighth Cavalry, Edinburgh, Tex.:

"Commanding officer at Ringgold Barracks, Texas, has been ordered to send a scout toward Las Cuevas to-night, to co-operate with you. If you catch the thieves, hit them hard. If you come up to them while they cross the river, follow them into Mexico. McNally, in command of State troops, is near Edinburgh. Try to connect with him, and take a sheriff or deputy with you, if possible. Keep me advised of result.

"By order Colonel Potter:

"HELENUS DODT,
"Acting Assistant Adjutant-General."

At 9 o'clock I left camp with Lieutenant Wilkinson and thirty men, and proceeded up the river eighteen miles, to ranch known as Ponyitas ranch. There I found John Thompson, who lives at the ranch, and who is mounted inspector in custom-house at Edinburgh. I proposed to Thompson, who knows the country and people well, to go with me. He at once consented. I dismounted my command while Thompson went to distant ranches to collect reliable Mexicans to act as scouts and spies. At daylight he returned and informed me that ten or twelve men had gone in different directions and that they would report to me at a ranch known as Carabejals ranch, ten miles back of Thompson's from the river, what they might discover. The old Mexican, whom I have named as my first informant of movement of thieves, guided me to that ranch by covered trail through the mesquite thicket. Thompson went in another direction to same place.

Before leaving Thompson I sent a courier to meet the Ringgold scout, and give the commanding officer all the information I had obtained, and my arrangements for overhauling the thieves. While at Carabejals ranch, my courier returned from headquarters the Ringgold scouting party, which I now learned consisted of thirty men of M company, Eighth Cavalry, commanded by Lieutenant O'Connor, Eighth Cavalry. About this time (noon of the 17th) Thompson and the old man returned from a ride they had taken to look after the scouts, and reported that the thieves were making for the river with a herd of cattle, and would probably cross that night at Las Cuevas. We immediately mounted and started in pursuit. I then declared my object to Thompson to be to get in the rear of the thieves, and catch

them at the river, at the same time sending another courier to O'Connor, telling how I would come in, and directing him to hit them without mercy on their right flank when they reached the river.

We proceeded northeast until 2½ o'clock, when we struck the trail, and immediately took a fast gallop on it, running toward the river; at 4.15 we reached the river. The thieves had driven the cattle in, off a steep bank in a bend some four or five miles in length; they had a fence built in the woods, forming, with the bank, a letter V, into which they drove the cattle, and then forced them over into the river, driving their riding-horses over also. The thieves that could swim then jumped in and swam to the other side. I attempted, before being discovered, to find a place where I could cross, but could not do so; at the only place I could get down to the river, a horse would sink in mud to his back; several cattle had tried to make this point, and were stuck to their necks. The point on the opposite shore to which the cattle were compelled to make, was also a regular quagmire, and all the cattle that had crossed were there then, more than fifty head being stuck in the mud; thirty or forty men and boys were at work drawing them out with ropes attached to their horns.

I opened fire upon them, killing two and wounding another; the balance ran back into the woods, returning our fire without effect. I had learned that there was a ferry-boat four miles above here, and in my note to O'Connor had directed him to seize it. My messenger, however, had failed to find him, and at this time reported to me. I started up the river and on arrival at the point mentioned found that a number of the thieves had crossed in the boat. I had sent another courier after O'Connor, who, with his command, joined me here, just before dark. I found the river at this place, known as Contrallos Ford, about two hundred yards wide, and sent a horse across; found that he had to swim all the way against strong current, and that there was but one point that he could make landing on the other side on account of mire. Darkness came on with heavy clouds, and I was compelled to suspend crossing until next morning. I sent a communication to the alcalde at Las Cuevas, of which the following is a copy:

"CONTRALLOS RANCH,
"Bank el Rio Grande, November 17, 1875.

"To the ALCALDE *Las Cuevas, M.*:

SIR: Whereas certain persons, citizens of the republic of Mexico, viz, Antonio Flores, Unard Flores, Anasano Flores, de Medina Carvilla, Bisenta Rodrigues, Leon Zamora, Matilda Romaros, Juan Goza, Variena Chapala, and others, have this day stolen and driven across the Rio Grande to Las Cuevas, 250 head of horned cattle, the property of citizens of the State of Texas, of the United States of America, I, in the name of the Government of the said United States, demand of you the arrest of all the party above named, and the delivery to me, to be given to the civil authorities of the State of Texas, for trial by its laws. I further demand the above-named cattle be at once returned to me on this side of the Rio Grande. The bearer hereof, Tiltona Flores, will wait your reply to this.

"I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"JAMES F. RANDLETT,
"Captain Eighth Cavalry, U. S. A."

This communication, without regard to form of law or military etiquette, I had translated into Spanish and sent over by one of the Mexican scouts.

I had become convinced that the alcalde and all his people at Las Cuevas were thieves, and desired by my communication to lead him to believe I did not intend to pursue them further; at the same time, I made my arrangements to cross at daylight next morning, capture the cattle, and finish up the job. I then wrote a dispatch and sent, via Ringgold Barracks, fourteen miles distant, to the district commander, informing him of my movements and intention to cross the river as soon as daylight came. I kept no copy of this dispatch, but it is on file at district headquarters. This dispatch brought Major Clendenin, Eighth Cavalry, with Farnsworth and his company, from Ringgold. They arrived just as my breakfast was ready—half hour before day—on the 18th. I informed the major of all I had done, and of my purpose to cross at once. He approved of my action so far as I had gone, but would not allow me to cross the river, declaring such a course to be warlike invasion of a country with which our own was at peace, and that my orders would not justify such process of recovering the cattle. At daybreak my messenger from the other side returned, bringing a reply from the alcalde, of which the following is a correct translation:

"JUSTICE'S OFFICE OF S. M. DE CAMARGO.

"Capt. F. RANDLETT:

"SIR: Yours of this instant is at hand, and my answer is, that, having heard the shooting yesterday, I ordered the chief of police to find out the cause of disturbance. He mounted his horse, and, with his men, which amounted to ten policemen, started out, when he came upon a lot of cattle-thieves that were driving cattle from the other side, where they had a skirmish. The police took possession of some cattle, the number of which I do not know, not having been informed of the results. The thieves escaped with the greater part of the cattle, taking a southerly course. I immediately sent a dispatch to the justice's office

of Camargo, and notified them of what had happened, and at the same time sent them a copy of your note for them to resolve whatever they deemed proper, and to answer you as soon as possible. Citizen Victoriano J. Gatiers asked me for assistance to follow thieves in the morning, and I am ready to render him all the assistance necessary.

“JUAN ANTONIO JUANGOVENA.”

Major Clendenin then sent a telegram to the district commander, reporting his view of the situation, and a message across the river to the alcalde, the substance of which was reiteration of my demand. I had learned from my scouts that a party of thieves were coming in to cross above this point, and sent Thompson and my Mexicans, that now amounted to a small company, out to intercept them and drive the cattle back to the range. This they accomplished successfully without a fight.

About noon, Captain McNally, of Texas State troops, arrived on the ground, and that evening, at about 8 o'clock, his company (thirty men) arrived. McNally at once declared his determination to cross the river, and called upon Major Clendenin to give his assistance when he should call for it.

At about 1 o'clock on the morning of the 19th, Major Clendenin called me up, said that McNally would cross against his advice, and directed me to assist him. I sent a sergeant and six men, mounted, down the river four miles, to a place where the cattle had crossed, to make a diversion, while, with ten other men, I took position on the bank and assisted McNally, and was prepared to cover him if attacked. The crossing was in a small dug-out, its utmost capacity being to carry six men. With difficulty, he got his men and five horses over in little less than three hours, the attempt to cross horses causing great delay. Just before day McNally moved up toward Las Cuevas, hitting the upper ranch. I heard pretty sharp firing, and in less than half an hour saw the command back on the bank of the river.

McNally came across to this side, leaving his men and Lieutenant Robinson, of his company, on the side of Mexico. He reported the Mexican regulars in his front, the whole force amounting to 250 men.

Major Clendenin then took his departure for Ringgold. At about 7 o'clock I heard firing on the other bank, which proved that McNally's men had been attacked. I immediately stationed Farnsworth's, O'Connor's, and my own men on the bank and opened fire, under which McNally crossed and joined his men. They were soon attacked again. McNally had asked me to come to their assistance while he was crossing to rejoin his men. He now cried out, “Randlett, for God's sake come over and help us.” I believed his command was in danger of annihilation, and at once crossed with two men in the boat, directing Farnsworth to command on this side, and send over men as fast as possible. He sent me about half his company and half of my own.

Major Clendenin, before his departure, turned over to me a dispatch from the district commander, the following of which is a correct copy:

“FORT BROWN, 11, 18, 1875.

“To Major CLENDENIN, *Eighth Cavalry, Ringgold Barracks Texas* :

“If you have not crossed when this reaches you, await arrival of Major Alexander, who will be at Las Cuevas to-morrow with two companies. General is afraid you have not men enough. Try to intercept the other raiding-party you speak about.

“By order of Col. J. H. Potter.

“HELENUS DODT,

“Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.”

From this dispatch I understood that it was the intention of Major Alexander to cross as soon as he should arrive, and I now determined to keep the foothold.

During the forenoon the Mexicans made several weak attempts to advance to dislodge us. Their fire was light, and they were easily repulsed. By noon all firing ceased. At 5 o'clock p. m., so much time having been given for concentration of force of Mexican authorities to meet me, should I appear as an invader, I decided to withdraw to this side of the river. Just as I had made this decision known to my command, a flag of truce was discovered approaching. I at once went to meet it. The bearer presented me with a neatly-written document, purporting to come from the chief-justice of the State of Tamaulipas. The document was full assurance of friendship to my Government, and appeared to signify that the writer understood the object of our crossing the river to be solely to recover the cattle and catch the thieves. This I assured my messenger was the fact. The paper gave assurance of the official writer that all the stolen cattle that could be found should be returned to me next day at Ringgold Barracks, and that every effort would be made to arrest the thieves.

The invitation for me to retire with my force to our side of the river was so mildly put that I did not feel compelled to accept, and would only consent on my own terms to a cessation of hostilities against the Las Cuevas thieves until 9 o'clock the next morning, and this with the understanding that the bearer of the flag with his 200 men just arrived from Camargo should retire three miles from my pickets, which were about 100 yards from the river. This agreement made, the flag was left standing on the middle-ground. On

my return to the river bank, just after sundown, I saw Major Alexander, Eighth Cavalry, on the Texas side. I reported and gave the major the document just referred to, together with all information necessary to his full understanding the situation.

To make my report complete, I would request that this document, now in Major Alexander's possession, may be translated, and a copy appended hereto and marked "B."

The flag of truce was evidently sacredly regarded by both sides, and at the appointed time, 9 o'clock a. m. of the 20th, by order of major Alexander, I met the messenger from Camargo, and conducted him to the major's presence on our side of the Rio Grande. After this interview, the Texas forces were withdrawn, and that evening Major Alexander left for Ringgold Barracks to receive the cattle.

The conduct and able support that I received from Lieutenant Farnsworth, Lieutenant Wilkinson, and Lieutenant O'Connor, and the brave and cheerful department of the enlisted men they commanded, detachments of D, H, and M companies, Eighth Cavalry, is worthy of praise and honor. No officer ever had a better command of its size.

To Custom-House Inspector Thompson we are indebted entirely for whatever appears as success.

In closing my report, I desire to acquit myself faithfully to the citizens of Texas, in whose interest I have served as an Army officer during most of the past five years.

It is difficult to understand how this people sustains its losses by thieves and marauders. I believe it a low estimate that five hundred stolen cattle are crossed between Ringgold Barracks and the mouth of the Rio Grande every month in the year. This I believe the lower officials of the Mexican government are cognizant of, and encourage it, and that they actually receive much personal advantage therefrom.

Four companies of cavalry will have work on their hands to stop this business.

I would respectfully recommend that a company be stationed permanently at Edinburgh, and another opposite Las Cuevas, with picket-posts at Thompson's ranch and at Tucker's ranch, at San Maria.

Temporary barracks should be built for these companies. Barracks that would last ten years without repairs could be built for what tentage would cost in five years, and the comfort of the troops be such as could justify expectations of efficiency.

When it is pleasant here the heat is almost unendurable in tents; when it rains, the mud is knee-deep everywhere, and when accompanied by a norther, the tents are blown down, exposing the men to the weather, and mixing their food with dust and *débris*.

The small expenditure necessary to preserve health, and to make troops comfortable here, would, if made, no doubt be returned to the Government doubled through increased efficient service.

The Mexicans on this side have in this affair of mine conducted themselves well, and I earnestly hope they may not be left without protection.

If troops are withdrawn altogether, then we have only accomplished what will result in a general massacre and killing of all who have assisted me, and the cattle-stealers will increase fourfold.

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

JAMES F. RANDLETT,

Captain Eighth Cavalry, Commanding Company D.

The ACTING ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
District of the Rio Grande, Fort Brown, Texas.

A.

[Special Orders No. 156.]

HEADQUARTERS, FORT BROWN, TEXAS,

November 8, 1875.

[Extract.]

I. In compliance with Special Orders No. 20, current series, headquarters district of the Rio Grande, First Lieut. H. J. Farnsworth, Eighth Cavalry, with as many men of his company, H, Eighth Cavalry, as can be mounted and armed, will proceed at 8 o'clock a. m., on the 9th instant, to Ringgold Barracks, Texas, and report to the commanding officer for temporary duty at that post.

The company will be fully armed and equipped for field service, each man to carry forty (40) rounds of carbine and twenty-four (24) pistol ammunition on their person and sixty (60) rounds of carbine ammunition per man on the wagons.

The company will take four (4) days' rations and two (2) days' forage.

II. Capt. James F. Randlett, with all the commissioned officers and as many enlisted men of his company, D, Eighth Cavalry, as can be armed and mounted, will proceed at 8 o'clock a. m. to Edinburgh, Tex. Upon arrival at that place Captain Randlett will take

station there, and scout the country after armed bands of Mexican cattle-thieves and marauders. If any such parties are found or heard from, the utmost endeavors will be used to recover stolen property and bring the thieves to justice.

The company will be fully armed and equipped for field service, each man to carry forty (40) rounds of carbine and twenty-four (24) pistol ammunition on their person. Sixty rounds of carbine ammunition for each man will be carried on the wagons.

The company will be rationed to include the 23d instant and the animals foraged (2) two days.

The quartermaster's department will furnish the necessary transportation.

III. While on the march to Edinburgh, Tex., in compliance with paragraphs I and II of this order, the senior officer present will take charge of both companies.

By order of Col. Joseph H. Potter.

HELENUS DODT,

First Lieutenant and Adjutant Twenty-fourth Infantry, Post-Adjutant.

A true copy:

JOHN W. WILKINSON,

Second Lieutenant Eighth Cavalry.

B.

By an express this office has just received the information that troops under your command have crossed the Rio Grande, and are making war upon the community of San Miguelde Camargo, pertaining to the jurisdiction of this municipality.

This act infringes upon the laws and the friendly relations existing between the United States and Mexico; wherefore, I believe that you will at once suspend hostilities, and that you will withdraw your troops to the left bank of the Rio Grande, in the assurance that the authorities here have taken and are taking the necessary steps to secure the capture of the cattle-thieves, and their punishment in conformity with the law.

Confiding in your sense of justice, and in the conviction that this office will do strict justice to the matter, I trust that you will avoid another conflict, because the reasons that gave rise to your invasion of the Mexican territory are matters to be dealt with by our governments, who will know how to dispose of them in a legal, just, and equitable manner without outraging national dignity.

Independence and liberty.

City of Camargo, November 19, 1875.

DIEGO GARCIA, *Mayor.*

L. GARZA, *Secretary.*

To the commander of the American forces on Mexican soil.

Official:

PLACIDUS ORD,

Aid-de-Camp.

APPENDIX A, No. 19.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS.

San Antonio, Tex., August 23, 1875.

SIR: Inclosed please find letters from the Hon. J. E. Dwyer, State senator; Mr. P. Marcelli, sheriff of Starr County, Texas, and others, Nos. 2588, 2589, 2592, 2646, 2683, 2711, 2745, 2834, 3450. I beg to call especial attention to statement of Hon. J. E. Dwyer.

Having examined the country and visited many of the ranches and places named, I find, from best sources of information, that the within statements are generally reliable; and that while there are quite a number of useful and peaceable Mexicans settled on the east side of the Rio Grande, like all Mexicans not *jente de razon*, they submit docilely to any power or force that chooses to override them, so that, the country being now overridden by the Mexican raiders, civil authority overawed or elected by peons in their interest, the military powerless for the

reason that, while really it is a time of war and public danger, no proclamation to that effect has been made by the President, and the aforesaid civil authority (Mexican) is paramount, and every judge and sheriff of the State, knowing the facts, assured me it was impossible to convict any raider, murderer, or offender who may be connected with or under the protection of the raider bands.

The circumstances are almost identical with the piracies on our commerce once committed by the Algerians, who fled in safety with their prizes to their own ports. There the offenses were committed on the open seas; here they are committed, with the same ease and atrocities, on the open plains. In both cases the pirates found a ready sale for their captures in the ports where their expeditions were fitted out, namely, Algiers and Tripoli, for the Moors, and Matamoros, Reynosa, Camargo, Mier, and Guerero, for the Mexicans, and in both cases the pirates were rewarded by promotion. The leader of the band that murdered Lovell in May last, and plundered the custom-house at Carizo, is now captain of the guard at Mier.

I have to ask that these papers and this letter be referred to the Secretary of State.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. O. C. ORD,

Brigadier-General, U. S. Army, Commanding.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL U. S. ARMY,
Washington, D. C.

(Through headquarters Military Division of the Missouri.)

NOTE.—Letter of Hon. J. E. Dwyer, State senator, is found in direct testimony of General E. O. C. Ord.

RIO GRANDE CITY, TEX., July 31, 1875.

GENERAL: I have the honor to make the following report in relation to the recent raid into this part of the State by an organized band of cattle-thieves and marauders from Mexico. I have been credibly informed that said band crossed from Mexico to this side at or near the ranch Liepeña, about forty miles distant from this point. From thence they proceeded to the ranch Roseta, about one hundred and twenty miles north of this place, and there sacked and robbed a store. On their return they shot and mortally wounded a Mr. Alejo Garza, a large stock-raiser on Arroyo Balnarte, in this county, and one of our most worthy and estimable citizens. They also foully murdered another citizen near the village of Concepcion. It is also reported, and generally believed, that at this writing several separate gangs of thieves are depredating upon the various ranches between the Rio Grande and Nueces River.

I have lately received information, from a source I esteem entirely trustworthy, that a party of ten or twelve men are at present getting ready, in Mexico, to make a raid upon our side of the river. As sheriff and collector of taxes for this county, I have deemed it prudent and a part of my duty to acquaint you with these facts.

I have the honor to be, yours, respectfully, &c.,

P. MARCELIE,
Sheriff Starr County, Texas.

General E. O. C. ORD,
Commanding Department, at Ringgold Barracks.

A true copy:
PLACIDUS ORD,
Aid-de-Camp.

OFFICE OF THE RIO GRANDE RAILROAD COMPANY,
Brownsville, Tex., March 27, 1875.

GENERAL: There is a large amount of specie going down on the train for the New Orleans

steamer to-morrow. As the country is infested with bandits, we would respectfully request that you furnish a small escort. The cars will start at 9 o'clock a. m. and return the same evening at 5.

Yours, respectfully,

ANTONIO LONGORIA,
President.

General J. H. POTTER,
Commanding Fort Brown.

A true copy:

HELEMUS DODT,
First Lieutenant and Adjutant Twenty-fourth Infantry, Post-Adjutant.

A true copy:

PLACIDUS ORD,
Aid-de-Camp.

CUSTOM-HOUSE, EDINBURGH, TEX.,
June 21, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of May 23, 1875, containing certain interrogatories in regard to the condition of affairs on the Rio Grande within the limits of this county; and in reply permit me to say that I will answer the same briefly, to the best of my knowledge:

Interrogatory 1. I have lived in this county since June 1, 1866.

Interrogatory 2. It has.

Interrogatory 3. That I cannot answer, from the fact that for the past four or five years they have visited us at least weekly, with very little exception, large or small bands.

Interrogatory 4. From all parts of the State of Tamaulipas bordering on the Rio Grande, for forty or fifty miles back, but mostly by parties living on the route from Camargo to Matamoras.

Interrogatory 5. They, since 1869 until within a few weeks past, have increased in frequency and numbers; they have become so daring as to come openly in numbers of twenty-five to thirty armed men, and drive the herdsmen off, and take their cattle by force of arms.

Interrogatory 6. The cause of their increase and daring is attributable to the fact that they have been protected and encouraged by the authorities, both military and civil, and the merchants on the Mexican side have had their share of encouraging the stealing cattle and hides, on account of getting cheap hides, and they have their friends and allies of their own countrymen living on this side, and seeing and knowing that there was little or no danger of being punished on this side.

Interrogatory 7. On or about July or August, 1869, Mr. Edward Cleveland, a young man of San Antonio, while coming in to the river, accidentally came upon a band of armed thieves, who were driving a herd of stolen cattle for Mexico, and, to prevent his giving information, shot and killed him.

Mr. Alexander, a wholesale merchant of Brownsville, while traveling the highway, met some of General Cortina's thieves, who murdered him simply because he was an American, (*Gringo.*) This was, I think, in 1871. About the same time, or before, there was a poor man traveling on foot, and was attacked and murdered for his blanket.

Some time in 1872, a Mexican, citizen of the United States, was murdered by hide-peelers, because he would not join them, and to prevent his giving information. And some time during the same year an old Catholic priest, while traveling in the back part of the county, came across a party of these armed thieves, who were murdering a man, I do not know whether American or not, and the priest undertook to intercede for the man's life, when they deliberately murdered him also.

In February, 1875, an American citizen, but of Mexican origin, while traveling on the highway, was attacked by a band of armed men, supposed to be from Mexico, and shot twice, and beat until he was thought to be dead, and was then robbed of about \$100 and all other valuables, and left for dead. His name is Gregorio Solis. On the 27th day February, of this year, a quiet citizen, who was district surveyor and justice of the peace for precinct No. 2 of this county, and kept a store on his farm about nine miles below this place, was attacked by about ten or twelve armed men from Mexico, and both he and his clerk, Mauricio Villanueva, were both most foully and brutally murdered, notwithstanding that he had some six or eight Mexicans employed as laborers on his farm; and it being just at nightfall, and they were all at their cabins near the store, not one of them came to his assistance.

Some time in March, this year, a young man named Alexander Morel, who was raised on the river, while on his way to his brother's stock-ranch, came upon a band of cattle-thieves driving to the river, and on account of his knowing them, and to prevent his giving informa-

tion, they tied and shot him to death; and many other outrages and murders that have been done and committed by armed bands from Mexico that I cannot remember. The truth of the matter is, that outrages have been so frequent since 1839 that we hear of it to-day and forget it to-morrow.

Interrogatory 8. I cannot give anything of an estimate of the numbers, as I am not a stock-raiser, but, judging from current reports, there must have been at least two or three hundred thousand head, for reliable stock-raisers tell me that on the prairie, where, in 1866, you could see hundreds of thousands, you cannot now see a thousand.

Interrogatory 9. They drive them to Matamoras and other towns along the river, and even as far as Monterey, Mexico, and many are killed outside of the towns for the hides and tallow. They sell their cattle at from \$3 to \$4 per head.

Interrogatory 10. I cannot give anything like an estimate as to the extent of hide-peeling, as before stated, not being interested in stock-raising, and never visit the grazing section of the country; but, from hearsay, it has been carried on to an enormous extent, and I think by Mexicans of both sides. Mexicans from Mexico come over and build temporary shanties in the stock-range and peel cattle and smuggle hides to Mexico, as do the peelers living on this side.

Interrogatory 11. They have, often.

Interrogatory 12. There has, but without effect, invariably.

Interrogatory 13. I have never known any Mexicans to come to buy stock of any kind.

Interrogatory 14. They are not.

Interrogatory 15. Because the bandits and their friends are largely in the majority. They frequently made arrest, but they either break jail or give bond for their appearance, and go and steal more stock to pay the bonds; and if they are tried, it is by a Mexican jury, that will, and have, with very few exceptions, acquitted them. I do not think that, unaided by the military, they are prepared to take any steps to arrest marauders, because in this county they live in fear of their own lives.

Interrogatory 16. I think the proportion of this county is 500 per cent.

Interrogatory 17. They are not, but, with few exceptions to the contrary, they are always ready to give information to the marauders.

Interrogatory 18. It is the general belief of both Mexicans and Americans (the well-disposed Mexicans,) and it is public talk that they are encouraged and protected by both civil and military, but principally by General Juan N. Cortina. Since I commenced writing this communication there has returned some citizens of this county who crossed to the other side in pursuit of a stolen mare. They found her in Matamoras, but the general's clerk refused to deliver the mare, notwithstanding the owners carried the certificate of record of his brand on the side and two witnesses to prove his property. They were coolly told they lived on the other side, and they could not get their property; and with a threat to destroy the certificate of record providing they did not leave, they were compelled to return without their property. The justices of the peace in Matamoras are afraid to do anything against the will of Cortina. They told these parties that as the thief was one of Cortina's men, they could not do anything for them.

You will be kind enough to excuse this badly-written and disconnected statement, as I am so ill that I can neither write or think, but I hope the sheriff of this county has given you a full and more complete statement, as he has had more chance of positive information of affairs than I have, as he has been a good deal of the time in the grazing sections, and has access to the records, which I could have had but for ill health; but one thing I can assure you, unless we get protection soon, there will neither be stocks nor *Americans* between Brownsville and Ringgold Barracks. We are here now completely at the mercy of the marauders.

Very respectfully, &c.,

L. H. BOX,

Deputy Collector, Edinburgh, Tex.

General E. O. C. ORD,
Brigadier-General, Commanding the Department.

A true copy:
PLACIDUS ORD,
Aid-de-camp.

FORT BROWN, TEXAS, June 8, 1875.

GENERAL: In reply to your communication of May 25, 1875, requesting information concerning the condition of affairs on the Rio Grande, and to add such facts of interest bearing on the subject that may occur to me, I have the honor to submit the following statement of facts that have come under my observations, or gleaned from conversations with the best-informed and most intelligent citizens of Brownsville and Matamoras, and transcripts from the records of Cameron County courts.

I have been stationed at Edinburgh, Hidalgo County, and at Santa Maria, near the line of Hidalgo County, since January 20, 1874; therefore I trust that it will not be considered out

of place if I include in this report affairs that have taken place in both counties; and as these latter raids are but the sequence of the raids upon the people of this county by bands of armed men from Mexico, which commenced in 1859, when General Cortina took possession of Brownsville, murdered citizens, and committed other outrages, desolating one hundred and twenty miles of this frontier, and have continued, with occasional intermissions, to the present time. After the close of the late civil war raiding became terrible. In order to occupy and hold Bagdad, liberal troops were permitted to cross the Rio Grande above Brownsville, pass over United States territory, and recross at Bagdad. They were compelled to abandon Bagdad by the imperial troops; they again passed over United States territory, and while enjoying the hospitality of our Government were guilty of many inhuman excesses. They murdered a United States soldier carrying dispatches, also two citizens at Submito ranch. The people of the ranch were maltreated and robbed. Surgeon Moore, United States Army, and others were killed by them. Raiders swarmed over the country between the Rio Grande and Nueces, inaugurating a reign of terror, killing whoever resisted them or furnished information against them. From that time until the present, except when the river was high and the back country overflowed, these raids have continued. In March, 1872, Capt. Servus Garcen, of the Mexican regular army, with thirty-three Mexican soldiers, reached Galveston ranch, about thirty miles above Brownsville, with a drove of stolen cattle, estimated at six hundred. He picketed the Brownsville road, threw out skirmishers, made prisoners of a number of citizens living in the vicinity, and prevented United States Inspectors of Customs Shelden and Handy from proceeding down the river in discharge of their duties.

A large body of armed men were on the Mexican side of the river assisting in the crossing of these cattle, and ready to aid in resisting attack.

Within the last three months Mexicans have reported to me that Mexican soldiers, in their uniforms, were raiding with the cattle-thieves on this side of the river. One of them stated that he saw and counted six. I think his report worthy of belief.

At the taking of Clarksville, at the mouth of the Rio Grande, they killed United States Inspectors Hammond and Phelps and wounded Inspector Ryan; subsequently they killed Inspectors Dupont and McLaughlin. Stolen cattle have been seized in Mexico by the custom-house authorities, held against the demands of their owners or agents, finally confiscated and sold on the ground that they had been introduced into Mexico contrary to law. It was admitted that they had been stolen from Texas. These facts will show that the terrible condition of affairs now existing on this frontier is not of recent origin.

During the past year the counties of Hidalgo and Cameron have been visited by armed marauders from Mexico; indeed, scarcely a day has passed but these raids have been reported to me. The raiders have come from Matamoras, Old Reynosa, Camargo, and various places on this side of the Sierra Madre Mountains.

As these raids are undertaken with a view to make money by the sale of stolen property, many adventurers have joined them.

On the 5th of February, 1874, a man named John Albertson, traveling with his family near the county line, was tied up by Mexican marauders, robbed, and his wife submitted to horrible outrage. On the 9th of May, 1874, Peneschal ranch was attacked, and John M. Fletcher, M. Masters, P. F. M. Coakley, and H. Hilger were murdered, and the ranch robbed of a large sum of money and goods. One of the Mexicans engaged in this affair was arrested, tried, and hung at Corpus Christi. His confession established the fact that the murderers were Mexicans from Mexico.

On October 30, 1874, Mr. G. A. Blain's store, at Los Almos ranch, near the line of Hidalgo County, was robbed of five or six hundred dollars, and Blain's life only saved by the timely arrival of a party of Americans, who fortunately happened to be in the vicinity. On March 16, 1874, Vidal Le Hallie was murdered by a party of armed Mexicans near the Los Almos.

On the 27th of February, 1875, a party of armed Mexicans murdered my friend J. S. Fulton and his clerk, at El Sauz, Hidalgo County, robbing his store and the post-office; recrossing the river into Mexico, from whence they came.

On March 23, 1875, Alexander Morrill, of Hidalgo County, was brutally murdered by armed Mexicans. This murder was publicly boasted of by the murderers on the streets of Old Reynosa, and Victor Morrill (Alexander's brother) was told by them where his brother's body could be found.

On the 16th of March, 1875, Mr. George Hill, residing at Tio Cuero ranch, about twelve miles from my camp, was murdered by armed Mexicans—cattle-thieves. The thieves recrossed into Mexico with their stolen cattle within six miles of my camp. I was acquainted with Messrs. Fulton, Morrill, and Hill, and knew that they were good and peaceable citizens.

On the 7th of January, a large party of cattle-thieves camped near a ranch about fourteen miles from Brownsville. After they left, the body of a Mexican was found hanging to a tree, but so badly mutilated that it could not be recognized. He was killed without doubt to prevent his informing on the thieves.

It is impossible to state with accuracy the number of horses and cattle that have been stolen and driven into Mexico during the past year. At the recent trial of Burk, Saldun el Sandqval, accused of having been two raiders, at Brownsville last January, it appeared in evidence that

the number of cattle now on hand is but ten per cent. of what was on hand five years ago. The rate of increase is fixed at thirty-three and one-third per cent. per year; consequently, the loss in Cameron County has been immense.

Mr. L. J. Hynes, a well-known stock-raiser of Cameron County, makes affidavit that the loss during the past twelve months amounts to one-half the number on hand in January, 1874. Mr. John M. Allen, of Hidalgo County, swears that not five per cent. of cattle are left in that county.

It is stated that formerly beeves were purchased in Texas to supply the markets of Matamoras and other Mexican towns on the Rio Grande; that trade now is almost broken up. The inspector of hides and animals certifies officially that from May 1, 1874, to May 1, 1875, two thousand and eighty-three animals were exported from Cameron County into Mexico. It is stated that in the jurisdiction of Matamoras sixty beeves are killed daily, or twenty-one thousand nine hundred per year. Deduct two thousand and eighty-three from this sum, and the remainder will be nineteen thousand eight hundred and seventeen. It is also stated by good authority that three-fourths of the beeves consumed in Matamoras are stolen from Texas. From the above it will be seen that the people of Matamoras alone consume every year over fourteen thousand head of cattle stolen from Texas. All the other towns and ranches along the Rio Grande get their beef in the same way. It is known that at the present time General Cortina has a contract to furnish a large number of beeves to a Spaniard from Cuba. He has about five hundred head at Bagdad, which he is shipping on the steamship Amato.

This report has been delayed awaiting the return of a gentleman who was sent to Bagdad to privately investigate.

He testifies that a great many of the beeves have American brands; that a large pile of hides are awaiting shipment, many of them bearing American brands; also a large quantity of dried beef, probably one hundred thousand pounds. He recognized some of the brands on the cattle belonging to citizens of Brownsville.

Taken in connection with the above, it is reported that the thieves are very active driving cattle into Mexico. A man named William McMahon was killed by them yesterday, a few miles from Brownsville.

I have not met a ranchman who does not complain of large losses. Mr. C. Stelman, an extensive horse-raiser, states that within a few months he has lost one hundred and eighty head of gentle horses and two fine stallions. Mr. Archer Irvin, whose ranch adjoins Mr. Stelman's, purchased three years ago one thousand head of cattle; to-day there are not one hundred and fifty head left; all have been stolen.

A few weeks ago five head of cattle, belonging to Mr. J. Turner, were stolen from near my camp. He traced them to Matamoras, and found their hides. About the same time a mule belonging to the Government broke from the picket-line in my camp, and within a very short time was in Mexico.

On the 1st of May, 1875, a large drove of cattle were crossed sixteen miles below Fort Brown. Major Merriam, hearing of the intended crossing, immediately started for the point named, but arrived too late. Capt. J. W. Clous, U. S. A., was sent to Matamoras to inform the Mexican authorities of the crossing, and to ask for the arrest of the thieves and return of the stolen property. Profuse promises were made by the authorities, but after a few days it was ascertained that nothing had been done.

It is stated that General Cortina bought these cattle for two dollars per head.

In May, 1874, a large drove of cattle were crossed at Los Rosarios, Tex. Judge Dougherty, with an officer and troops, went to the place named to investigate, and if possible to recover the cattle. At the same time the civil and military authorities of Matamoras were applied to by Captain Clous, U. S. A., accompanied by United States Consul Wilson. After some delay troops and civil officers were sent; they were accompanied by the hide and cattle inspector of Cameron County. They met Judge Dougherty at the point of crossing. The trail of the cattle was plain, leading to one of General Cortina's ranches; but nothing further was done.

Hide-peeling is extensively carried on, and in my opinion the number of hides crossed from Texas equals the number of cattle stolen. As it is carried on in a more quiet way, and by individuals instead of large parties, it is more difficult to get the data upon which to make a statement.

From the affidavit of A. S. Rock, deputy inspector of hides and animals, it is shown that hides stolen from Texas have been recovered as they were imported from Mexico; that hides are culled by experts to avoid bringing those having American brands through into Texas. That in one year more than eight thousand stolen hides were exported from Matamoras, and this only constitutes a small number or fraction of those received. The others were exported to Europe direct, sent to the interior, tanned in Tamaulipas or used as raw hides. To illustrate the boldness of the hide-peelers I will state that a cow belonging to the ordnance-sergeant of this post was killed and skinned within the limits of the garrison outside of Brownsville. I do not think the civil authorities are able to execute the laws. The extent of country, sparseness of population, and the fact that the well-disposed Mexicans are timid and will not, as a rule, give information. They have been thoroughly cowed by the thieves and vagabonds. The judges and district attorney complain

of this indisposition to testify. Probably sympathy has, to some extent, something to do with it. Again, the marauders start into the country at such times and places as to take the people by surprise, and before they have time to organize a sufficient force to resist them they have secured their booty and are back into Mexico. They come in parties from twenty to fifty, and sometimes more, so that at times when there are several raiding-parties over at the same time, it is more like an invasion than a stealing expedition. All of the marauding bands are well armed and equipped.

The records of the court of Cameron County show that during the two years last past the grand juries have returned one hundred and thirty-five indictments for felonies; of these eighty-seven have been tried, and forty-one discharged.

The clerk of the district court of Cameron County authorizes the statement that nineteen-twentieths of those indicted are Mexicans, and fifteen-twentieths are citizens of Mexico. Of the nine or ten thousand inhabitants living outside the towns, all are Mexicans, or of Mexican origin, except perhaps some thirty people. I am firmly of the opinion that these armed bands have left Mexico with the knowledge and tacit approval of the authorities. General Cortina of the Mexican army, and mayor of Matamoras, is the recognized head of the marauders, and I think there is abundant proof that he uses Mexican officers and soldiers in making these raids, and that he receives the lion's share of the plunder.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. A. PURINGTON,
Captain Ninth Cavalry.

General E. O. C. ORD,
Commanding Department of Texas.

A true copy:

HUGH G. BROWN.
Aid-de-Camp.

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., June 11, 1875.

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, time of the 25th May, ultimo, in regard to the disorders of this frontier, and, in reply thereto, beg to say:

1. I am forty-nine years of age, and was born on the lands I now occupy, which are in this county of Cameron.

2. During this time, principally for the past ten years, this county has been visited by armed bands of marauders from Mexico. Then raids were not so frequent as within the past five or six years, nor now as then, owing probably to the lack of the same abundance to steal from at present; but yet they continue.

3. Within this time several citizens have been murdered, but I am able to give the names of some. Two brothers, at short intervals lately, named Morel Victor and Shlievo Polito between Edinburgh and Rio Grande City; a man named Hill, on his ranch near my resi- dence; Mr. Alexander, a merchant of Brownsville, at or near the Rosario ranch, in Hid- algo County, and several others whose names I do not know. So far as any cause is known or supposed, it seems to have been wantonness.

4. It is impossible to estimate even approximately the number of stock stolen in these raids. Before they began our prairies were covered with cattle; now there are scarcely any left. It can safely be said that where formerly there were hundreds there are now at most two or three. Personally I have lost over three thousand head. I think I may safely say that within the scope and range of these raids at least five hundred thousand head of cattle have been stolen.

5. Hide-peeling is carried on to some extent; but it is impossible to know who does it. The parties seem to lurk and skulk in the chaparral and woods, watching opportunities to catch cattle at the water-holes, or otherwise, resting at night, rope them, slay them, remove the hide, and market it in Mexico, principally in Matamoras.

6. Large numbers of stolen stock have been traced to Mexico; sometimes have been re- turned, at others not. Frequently so many penalties are interposed by the authorities that people relinquish the pursuit from sheer annoyance.

7. In former years it was a common thing for Mexicans to cross the river to buy cattle; now hardly ever.

8. The civil authorities in our county are able to execute the laws when they know the guilty parties; but, from the reasons before stated, they are powerless to correct these abuses, especially as many of these raids are composed of bands of as high as twenty-five, thirty, and even fifty armed men. These parties cross generally singly or in pairs, collect suddenly at some agreed point, make their drive at night, and generally get into Mexico with their plunder before word can be sent to the county-seat; and so the opportunity for arrest is lost. Besides, if the thieves mistrust they are watched, they remain dispersed until vigilance is remitted, and then collect and make their drive. The business seems to be an organized one, and conducted by system.

9. The population of this county, outside the towns, with perhaps less than fifty excep- tions, is Mexican.

10. Many of the Mexicans on this side of the river, particularly the proprietors, are well-

disposed, and willing to give information; but they are powerless mostly, as they are seldom on the ranch, relying on their employés. These, for obvious reasons, are not swift to inform, as they are most exposed; fear the consequences of telling.

11. It cannot be known that these bands cross into Texas under the protection of Mexican authorities; but it is known that some two years ago persons known to be in the military service under Cortina did compose a quite numerous band; and the most of these raiders, so far as they are known, are known to be under his protection, and of the worst class of the community.

Respectfully submitted.

JUSTO JREBIÑO.

General E. O. C. ORD,
Commanding Department of Texas, San Antonio, Tex.

A true copy:
PLACIDUS ORD,
Aid-de-Camp.

APPENDIX A, No. 20.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT BROWN, TEX.,
June 8, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith copies of two affidavits, furnished to me by Colonel Ford, both of which bear on the causes of the troubles on this frontier. The original of the affidavit of Judge Mantero is filed, I am informed by Colonel Ford, with the documents in the case of the claim of Mr. Kennedy against the Mexican government for stock stolen from him.

I have not heard of any depredations on the Lower Rio Grande of late.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. H. POTTER,

Colonel Twenty-fourth Infantry, Commanding Post.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
Department of Texas, San Antonio, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron:*

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority, HENRY KLAHN, who, being duly sworn, says:

My name is Henry Klahn. I live in Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas. I have lived on the frontier of the Lower Rio Grande since the year of eighteen hundred and forty-eight. I have been a mounted inspector of customs, deputy sheriff, clerk of the county court, deputy inspector of hides and animals, and am now chief-justice of Cameron County. I am well acquainted with the Mexican State of Tamaulipas. I have been through it on many occasions, assisting others in the purchase of horses and mules, &c.

The people living above and west of Matamoras do not raise many cattle. They breed horses and mules. The same is the case south of Matamoras.

There are small cattle-ranches between Matamoras and San Fernando. They have to be watered from deep wells, except during the rainy seasons. For this reason they cannot have large numbers of cattle on a ranch.

South of San Fernando cattle become wild and have to be shot as other wild animals. In some places they remain in the thickets during the day and come out at night. In that contingency they are hunted at night. It would be impossible to steal and drive these animals. They would not leave the thickets alive, and could not be killed and carried off in large numbers.

The valley of the Lower Rio Grande is well populated. There are a great many large ranches, and they have many people on them. Each of these ranches has an encargado or magistrate, whose duty it is to see the law enforced and to look out for the welfare of the people. He is required to communicate all matters of interest to his superior in office. He is assisted by the rural police in the discharge of his duties. Should a body of armed Americans make their appearance in his vicinity, he would send an expressman with the news to the next ranch, and that ranch would forward it to the next.

In this manner the news would be carried a hundred miles in a few hours. The people would meet, organize, and arm, and then proceed in the direction of the Americans. Such a

party would be outnumbered, attacked, and all of them killed. Small parties could not rob them.

As cattle are scarce in that section, it would require considerable time to round up a herd respectable in number.

I know no small party of Americans could go into Tamaulipas, collect cattle, and drive them out of the State.

The people of Tamaulipas north and west of San Fernando, and in places south of that town, do not raise all the beef they consume. More than half the beef consumed in Matamoros and the town above it comes from Texas, and the most of Texas beeves are stolen.

It being impossible for robbing-parties to enter Mexico without being discovered and pursued, it is equally impossible for the organized bands which left that country, invaded Texas, and returned with their plunder, to have done so without the knowledge of the authorities. They could not have crossed the Rio Grande and sold horses and cattle in the public market without having been protected by the authorities.

I speak positively, because I have had much dealing with the authorities of Tamaulipas, and was the agent of stock-raisers for the purpose of reclaiming stolen cattle and hides. Mr. Shud and myself had an office in Matamoros.

We had an order from Judge Augustin Manchaca to authorize our searching slaughter pens and hide-yards. We were eventually resisted, and the popular indignation against Judge Manchaca became so heated that he had to resign his office, and we deemed it prudent and a measure of safety to retire, because his successor in office, General Pedro Hinojosa, refused to assist us. He declined on the ground that, should he do so, he would incur the ill-will of the people, who were opposed to our being there.

Since I have lived here I have never known Americans to raid upon the people of Mexico. I know Mexicans have been raiding on the people of Texas since eighteen hundred and fifty-nine.

HENRY KLAHN,

Presiding Justice of Cameron County, Texas.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 22d day of April, A. D. 1875.

[SEAL.]

F. J. PARKER,

Clerk Circuit Court United States, Eastern District Texas.

DIEGO CASTILLO MANTERO, being duly sworn, deposes and says: That he is well acquainted with the civil organization of jurisdictions in Mexico; that besides the ayuntamientos at the towns and cities, there are other officers at noted places and at convenient distances within said jurisdictions, called "encargados;" they are peace-officers and have the power to arrest all criminals, and it is made their duty by law to do so, and to send them before the proper officer or alcaldes for trial; that in order to make arrests they are empowered to call upon the rural guards for assistance, whose duty it is at once to render all the aid required within their power; these rural guards are a body of men appointed by name and enrolled by the ayuntamientos, under captains, and are always on duty when required, which said captains are at all times subject to their orders, or to the orders of the individual alcaldes, for the purpose of carrying the same into effect; it is also their duty, without special orders, to arrest all criminals and thieves wheresoever found within their jurisdiction, and to take the property found upon or with them, and to send them before the proper tribunal for trial; and said rural guards have also the power, and it was and is their duty, to arrest all prisoners about to cross the river into Texas for the purpose of robbery, and, generally, in all respects to maintain peace and order under the laws within their jurisdiction; that it is and was the duty of the encargados to call upon the rural guards to prevent such robberies and such crossings into Texas, and to have taken the persons and property of such as have so done to be punished by the proper tribunals, and at once to have notified the same of any proposed infraction of the laws coming within their notice; that the laws of Mexico punish a theft committed in a foreign county when the property is brought, upon accusation, within its jurisdiction, in the same manner as if the same had been done within the jurisdiction of Mexico itself.

Deponent further says that it is always made the duty of said encargados to take account of all cattle coming within their jurisdiction from any source whatever for the purpose of the municipal taxes which, by law, are to be levied upon the same, and deponent knows they have done so upon cattle which have been stolen from Texas, as well as upon all other stock, and that duties have always been paid upon the same as upon the other stock.

Deponent further says that in the jurisdiction of Matamoros there are two companies of rural guards, one above and one below the city; and that they would, at any time within the last four years, have put a stop to Texas cattle-stealing if they had been ordered by the authorities of Mexico to do so.

Deponent further says that it was impossible for such robbers to have crossed the river with their booty into Mexico without the knowledge and consent of said encargados, the rural guards, and the authorities on the frontier generally.

Subscribed and sworn to, &c.

A true copy:

PLACIDUS ORD,

Aid-de-Camp.

CUSTOM-HOUSE, ROMA, TEX.,
Collector's Office, June 9, 1875.

DEAR SIR: Your communication of May 25, asking many questions relating to past and present frontier affairs, was received; and, in reply thereto, most respectfully, will submit the following statement:

I came to Texas in 1846, with the army of occupation, in Company H, Second Regiment United States Dragoons; was discharged at Saltillo, Mexico, 1847; have been a permanent resident of Starr County from 1849 to 1866, when I engaged in mining-operations at Dolores mines, Vallecillo, (about sixty miles from Rio Grande River in Mexico,) until the year 1872, but during those six years made frequent visits to Texas; during the year of 1873 I resided in Nueces County, and since April, 1874, have been again permanently here in Roma, Starr County, employed as deputy collector of customs at this port.

The first invasion, by Mexicans, into Starr County was in the latter part of the year 1859, known as the celebrated Cortina raid, who crossed the Rio Grande in Cameron and Hidalgo Counties; were mostly from Matamoras and the ranches on the border, as high up as Camargo.

Since 1866, armed bands of Mexicans, from the State of Tamaulipas, have crossed into Texas through the counties of Zapata, Starr, Hidalgo, and Cameron, very frequently during each year, and for the purpose of stealing cattle. At the beginning they came in small parties, say from five to ten men, but of late years in parties from twenty to one hundred men, crossing the river anywhere from within twenty miles of its mouth all the way up, either in ferry-boats or at the fords, which latter are many and numerous, for about nine months during the year. You never see but one or two together when in the act of crossing, and generally well mounted, armed, and provisioned for the road. On a certain day and at a certain place designated, either in the back part of the counties mentioned, or the other counties joining, (such as Duval and Nueces,) they all meet, make their *rodeos* (gatherings) in the nearest range where are, or at least used to be, found plenty of cattle belonging to the Americans; start back again for Mexico the same day, through any of these frontier counties agreed upon, according to the news received by each man from their Mexican friends living at or near any ranch where they crossed the river into Texas, and the point which appears to be the safest and least guarded by civil or military forces. Should the military forces accidentally arrive at the place they intend crossing the stolen herd, the raiders will be immediately informed by express from their Mexican allies, and another route will be taken and pursued until they are all successfully across the river and in Mexico. Many such herds of cattle have passed through this county, above Roma, but the most of them have crossed below Rio Grande City and Ringgold, and will continue to the end of time unless a new boundary is established between the two countries, or the Mexican government takes measures in preventing it by not allowing any of their citizens to cross into Texas without carrying a proper document or passport from the American consul residing in Matamoras, Camargo, Mier, Guerrero, or New Laredo, proving their character and legitimate business in Texas.

During the last few years, and particularly these last months, the raiders have become more bold and daring; in place of confining themselves to the stealing of cattle, they have commenced robbing American stores and ranches, and murdering many citizens in the adjoining counties. Starr County has not suffered much from these outrages, for the reason that outside of the towns of Rio Grande City and Roma (the first having about fifty and the latter about five Americans) are no Americans

to be found. All the stock-raisers in this county, excepting two living at Rio Grande City, are Mexicans, who keep their stock well in hand and herded, and will frequently lose a few head of cattle which run into the stolen herds passing through from points farther interior; but I do not think the losses of Starr County sum up to over one thousand head for each year.

The Mexican stock-raisers in the county have not been interfered with by the raiders, unless the raiders have found out that some one of them have given information to our civil or military authorities; then they will send them word by some friend that they had better leave Texas, for the next trip they will rob their cattle and kill them if found at their ranches; and I have known several instances of this kind, where the Mexican stock-raisers have left the country with their stock and gone to some town in Mexico to reside for future safety.

The continuation and increase of these raids I cannot account for, except complete success and profit resulting therefrom, up to date. I know but one citizen in this county, since the Cortina raid of 1859, who has been killed by the raiders—namely, Alexander Morrell; but in the adjoining counties above and below, as well as in the counties back of us, many of my own acquaintances have been killed by them.

Hide-peeling has not been carried to any great extent in the upper part of this county, but a year or two ago I heard that it was carried on pretty extensively in the lower end of the county, and in the vicinity of a ranch called Las Cuevas, and by Mexicans from old Reynosa; many herds of cattle have been traced into the towns of Camargo, Mier, and Guerrero, in Mexico, previous to the year 1873. I have been an eye-witness of several stolen herds coming into Mier, and when I was present, and as soon as the authorities in the place had any information that they were stolen from Texas, they took possession of them and offered the agents of any of their owners to take their brands away and dispose of them. The parties bringing them always escaped under some trifling excuse of going after the bill of sale, but never returned. For the last few years very few have been disposed of in these towns, for the authorities have prevented the sale of any cattle without the proper papers accompanying the herd and in charge of responsible, known parties; but a good market is yet to be found in the interior of Mexico, and even right on the border in the city of Matamoras. Mexicans never come here to buy cattle, but they come and buy thousands of sheep every year.

Respecting the civil authorities of Starr County, I must admit of having a not very exalted opinion of them, though I think they try to execute the laws of the State as well as they know how, and in this, as well as in all frontier counties there is not to be found the best of material to choose from, for among the good Americans but a few are willing to serve, having other employment to attend to more remunerative. Some good Mexican citizen is often chosen as a justice, sheriff, or constable in the county, and assessors and collectors in this county have frequently been Mexicans, who do not know anything of our laws, and don't appear to care. On account of the Mexican voters in this county, which are about ten to one American, all the juries, both grand and petit-jurors, are made up in about the same proportion of ignorant Mexicans, who do not know the value or responsibility of an oath, and who are in my opinion only a farce and expense to the county. The raiders are too strong for the civil authorities to deal with, and the Mexican citizens will seldom or ever give any information that would lead to their capture. I cannot assert that the Mexican authorities authorize or pro-

tect the raiders, but, from information received from various friends of my own, residing in this county, I am of the opinion that Juan N. Cortina knows all about it, and his agents help the raiders to dispose of the stolen cattle as soon as they are safely landed in Mexico, within fifty miles of the city of Matamoras.

This same Cortina is a man of large political influence among the low, vicious, and ignorant classes of Mexicans living on the border of Tamaulipas, and the few good Mexicans are afraid of him and dare not say anything; he has complete control of the border, from Bagdad to New Laredo, and has only to hint one word of anything he wants done, to any of those by whom he is always surrounded, and it will be executed forthwith.

Having herewith answered to the best of my knowledge and belief, all you ask me in yours of May 25, I will close this by respectfully calling your attention to the following:

For the last year and a half Captain C. D. Byers's company of the Ninth United States Cavalry have been stationed at Roma and given complete protection to the place, and at one time about two months ago he saved this town, its merchants as well as the United States custom-house in my charge, from being robbed by about forty armed Mexicans returning from a raid into the county of Nueces. Here are but five Americans but many Mexicans, among whom but very few can be depended upon in case of an attack for reasons previously explained in this letter. By an order from yourself, his company has left and are now at Ringgold, and this place is without any protection from the raiders, which as soon as known by them that there are no more any troops they will organize and come here to rob the merchants as well as the custom-house, where they think always is found cash on hand, and perhaps murder the few Americans here. I would therefore most respectfully ask of you to send some few troops here to remain permanently, for it does not cost the Government any more to keep them here than at Ringgold, if it is not contrary to orders from the Secretary of War, for their presence here will effectually prevent in future the accomplishment of such disgraceful occurrences.

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

JOHN VALE,
Deputy Collector.

Brig. Gen. E. O. C. ORD,
Commanding, Headquarters Department of Texas.

A true copy:

PLACIDUS ORD,
Aid-de-camp.

EDINBURGH, TEX., June 7, 1875.

DEAR SIR: Inclosed please find statement to the questions as per your letter.

If affidavits and certified copies of inquests held over dead bodies of Americans, who have been murdered in this county by Mexican bandits be required, I will take pleasure to forward to you the same on demand.

Edinburgh is not a town, only a small village. In this place we are only six American residents. Our population are Mexicans, and only about thirty Americans in this county. Since the United States troops have left this place our lives have been in danger, and it has become a question of time with us in regard to our lives.

On my part, as sheriff, I will say that I cannot execute the laws of the State, for I am entirely helpless in the performance of my duties.

Criminals are fleeing from justice and cannot be brought to justice for their actions.

Our extradition treaty has been violated on every occasion, which can be proved if required.

I beg of you, if there is any possible means in securing some protection in our behalf; or even if we could have the presence of the United States troops, it would be sufficient for the salvation of our lives and property here, and the laws could be enforced with some protection to the officers.

Our border is entirely open; we have no troops nearer us than Ringgold Barracks, which is fifty miles from here; Fort Brown is seventy-five miles from here, so we have one hundred and twenty-five miles of this border unprotected.

I am, your most obedient,

ALEXANDER J. LEO,
Sheriff of Hidalgo County, Texas.

E. O. C. ORD, Esq.,
Brigadier-General United States Army,
Commanding, San Antonio, Texas.

Answer No. 1. Since 1869.

Answer No. 2. They have. From La Volsa ranch, Rosario ranch, Reynora vecchia, (old,) Ranch Grande las Cuevas, and Juan Rameriz's ranch. They have increased on account of having been protected by civil and military authorities in Mexico, where they reside.

Answer No. 3. Edward Cleveland murdered in 1869; the cause was, he came across a party of Mexicans who were stealing cattle, and to prevent him from giving any information to civil authorities. One Alexander, murdered 11th day of August, A. D. 1872, by one Chicon Perez, a subordinate officer of General Cortina; cause, highway robbery. Blas Hinford murdered in 1872, by hide-peelers; cause, to prevent from giving any information to the authorities; also one Catholic priest, who was trying to save the life of the above-named Blas Hinford. Joseph H. Fulton, late United States postmaster and justice of the peace, murdered February 27, 1875; cause, to rob a store. Also Manrico Villaneoni, his clerk, murdered, same time. Alexander Marel murdered 23d day of March, 1875; cause, came in contact with Mexican cattle-thieves who were on the eve of crossing stolen cattle to Mexico, and to prevent him from giving any information to the civil or military authorities.

Answer No. 4. On an average, 100,000 head of cattle; portion sold in Mexico and a large portion kept by General Cortina for his own purpose.

Answer No. 5. Extensively carried on by Mexicans from Mexico; they have, and attempts have been made to recover stolen stock, but without success. They do not. For the want of protection. No steps are taken by the State or United States Government. 100 per cent. more Mexicans than Americans.

Answer to No. 6. They are not.

Answer No. 7. There is, under General Cortina and all civil authorities.

ALEXANDER J. LEO,
Sheriff Hidalgo County, Texas.

A true copy:

HUGH G. BROWN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

APPENDIX A, No. 21.

Captain Charles Best's statement.

I have been running a steamer on the Rio Grande since 1863. In July, 1871, I had a large amount of specie on board, and was notified by the collector at Camargo that a party of Mexicans, about one hundred and twenty-five men, were preparing to attack me; I came upon them while they were crossing the river in canoes, and while the steamer was wooding turned their canoes adrift. I think this saved me from attack, as the river divided their force. Mr. Wilson afterward caught three of

the ringleaders of this band at a fandango, where, as I learned from the rancheros, they were arranging another attack, and sent them to Brownsville, where they were held a short time and then released for want of evidence. I have seen from twenty to thirty armed men cross from the Mexican to the American side, and after about a week return, driving cattle across the river. I have seen this occur more than fifteen or twenty times. Last year, in March, about 9 o'clock at night, when passing Las Ruscias, they, the Mexicans, had a large drove on the bank ready to cross. I stopped at the rancho Palangamo, about a mile below them; the Mexican rancheros told me there were about five hundred head; as I passed within about ten feet of the bank, I saw the cattle waiting to be crossed. It was well known and reported by the Mexicans on both sides, that all these herds driven across the river were stolen cattle. I never heard of their buying any cattle on the American side. The last time I saw and counted an armed party crossing was about the 1st of April; there were twenty-seven men, armed with Winchester rifles, pistols, and sabers. It is well understood that the cattle driven over are stolen; beef and hides are cheaper on the Mexican than on the Texas side.

One-half the business-houses in Matamoras are engaged in shipping hides of Texas cattle. In September last, I carried from Matamoras to Bagdad 2,900 hides from several houses. I checked the hides myself, from curiosity to see how many had Texas brands, but they watched me so closely that I could not do it, but, as far as I saw, they were all Texas brands. The matter of running cattle from Texas into Mexico has become so common, that I have ceased to pay much attention to it; in fact, nearly every trip of late, I either see them crossing or the recent traces of their crossing; the reason that troops do not stop this, or attempt to, is that the colored soldiers have more or less Mexican women about camp, who, when the soldiers are going out, give information to their friends; none of the people along the river dare give information for fear of being shot; every person who has given information thus far has been killed. At one time, while they were crossing a herd, the channel being narrow, I ran into and drowned some. I reported this down below to the papers, and not long after, while aground at the same point, they fired on me, and I was soon after informed that if I kept my mouth shut I should not be molested.

I have since declined to make any reports, and *I now do not wish to have my name known in this connection.* I think the civil authorities have no control the way it is now; the sheriffs and justices of the peace dare not go out of town for fear of their lives. At several of the ranches I learned that some of the parties came all the way from Victoria, the capital of Tamaulipas, Mexico. I think the way it is, that Cortina has always around him a number of desperate and lawless men; the only way he can feed them is to send them to Texas in bands to steal; this is the common talk, and the men are so well armed and so bold that they must have some authority to back them; no one has ever succeeded in having the Mexican authorities (since Cortina has had power) arrest or interfere with these bands in any way.

From the best information and my own observation, I think, in the last year, they have run across on the part of the river on which I run from three to four thousand beeves. I have seen smuggled hides and wool taken across by Mexicans, mostly near the ranch La Greella. There are only three mounted customs-inspectors at Rio Grande City—Mr. Dean, Mr. Dawn, and Mr. Law—and every time they have gone up near La Greella, lately, they have been fired at. It is about thirteen mile

from Ringgold; chaparral very thick and the country very dangerous. They have been fired at twice, since the killing of General Hatch's soldiers at that same place. There is a good deal of hide-peeling done by these Mexicans from both sides; that is, they cross and kill the beeves, take the hides only and sell them. Since the inspection law passed, this selling has had to be done on the Mexican side. There is no telling how many hides are stolen in this way, as the cattle are scattered in the chaparral, and it is only by finding the carcasses that it is known. I am of the opinion that the losses from cattle and horse stealing and hide-peeling on the lower river, in the last ten years, has exceeded a million dollars; it has grown a great deal worse of late, since they have driven the patrols of soldiers in; the sheriff and town authorities don't dare to venture a mile from town to arrest any one; they know better; the population where stealing is done is all Mexican.

I certify on honor that the foregoing statement is true, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

CHARLES BEST.

SAN ANTONIO, *Tex.*, May 22, 1875.

I certify that the foregoing statement was read and signed in my presence by Charles Best.

HUGH G. BROWN,
First Lieutenant Twelfth Infantry, A. D. C.

APPENDIX A, No. 22.

HEADQUARTERS FORT BROWN, TEX.,
May 16, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose a copy of a letter to Judge Downey, postmaster at Brownsville, from one of the deputy collectors stationed on the Rio Grande and above this point. This information, contained in the letter of Mr. Box, is doubtless reliable.

This letter has been received since I forwarded my report in regard to Mexican marauders of May 12. In connection with the trouble along the Rio Grande, I may add that four persons have been found hanging on trees, in the vicinity of Brownsville, within the last seven months. These people were, doubtless, Mexican cattle-thieves. I understand that it was proven that two of them had been found to have been in possession of stolen cattle.

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

J. H. POTTER,
Colonel Twenty-fourth Infantry, Commanding Post, &c.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
Department of Texas.

CUSTOM-HOUSE, EDINBURGH, TEXAS,
Deputy Collector's Office, May 13, 1875.

SIR: In reply to your communication of — date, asking statement of all murders and other outrages committed by armed bands from Mexico, permit me to say that the reliable information (with few exceptions, where I have been called to the scene of murders) that I can give you is from the records of the district court of the county, which shows that there have been, since the time the United States commission was here, thirteen bills of indictment for theft of animals, one for theft of hides, sixteen for murder, all against marauders from Mexico, and as for the theft of cattle, this does not show the hundredth part, as it is a daily occurrence. I do not think that there is a week that passes that there is not from one to three hundred head of cattle stolen and carried across the Rio Grande River. It is so common for the past three years that the people look upon it as a matter of

course, and no one makes any note of dates, number of cattle stolen, or number of men driving; but there is scarcely a day that there are not more or less armed bandits on this side of the river committing some kind of depredations, until we conclude that we have to give up all the live-stock between the Nueces and the Rio Grande Rivers to the Mexican marauders unless we get speedy protection.

On the 11th day of February, 1875, Gregorio Solis, a citizen and resident of the Blanco ranch, in this county, was assaulted near the Rosario ranch and shot twice, and beat and bruised, and robbed of about \$200 and his pistol by Mexicans; and in December, of last year, the Los Ohnos ranch was assaulted and robbed by a band of about twenty or more Mexicans from Mexico; and on the 27th day of February, 1875, the ranch of El Sanz, belonging to Mr. Joseph F. Fulton, late surveyor of the district of the counties of Cameron and Hidalgo, and justice of the peace of precinct No. 2, of Hidalgo County, was assaulted by twelve or fifteen armed Mexicans, and Fulton and his clerk, Mr. Villanueva, were most foully and brutally murdered, and we perfectly powerless to help ourselves or bring the offenders to justice, as they all live on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande River. In fact, we, the Americans living in this country, live all the time in dread. It has become so common for the bandits to cross the river and murder Americans that we think it is only a matter of time as to our lives.

On the 22d of March last Alexander Ward, a young man born and raised on the frontier, on his way out to his brother's sheep-ranch, was met by a party of Mexican thieves and disarmed, tied, and shot to death for no other crime than meeting these gentlemen with their stolen stock.

If you desire sworn statements let me know. It would require considerable time and trouble to substantiate each and every act of violence and murder enumerated, but can be done; and then we have not one-hundredth part of the truth.

Respectfully, yours, &c.,

L. H. BOX,
Deputy Collector Customs.

E. DOWNEY, Esq., *Brownsville.*

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, Tex., 26th May, 1875.

A true copy, respectfully forwarded to the assistant adjutant-general Military Division of the Missouri, for the information of the Lieutenant-General commanding.

E. O. C. ORD,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

[Second indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
Chicago, June 1, 1875.

Respectfully returned to the commanding general Department of Texas, who will procure, for the information of the Government, the sworn statements suggested in the concluding paragraph of the inclosed letter of Mr. Box. It is clear and distinct statements that are required to enable the Government to take proper and intelligent action.

By command of Lieutenant-General Sheridan.

R. C. DRUM,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

[Third indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, Tex., July 6, 1875.

Respectfully returned to the assistant adjutant-general, Military Division of Missouri, inviting attention to the inclosed copy of a communication from Mr. L. H. Box, deputy collector of customs at Edinburgh, Tex.

E. O. C. ORD,
Brigadier-General, United States Army, Commanding.

CUSTOM-HOUSE, EDINBURGH, TEX.,
Deputy Collector's Office, June 23, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication of the assistant adjutant-general to the commanding officer of Fort Brown, inclosing an extract from a letter written by myself to Judge Downey on the 13th May, with your indorsement thereon, requesting me to procure sworn statements of murders and outrages committed in this county, and in reply permit me to say that, owing to the condition of the country, and this county having been left without any kind of protection, it is impossible for me to comply

with said request, as it would require me to go or send all over the county after witnesses in each case, which would require considerable time; and besides the time, no man's life would be safe for a moment engaged in such a business. We hardly feel like saying that our lives are our own here in Edinburgh all together, much less riding over the country gathering sworn statements against the marauders. I do not think a man would last long engaged in such business. I think every appearance that we of this county will do extremely well if we get through with whole skins, and I hope, the circumstances considered, that I will be relieved from undertaking it, at least until such time as the county may have protection.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. H. BOX,
Deputy Collector.

Col. J. L. HAYNES,
Collector of Customs, Brownsville, Tex.

[Fourth indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
Chicago, July 15, 1875.

Respectfully forwarded (through headquarters of the Army) to the Adjutant-General of the Army,

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

[Fifth indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Saint Louis, July 16, 1875.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War.

W. T. SHERMAN,
General.

APPENDIX A, No. 23.

HEADQUARTERS FORT BROWN, TEXAS,
May 12, 1875.

SIR: In compliance with telegraphic instructions received from headquarters Department of Texas, dated San Antonio, Tex., April 26, 1875, I have the honor to report the following-named persons have been killed during the last seven months in this vicinity, and said murders are attributed to raiding-parties from Mexico, viz:

Vedal La Haille, in Cameron County.

J. L. Fulton, at the Sauz ranch, about twelve miles below Edinburgh, Tex., and Mauricia Villanueva, at the same time and place.

George Hill, near Tio Cano, in Cameron County.

An unknown man found dead near Damaches ranch, in Cameron County.

The following-named inspectors of customs have been fired upon within the last three months by raiders, viz: Albert Dean, Joseph Dunn, and G. W. Lowe. I find it impossible to learn, definitely, the amount of stock that has been stolen and run into Mexico within a radius of sixty miles.

In my opinion, the greater part of the stolen stock referred to crosses further up the river; that is the general opinion, I think.

Without doubt some stock has been stolen and run across the river within thirty or forty miles of this point, but I cannot obtain exact data. There is a large amount of stock destroyed by thieves by an operation known here as "peeling;" that is, the animals are driven to the chaparral, and killed and skinned, and the hides then taken across the river for sale. This kind of robbery is going on all along the river. There is a general feeling of insecurity of life and property among the people, especially among those living at detached ranches.

I have obtained the foregoing information from well-known citizens

of this city, as Colonel Haynes, collector of customs, and Colonel Ford, citizen of Brownsville.

It is well known that stock disappears from the ranches, but it is next to impossible to learn when and by whom taken. The class of people that do know all about the matter will not inform, for fear that they may disappear also; at least they say so. There have been several murders within a year that I have not before included. Four men were killed at Penaseal ranch, in Cameron County, about seventy-five miles from Corpus Christi, May 9, 1874.

It is the general impression that the raiders cross the Rio Grande in small parties, by twos and threes, at various points along the river, and meet at some point near where the raid is to be commenced, and then drive the stock to some point agreed upon for the crossing. When they start the stock for the crossing they don't stop often until over the river.

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

J. H. POTTER,

Colonel Twenty-fourth Infantry, Commanding Post.

The ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL
Department of Texas, San Antonio, Tex.

APPENDIX A, No. 24.

RIO GRANDE CITY, June 8, 1875.

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of interrogatories, dated at San Antonio, Tex., May 25, 1875, in relation to the affairs on the Rio Grande. In answer, have to say: I have resided at Rio Grande City, Starr County, since 1848. From 1848 up to 1859 armed bands of marauders crossed from different parts of Mexico into the State of Texas, robbing and murdering the citizens thereof, but not so frequent as they have done since 1865. On the 24th day of December, 1859, about four hundred and fifty armed men, with two pieces of artillery, commanded by Juan Nepomeceno Cortina, crossed from Matamoras and other towns in Mexico, and robbed this town, and murdered four citizens of this county, and remained here until Major Heintzelman drove him to Mexico. The four citizens were murdered for no other reason or cause than their great desire to rob and murder Americans, and they, at that time, finding it to be a lucrative business, have made their raids into Texas almost daily ever since.

The following-named citizens have been murdered by said bands of marauders from Mexico, in this county: William McKinney, Thomas Robinson, James Parks, James Patten, Silas Campbell, Jesus Réves, William M. Robertson, Captain Spears, John Box, Santos Garcia, James Dunn, Thomas Rolan, Thomas Murry, Pat Fox, Joseph Morel, James Beckwith, and son, about twelve years old, James Hill, William Hill, Joseph Stone, Stephan Cenac, Leon Cravalla, Thomas Havard, John Conley, Barney Lyons, two soldiers belonging to United States Ninth Cavalry, and many others whose names your relator does not remember, and for no other cause than they were Americans.

It would be impossible for me to make an estimate of the amount of stock stolen by the said bands of marauders from Mexico from the stock-raisers of Texas, but I will say, with all confidence, that they have stolen over two hundred thousand head from them since 1865, all of which have been sold in Matamoras, Monterey, and other towns in Mexico.

Hide-peeling has been carried on to a great extent in this county, only by Mexicans.

When I was county judge of this county I made a great many official demands on the authorities of Camargo, Mexico, for stolen stock traced to and found in that town, but was never able to have it returned back to its lawful owner in Texas, the said authorities refusing to do so. Since 1859 I don't remember ever seeing any person in this county from Mexico buying beef-cattle.

Some of the civil authorities are perfidious; some would be willing to perform their official duty, if they knew how; nevertheless it would be dangerous for either civil or military officers to attempt to arrest and punish marauders; that is, if the courts took any notice of the affidavits that would be filed against them for so doing.

All the population outside of the towns are Mexicans. No American can live outside of the towns, except he is murdered by bands of thieves and murderers from Mexico.

The Mexicans on this side of the Rio Grande are not willing to give information or assist the officers to make arrests; but, on the contrary, they give aid and comfort to the bands of thieves and murderers from Mexico.

There is the best reason to believe that armed bands of thieves and marauders cross from Mexico into Texas by authority and under the protection of the Mexican authorities, both civil and military, for if a Mexican robs and murders an American, it is considered by the Mexican nation at large a meritorious act, and the murderer is promoted to some office, either civil or military.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
SAML. J. STEWART.

General E. O. C. ORD,
Commanding Department of Texas, San Antonio, Tex.

A true copy:
HUGH P. BROWN,
Assistant Adjutant-General, D. T.

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION MISSOURI,
Chicago, August 28, 1875.

Respectfully forwarded, (through headquarters of the Army.)
In the absence of the Lieutenant-General,

R. C. DRUM,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

[Second indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Saint Louis, August 30, 1875.

Respectfully forwarded to the Secretary of War, inviting his attention to General Ord's request.

W. T. SHERMAN, *General.*

SEPTEMBER 7, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to submit, for your information, copies of letters

affidavits, and other papers bearing on the troubles on the Rio Grande frontier, forwarded by the commanding general, Department of Texas.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. T. CROSBY,

Chief Clerk, for the Secretary of War, in his absence.

The Hon. the SECRETARY OF STATE.

APPENDIX A, No. 26.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, October 28, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, for your information, translation of a proclamation of General Cortina, published in the Matamoras newspaper, with remarks, &c., by General Ord; also, reports of General Ord, commanding Department of Texas, and William Steele, adjutant general, State of Texas.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. W. BELKNAP,
Secretary of War.

The Hon. the SECRETARY OF STATE.

[Extra to No. 66 of the Echo of Both Frontiers.]

HEROIC MATAMORAS, *September 8, 1875.*

TO THE PUBLIC.

Long life to the constitution of 1857! Long life to the superior government!! Long life to the liberty of the press!!!

We wish to lay before the people of Tamaulipas, and more especially of this heroic city, the answer of the citizen General Juan N. Cortina to one of his accusers. We take from No. 202 of the Republican Monitor, published in the capital of this republic, the following, together with an extract from the same paper, in which the editors express their opinion with reference to the same citizen, General Cortina:

“CITIZEN GENERAL JUAN N. CORTINA AND HIS ACCUSERS BEFORE THE NATION.

“‘People who live in glass houses should not throw stones.’

“Averse to taking up public attention with the affairs of my humble person, I have for some time past allowed to pass without notice the attacks of my gratuitous and miserable enemies, because I have always thought that in noticing them I only granted them the attention which is only due to worthy and honorable men; but as in their rancorous attacks they have not confined themselves to drawing down on me the unpopularity and the contempt of the people of Matamoras, (an object which they so much desired,) but have with the tenacity peculiar to the ambitious and perverse deceived the superior government, accumulating against me recriminations emanating from the small and insignificant ‘Yankeeized ring’ residing on the frontier of Tamaulipas, which is, however, very perseveringly hostile to me, and, exaggerating the charges which they present, changed in their nature or diametrically contrary to their true essence, with the definite object of representing me as injurious to that locality, and even the republic, in honor of the truth, and making use of the frank language of the loyal frontier soldier, hard and severe as it may be at the same time on those who have so much malignity, I see myself obliged to answer and wipe away their calumnious imputations.

“I am sorry that, in defending myself, it becomes necessary for me to relate facts which

I would have left in oblivion if I had not been attacked so rudely by my enemies: but as they, relying on impunity on account of the great distance at which I was from the capital, have endeavored to warp public opinion in a manner unfavorable to me, inventing falsehoods against me, I am going to tear off the mask under which, up to this time, they have concealed themselves, holding up their natural features in this question, which they have raised with a calculated design.

"The Treviños and their ring are composed, in great part, of corrupt men, for, although among the numbers who compose the Reform or Treviño Club there are honorable exceptions, I repeat, it is mostly composed of servile instruments, who for a handful of lentils sell their conscience and lives, as was seen on the 21st of December, 1873, when the directory of the Reform Circle, or Don Andreas Treviño, always ambitious to command, sent to certain disaster the uncautious who expected to control by means of pressure the opinions of the population of Matamoras. But the events that took place then at that time were for Don Andreas and his partisans the hardest and most cruel destruction of their illusions, by Matamoras reminding them that they will never forget those who, in 1851 and 1861, brought fire, death, and pillage to its firesides, and particularly Andresito, called since that time, or nicknamed, General Firebrand, because, as secretary or soul of Carbajal, he advised those burnings and damages to the heroic city, where, if he did not see the light, it is certain that he owes her all that he is.

"Behold the reason why the Messrs. Treviño are abhorred in Matamoras, and of their rancor against me! I am sorry that I cannot by an act of magic or legerdemain change in their favor the feelings of that locality, which is justly indignant against those who at two different times have caused its ruin. For this reason, the series of articles which have appeared in the Republican Monitor had not had, in my opinion, and that of sensible persons acquainted with men and things of the frontier, any other object than to procure, by means of lies and false statements, from the superior government the order for the incarceration I am now suffering, which has been given in consequence of the clamor raised against me by my enemies, who are also those of my country, and more particularly yourself, Don Andresito, since the year 1851.

To those like me who know your Machiavelianism and want of nerve (although a general) to encounter face to face those you call your enemies, there is nothing surprising to see in the frontier correspondence published by the Monitor the most terrible charges against me. The Treviños and some of their adepts, in accord with their directory residing in this capital, forge their falsehoods—for what has appeared in the press of this city, written from here and sent from Matamoras, are nothing else than falsehoods—with the precise object of exciting against me the general odium. (In the correspondence in which I am called without further compliments, a bandit, a robber, an assassin, and ambitious,) I have never wished to degrade myself by assuming the role of an accuser. As a public man I have combated my political enemies on legal grounds. To my personal enemies, when I have not despised them as wretches, I have given the satisfaction required by decency—to meet charge with charge. I regret very much to be your enemy, Don Adresito, but, as I have already said, it is more important for the public good than for my own defense that you should be shown up as you are, and not with gilded disguise of wisdom, integrity, and puritanic austerity which, with as much cynicism as audacity, you wish to put on.

"I now proceed to reply to the charges of being a bandit, robber, assassin, and ambitious man, as they are pleased to style me in their correspondence. Bandit, because with arms in hand I have always defended my country in the field of honor, where, be it said in passing, I have never seen General Andresito, nor any of his brothers, certainly because there the precious person of the first would have been imperiled, which is so much needed in order that as the most loving son of Mexico, through hatred of the man that despises him, he should be always seeking the means to hunt me, alleging falsehoods which may sooner or later, by the way in which they are presented, cause the evils of which as infamously as gratuitously he pretends to make me the author.

"On the northern frontier it is well known while the Americans of the South, or they that were confederates, hate me, the origin of this hatred is a secret from nobody, and particularly for the Messrs. Treviño, a hatred in which I glory, because I think any one that is born a Mexican should be proud to contribute or to have contributed to cause the rights of his fellow-countrymen to be represented, which have been so often trodden under foot by those who only oppose brute force to justice and reason.

"The events of 1859 speak aloud of themselves, and they place me before men of honor, lovers of their country, and of the self-government of peoples, and beyond the reach of your slander and hatred, Messrs. Treviño.

"Differing in opinion always respecting the interests of the frontier, and in so marked a manner since I saw myself compelled in Texas to defend the Mexican name, you, through a contrary feeling, have been and are constantly on the side of those that ridicule and despise us, for they omit no means, no matter how repugnant, to hold up to the nation, as authors of the robberies on both sides of the Rio Grande, Mexicans, of whom I am said to be an accomplice. With respect to this, I will say that it is not so, and that if in Texas robberies of cattle are committed, it is by Americans of Mexican origin, who are tired of suffering vexations and plunderings, of which they have been and are the victims, seeking in this shameful traffic a compensation for their suffering.

"They call me robber, and they do not specify the facts that prove my guilt; for the most that they do is to accuse me of being, at last dates, on the banks of the Rio Bravo delivering stock of various brands. It is true that days before my arrest I was in Bagdad, at the mouth of the river of the heroic Matamoras, delivering a herd of 429 cattle of different brands, to be taken to Havana. I should not take up my time by answering these secret scandals, but as you, Don Andresito, endeavor from them to get data to injure me with safety, from the prison in which I now am, I raise my voice that all honorable and impartial men may inform themselves from the citizens Luis Guerra, (the uncle of a certain Don Protasio Guerra, who has declared himself my enemy,) Remigio Chapa, Juan Longoria, and Juan Ayala, as to whose property were the cattle in one of the accusations which the venal press of Matamoras has made against me a few days ago.

"But if they do not specify or give any proofs of my guilt, I, Don Andresito, hold you up as the most dexterous sharper in the country and the most able speculator on the national treasury. I will relate the facts in consequence of the filibustering invasion of 1851, in which you and yours were involved. General Avalos ordered that the little property you had should be seized, consisting of a one-story house—which has grown to be a palace by comparison with what it was—a printing-press with old type, and some other trifles, which you, honorable sir, after having received them, caused to be paid you the no contemptible sum of \$30,000, while they were not worth \$500.

"In 1853, during the time of the command of General Wall, you obtained, Señor Don Andreas, the order that your property should be returned to you, which was done; and notwithstanding, not to swindle the nation, but as an honorable act and as a signal and patriotic service, you recovered, for your benefit, this handsome trifle or drop of water, for which you have been, and very properly, nicknamed El Arrangoiz Fronterizo. This statement being made, and being proved, as it is, because in this capital are now the persons who took part in the restitution of your property, what must we call a man who claims and receives pay for that which he has not lost? Will you have the goodness to answer this, Señor Treviño; will you do it? I believe it difficult, not to say impossible. I say impossible, because in Tamaulipas, when speaking of your memorable administration of two months, it is called the administration of the \$40,000, alluding, no doubt, to the celebrated indemnity which forms the greater portion of that sum, unless it be some other \$40,000.

"Another charge against me is that of assassin, because in the jurisdiction of Reynosa occurred the death of Don Manuel Treviño, originating, according to judicial proof, in his having taken up arms against the officers of justice who were going to arrest him for having committed a violation of the common law. The testimony, in which are some declarations made by relatives of the deceased, which are on file in the papers of the case, gives the lie in the most solemn and positive manner to those who write falsehoods and calumnies in order that men like you, Andresito, as their organs, may publish them for the patriotic purpose of saving society menaced by me in that country.

"An enlightened statesman like yourself should know that he is the assassin and cruel man who, to show a ridiculous power of authority, gluts his rage on unfortunate men, who, led astray and conducted by intriguers into political troubles which we have experienced, shed their blood without any other aspiration or future than being always the victims of ambitious men, and the wall behind which, with more infamy than valor, the wretches, thirsting for gold and power, seek shelter. The pronunciamiento of 1859 in Tampico afforded you, Señor Andreas, an opportunity to show the noble and magnanimous sentiments of your heart. Recollect that at the time unfortunately you were governor you caused to be shot obscure men of the people who, led astray under command of one Mr. Cowley, received a hard lesson in Casa-Mata, all those who were not killed being wounded. For this reason they were taken to the military hospital, from which, after they recovered, by a marked trait of your magnanimous character and philanthropy, they were taken out and executed as they were! And doubtless because in your opinion it was necessary to stain the holy cause of liberty with the blood of unknown men, as were those unfortunates, and above all because it was necessary to make a display of terror, first by disdaining the appeal of the humane citizens of Tampico, who in vain implored mercy for those victims, and then ordering officially that all the employés of the custom-house and the State should march in a body to be present at this barbarous act, which at that time justly procured for its author the epithet of 'the little Nero of Tamaulipas,' which was repeated in chorus by the employés, who openly refused to obey an order so senseless and despotic.

"This manner of acting of yours, Señor Don Andreas, being made public, who is it that deserves most justly the pompous title of assassin, which you and yours have so generously bestowed upon me? It is true I have ordered the executions of chiefs who have caused the troops to rebel that were under my command, and when I ordered such executions I obeyed the articles of war applicable to representative men, and not to the simple men of the people. And now lay your hand on your heart, and in all sincerity, if your soul is still susceptible of it, answer me who is the assassin.

"It remains now for me to answer the last charge made against me, of being ambitious—doubtless on account of my position of general in the army. But if I wear the sash of a brigadier, I did not obtain it by palace intrigues, but for the following services, that I will lightly sketch. Although absolutely ignorant of military service, nevertheless, from my early youth, I bore arms in the difficult and dangerous struggle against Indians, defending

my rancho and the interests of my family. Judging me to be experienced in this sort of warfare, the frontiersmen of the north, in 1859, confided to me their great cause in critical times, as I will show. After the war with the United States and the conclusion of the treaties of Guadalupe Hidalgo and of the Mesilla, by which was sold to that nation two-thirds of the national territory for a mess of pottage, the execution of article 11 of said treaty of Guadalupe stipulated in favor of the frontier having been remitted to the American Government, the subordination of the frontier States having been squandered, and a yoke of iron imposed on them by the Yankee police by said treaties, those unfortunate inhabitants saw themselves abandoned by their own government, tyrannized over, despoiled of everything, and destined by their new conqueror to be the helots of America, or the slaves of their slaves. So it is, seeing themselves outlawed, and becoming desperate, they saw no other future than that of the damned of Dante, written on the gates of his empire, 'Abandon all hope!' But at supreme moments the saying of O'Connell is verified, 'Peoples, like men, situated in extreme cases, profit by the opportunities offered by God.'

"This is what happened to these unfortunates, who in those solemn moments believed me to be the instrument destined by Providence to save them.

"In effect, in about the middle of 1859, I went to Brownsville, and being at a café, I saw that an American sheriff was dragging off a poor Mexican by the collar. Indignantly I asked him, 'Why do you ill-treat this man?' He answered me insolently, and then I punished his insolence and avenged my countrymen by shooting him with a pistol and stretching him at my feet. Immediately I mounted my horse, with my protégé behind me, and withdrew amidst the stupor of the Yankees and the enthusiastic hurrahs of the Mexicans. From that moment the Texas Mexicans proclaimed and recognized me as their chief, and with those valiant patriots, after having twice defeated considerable Yankee parties sent to arrest me, I took Brownsville, proclaiming victoriously the Mexican Republic, and chastising its enemies.

"Being attacked afterward by superior forces, I was obliged to cross to the Mexican side of the Bravo, where I owed my safety to the asylum given me in the Sierrita by my relative, General D. José Maria J. Carvajal, commanding general at that time of the Rojo army in Tamaulipas. You, Don Andreas, being governor of that State, gave repeated orders that the forces of Matamoras crossing the line should join the American forces to follow me up to extermination, as a bandit and filibuster, an order in which you have gloried always as a trait of your high policy, which to this day is followed up against me with the vindictive ardor of that time.

"Being in condition and re-enforced in Tamaulipas, I joined General Comonfort in his passage through this State toward the interior, and I accompanied him with my forces, where his division received orders to operate in conjunction with the general-in-chief of the army of the east in the neighborhood of Pueblo, when in May, 1863, we defeated the French at San Lorenzo and other points, until we retired after the disastrous surrender of that place. Returning to Tamaulipas at the end of 1863 and the beginning of 1864, I succeeded in terminating the civil war in that State between Rojos and Crinolinos in favor of the superior government.

"By this service, a commission as governor of Tamaulipas made out in your favor remained without effect, and, in spite of all you could do, could not be enforced in Matamoras, I being appointed general governor and commanding-general of said State, and presented by the city of Matamoras, through its illustrious common council, with a sword of honor. When Vidaurri, in concert with other generals, abandoned the government of the citizen President Juarez, I was his principal support, without which his ruin was inevitable, accompanied by grave, if not irreparable, prejudice to the national cause. When the general government retired as far as Paso del Norte, I found myself compelled to serve the empire for a time, to save some forces and to preserve for the republic the troops of our command, which I succeeded in doing, for shortly after, with that force, I combated the empire in the center of Tamaulipas, and at the siege and taking of Matamoras, of Mexico, and Queretaro, when was consolidated the independence of Mexico by the taking and shooting of Maximilian, whom I and General Corona captured on the 15th of May, 1867. In 1871, I contributed to save the general government at Lo de Obejo, Tetela del Oro, and other points. Latterly, my presence on the frontier has maintained peace with the United States and the autonomy of Tamaulipas, for which the people of Matamoras have honored me by electing me for the past and present year as mayor.

"Can you, Don Andreas, present better or even equal services to justify your grade of general? You are neither a practical nor a scientific general, and, rack your brain as you will, your list of services, none but the following campaigns are found: In September, 1851, your *pronunciamento de la laba*, bringing with you Yankees and foreigners to oppress and lay waste our country. At the same date your attack of Matamoras, where were burned and sacked more than two hundred houses, from which sacking (according to public voice and report) you adjudged to yourself and family upward of \$200,000, the origin of your fortune, which your brother Don Manuel has employed in commerce. In 1859 your famous order that the troops at the Bravo united with the Americans to pursue me to extermination as a bandit and filibuster for having defended the cause of Mexico. The drop of water, the \$30,000. The execution of the unfortunates at Casa Mata, in Tampico, after taking them from the military hospital on their recovery. In 1861, the new attack on Matamoras, equal to that of 1851. The continued recommendations to your brother, the Mexican consul,

that he should announce the depredations of Mexicans on points in Texas, (attributing them to my employés,) while he scarcely ever notifies the government of the marauding, smuggling, and cattle-stealing of Americans on Mexican territory. The constant claiming of credits against the treasury, (some, and important ones, already paid,) perhaps without the legal voucher from the custom-house, like the \$30,000 already mentioned. Your monomania to be governor of Tamaulipas, supported by your club correspondence in newspapers; and now your accusation against me as being an instrument of Yankee policy! '*Sic itur ad astra!*'

"In the presence of these services, tendered, respectively, by each of us, I believe, if you still dare to call me ambitious, your own conscience, as well as the nation, would answer, saying, if Cortina has ambition, it is legitimate, as being inspired by the love of glory, and based on positive services rendered to his country and humanity, which is the ambition of great men. But that of Señor Treviño is spurious, being inspired by the morbid desire to cut a figure, and based on court intrigues, when not on reprehensible actions, which is that of the worshippers of the golden calf and of mammon, who sacrifice their country and humanity for their private interests. Such is the judgment, without appeal, which contemporaneous history pronounces on my services and yours, Andresito! and this judgment is confirmed by Tamaulipas in respect to you, by calling you 'El hijo de la loba!' (the son of the wolf.) This nickname shows their appreciation of all your ambition. In one particular you were born into the political world from the plan 'de la loba,' according to which its author, to satisfy ambition, did not hesitate to profane the sacred soil of their country with the foul foot of the Yankee and the foreigner, who would lacerate her breast. In the second place, they find an analogy between you and the son of another she-wolf in Rome, the celebrated Romulus, a monster of ambition, since it makes him kill his brother Remus, the Roman people, and forge chains to fetter the universe, until the very senate see themselves obliged, in an *ovacion*, to kill and quarter him secretly, each senator carrying off under his cloak a piece of his palpitating members, to do away with this plague of humanity, telling the people, 'After that his father, the god Mars, satisfied with the glory of his son, had raised him to Olympus, placing him among the immortals.' Who, then, is now the ambitious man?

"By what I have shown, it is evident that Yankee influence, if not the Government of the United States, wishes, at any cost, to make its expiatory victim of the man who in September, 1859, solemnly proclaimed in Brownsville the sacred cause of Mexico, giving effect to the energetic protest of the States of Tamaulipas and Coahuila against the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, being since that time the most constant defender of that cause on the frontier, and not having been able to procure the accomplishment of this wish from the strong government of Benito Juarez, who successfully struggled against three great powers, now endeavor to obtain it from the present cabinet, through an accuser and its old ally, the son of the plan 'De la loba,' Don Andreas Treviño. That this general believing himself, no doubt, the bravest of the brave, on account of his exploits at Matamoros, has not calculated sufficiently the effect of his injurious accusations, since it is at least prudent for those that live in glass houses not to throw stones; that, believing himself the invulnerable Achilles of Tamaulipas, he has left uncovered the heel where he could be wounded, and believing himself to be the Bayard of the frontier, or the knight without fear and without reproach, as declared with a blanched face before the nation, that he will never cover himself under the veil of the anonymous, (as in his correspondence from Matamoros,) but that henceforward all his articles against me will appear signed with his name, indicating in this way clearly that he will continue, as he has done heretofore, his favorite system of calling calumnies facts, positive, incontrovertible, and held for certain by public opinion, when they are against him, and on the contrary facts proven, authentic, and even evangelical, the low calumnies invented by him and his partner in this capital, and published by his official or venal press of Matamoros, against my reputation and good name.

"But I trust that the people of the Mexican Republic, the government of the State of Tamaulipas, and the illustrious common council of the loyal and heroic Matamoros, seeing themselves attacked in my person, will take up my accusation against this Faust of Matamoros, seduced by the Mephistopheles of the United States. But as far as Señor Treviño is concerned, without fearing his celebrity, without his chivalrous protection, and without losing sight of his vulnerable parts, I will only imitate him by subscribing my vindictory articles with my own name, since, being brought into a close field in which the jewel is worn unto death, I promise that I will only combat in this barrier in a fair fight—that is to say, with the arms of the law, on the ground of reason, under the banner of patriotism, with the consciousness of justice and with faith in my good cause. Such has been my course in relating undoubted facts in this article, and such it will be in exposing other facts, which doubtless I will still have to relate in succeeding articles of this controversy, facts for which, doubtless, Don Andresito will not give me a vote of thanks, but the word is already pronounced, and no human power is able to oppose successfully its irresistible truth, without changing the essence of things, which by its nature is immutable. It is now, then, for the high, righteous, and irreversible judgment of the nation to decide between the humble prisoner of Santiago, and his powerful adversary of the court.

"Santiago, Tlalalcalco, August 20, 1875.

"JUAN N. CORTINA."

"GENERAL CORTINA.

"We publish to-day a letter in which this gentleman challenges his enemies to the proof of their accusations against him, since, in spite of all which is done, there is no other charge against him but that of disobedience.

"And Señor Cortina having resigned the generalship, we do not know what turn his trial will take.

"Perhaps he may be thought to be sufficiently punished by the confinement he has undergone in Tlalatelco."

From the above answer the general public, and more particularly the inhabitants of their loyal, unconquered, and heroic city, will learn the character of one of the accusers of the meritorious citizen, Señor Cortina, and, the better to judge this matter, it is supposed that the witnesses to furnish the proof, if they can be found, will be worse yet, for it is known that the Messrs. Treviño have sought in this city with great industry some one to favor them with testimony against Señor Cortina, and they have found it difficult.

However, now that the accused is before his judges, we will see justice administered with disinterestedness and without passion, and we doubt not we will also see the citizen Cortina cleared of all charges, come once more to live on this frontier, among his many friends, and where the citizen President Lerdo de Tejada will be able to make use of the services of the distinguished patriot, if it is the wish to secure peace and tranquillity.—THE EDITORS.

[Translated by A. M. Raphall, lieutenant Eleventh Infantry.]
SAN ANTONIO, TEX., October 2, 1875.

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, Tex., October 4, 1875.

Respectfully forwarded, for the information of the Secretary of State, in connection with my report and that of General Steele, herewith inclosed. This is a translation of a proclamation of General Cortina, published by the Matamoras newspaper, which is considered his organ. While there is a large amount of abuse, recrimination, and egotism vented in this paper that will scarcely repay perusal, yet among the ignorant and unscrupulous adherents of Cortina, to whom it may be read, it is likely to do harm, especially if the Mexican government should, as it is intimated in the note from the Diario, release him. His proclamation and the papers inclosed in my report, and those appended to that of the adjutant-general of this State, show conclusively that Cortina is a bad and dangerous man, with both the power and the will to embroil the United States of Mexico and the United States of America in serious difficulties. On assuming command of this department I took every proper means to learn the character of the people of the provinces of Mexico bordering on it, and was credibly informed that the State of Tamaulipas, or the part of it bordering the Lower Bravo, was infested with a large number of deserters and plunderers, mainly from the French and other revolutionary armies; that idlers and ignorance abounded, and the country is going to decay; but that as we ascend the river the Mexican population becomes more intelligent and industrious; that especially in Chihuahua the people are enterprising, schools abound, and industry is rapidly developing the resources of a rich country.

This explains the marked contrast with the proclamation and actions of Cortina and the spirit of co-operation for mutual protection displayed by General Antonio Ochoa, governor of Chihuahua, and Col. Joaquin Tarrazas, inspector of military colonies of the frontier. (See letter herewith inclosed of Commissioner Williams, copies of which have been sent to the commanders of posts on the Upper Rio Grande, with orders to co-operate with the Mexican troops from Chihuahua in pursuit of the common enemy as if they were our own.)

I will add that the population on the American side of the Lower Bravo is about as bad as that on the Mexican, which is a reason why both governments should send none but its best troops and commanders to that frontier.

E. O. C. ORD,
Brigadier-General, U. S. A., Commanding Department of Texas.

[Second indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
Chicago, October 14, 1875.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army.
In the absence of the Lieutenant-General, commanding,

R. C. DRUM,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

[Third indorsement.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, October 25, 1875.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War, with copies for the Department of State, including two printed documents.

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Adjutant-General.

NOTE.—General Ord's report referred to is embraced in his testimony before the committee. General Steele's report is as follows:

Report of the adjutant-general of the State of Texas for the year 1875. William Steele, adjutant-general.

AFFAIRS ON THE RIO GRANDE.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Austin, July 1, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of a tour of observation in the southwestern portion of the State, made in obedience to your instructions.

Proceeding to San Antonio, I was joined by Hon. J. E. Dwyer, in response to the request of your excellency, and it is due to him to say that, through his intimate knowledge of the language, together with the standing which his father had when living, and having business relations with Mexico, opened sources of information that would have been otherwise inaccessible.

The first subject of investigation was the robbery and burning of stores and robbery of individuals in Nueces County. Passing over the scene of that outrage, we conversed with Mr. Noakes (whose store had been burned) and his wife; Mr. Franks (whose store was robbed) and Mr. Borden, who was robbed on the road, and who gathered a party and pursued until the trace was lost by the division of the party into small bands, going in the direction of the Rio Grande. From these and other witnesses, the fact is apparent that the raiding-party was composed entirely of Mexicans, who were not recognized by any of the many residents of Nueces County who came in contact with them, as being residents of that part of the State. One of the raiders having been wounded, and abandoned by his comrades when closely pursued, was carried into Corpus Christi, and hung by citizens of that place. The statement of this man, as made to the sheriff, is stated by him in substance: That he was a citizen of Victoria, Mexico, where he had married; that he had worked in Brownsville, and on a ranch not far from King's; that his family was now living near Matamoras; that the party was organized in Mexico, at the Bolsa, from which point they traveled in small parties, and at night, to a rendezvous about twenty miles from where they commenced their operations. There they were joined by another party with fresh horses. From this point, they moved into some timber, where they remained several days. They expected an accession to their force, which not receiving, they commenced operations. He further stated that when he was enlisted it was stated that robbery was the object, and that no one was to be hurt; which might have been carried out, if Noakes had not resisted and shot one of their number; in retaliation for which, a Mr. Smith, who was at Noakes's, was badly shot and the store burned.

Many citizens were stopped on the highway and robbed, but not injured, except by the fatigue of a forced march with their captors. Our further investigation on the Rio Grande shows that a small party of the raiders were arrested at Camargo, Mexico, and sent into the interior of Mexico, a force of cavalry having been sent to take them to Monterey, Cortina, in the mean time, having ordered them sent to Matamoras.

The preparations for this raid were known to many in Mexico, a letter announcing it having been sent to General Escobedo, which, it is stated, did not reach him until the raid took place. Information was also sent by Mr. Avery, at Camargo, to General Ed. Hatch, at Ringgold Barracks, that something of the kind was on foot. There is no question but that the expedition was intended to have been of larger proportions, and that Corpus Christi was their objective point; but dissensions among themselves reduced the numbers so much that they dared not attack so large a place.

Soon after the raid of Mexicans in Nueces County, some raids occurred of a different character. Bands of Americans went to a place called La Para, where a store was burned and several persons killed. This was incited partly for revenge on Mexicans, and partly to suppress the killing of cattle for their hides.

There is a considerable element in the country bordering on the Nueces and west, that think the killing of a Mexican no crime, and the effect has been to stop, to a considerable extent, the trade between Laredo and Corpus Christi.

The killing of cattle for their hides has had much to do with the unfortunate condition of Nueces and adjoining counties, and some of the merchants of Corpus Christi are much to blame for their encouragement of this illegal traffic. I consider it abundantly proved, that small stores and peddlers have been started in trade by these merchants, in localities where

there could be no legitimate business, and returns have been made in stolen hides, which have been shipped in various directions, as would best avoid detection.

Your excellency will doubtless recollect that a company of minute-men was formed under the law of the first session of the fourteenth legislature for Nueces County, and of which Warren Wallace was captain. This company was fortunately kept in service but three months; for, in passing through the country, I have arrived at the conclusion that the organization of this company only had the effect to give a semblance of authority to an armed mob. Captain Wallace appears to have exercised no control over the blood-thirsty instincts of many of his company. The experience with this company only strengthens the conviction I have long held, of the impropriety of organizing a local force wherever there is a question of local interest involved. Proceeding from the Nueces to the Rio Grande, the population changes from an English-speaking one to one where the great majority do not understand that language, so that outside of the cities, any one not knowing something of the Spanish language would have difficulty in making his wants known, even for the necessaries of life. This population has little knowledge of the customs of the American people, and none of the laws which are supposed to govern them; the result of which is, that county officers, in some of the counties bordering on the Rio Grande, have little qualifications, except that of being able to read the laws and talk Mexican. And where a very large preponderance of Mexican votes have elected one of themselves to the office of justice of the peace, or other office, he is at the mercy (as one of them told me) of some one who could interpret for him, and he said he did not feel altogether responsible for documents in English which he had signed; and those counties, while having a population ostensibly of Texas citizens, are under control of influences from the other side of the Rio Grande. Their citizenship sits lightly upon them. They look more toward the city of Mexico than to the city of Washington. The language of the country, for one hundred miles from the Rio Grande, being Spanish, and a large number of the inhabitants owing allegiance to Mexico, gives great facilities to the parties of cattle-thieves in their operations.

The thieves and cut-throats, who have collected on the border, think the killing a Texan something to be proud of, and they will kill any one, even of their own nationality, should he happen to encounter them with stolen cattle, unless they have confidence in his discretion. Many have been killed for no other reason than that they knew too much. The result is that many good citizens of Texas, of Mexican origin, feeling that they are unprotected, and at the mercy of the thieves that they may offend, will not willingly give information. But with all these advantages, cattle-stealing could be in a great measure stopped if there was not a safe asylum for cattle-thieves and their plunder as soon as the line of the Rio Grande was passed.

I have heard of no instance in which parties from Texas have met with real aid from the Mexican authorities. On the contrary, it appears as if every possible obstacle was interposed by officials to the recovery of stolen animals or other property. Even in the case where some of the raiders into Nueces County were arrested in Camargo, an opportunity to view the property found upon them was refused to Mr. Avery, acting in behalf of the United States consul at Matamoras. Probably the officials at Camargo were afraid of General J. N. Cortina, whose autocratic power extends to and includes that town. His complicity with the thieves, and participation in the profits of cattle-stealing, is confirmed by the fact that a Spanish steamer was, during my stay in Brownsville, loading with cattle contracted by Cortina himself, and these cattle were examined and found to consist mostly of cattle stolen from Texas.

Cortina is the recognized head and protector of all of the cattle-thieves and murderers, from Camargo to the mouth of the Rio Grande. He takes them from the hands of any officer who is bold enough to arrest them; they, in turn, support him against all powers that may be brought against him. It is impossible to conceive, without having heard from many and undeniable sources on both sides of the line of Mexico and Texas, of the extent of the power of this great robber chief. It is a well-known fact that not only Cortina himself, but even his mistress, gives orders to judges as to their decisions in cases, either civil or criminal, and such orders are obeyed. His armed adherents are said to number over two thousand. He has around him most of the time seventy or eighty of his trusted men. The police of Matamoras, of which city he is mayor, is composed entirely of ruffians, ready at any moment to commit murder, or any other crime, at his bidding.

There is no prospect of a cessation of the raids into Texas until this man is removed entirely from our frontier, and a better disposition is manifested in arresting thieves, and restoring stolen property, by the Mexican civil officers near the line.

It has been claimed that horses and mules have been stolen in Mexico and brought to Texas for sale, but I have not learned of one instance where the name of the thief did not indicate a Mexican origin; and whenever the thieves have been pursued, every facility has been given to recover the stolen property.

But there is a feature in these claims of stolen property from Mexico that deserves attention. Along the line of the river the United States Revenue Department has mounted inspectors, who have frequently detected droves of horses or mules trying to enter the United States without the payment of duties. Invariably, in such cases, the claim is set up of "stolen animals." So uniformly is this action taken, that the conviction is forced upon me, that a previous agreement exists, by which the claim of "stolen property" is to be set

up in case of failure to evade the custom-house officers. In traveling through the country between the Nueces and Rio Grande, I heard no talk of robberies from Mexico, other than in the cases mentioned above; while at every place I heard of stolen cattle driven toward Mexico, and such concurrent testimony as to lead to the conclusion that cattle-stealing is going on almost daily, and has been since the close of the confederate war, to the extent that there is not now 10 per cent. of the cattle that were to be found within one hundred miles of the Rio Grande in 1864.

The result of my observations leads to the following conclusions:

1st. That parties have been and are still being organized on Mexican soil for the purpose of plundering ranches, stores, and individuals, and other parties, for the purpose of collecting herds of cattle in Texas and driving them into Mexico for sale. That these acts are committed with the knowledge and connivance of Mexican officials.

2d. That parties of Americans living near the Nueces, have banded together with the object of stopping the killing of cattle for the hides, but have themselves committed the greater crimes of murder and arson.

3d. That many merchants in Corpus Christi and elsewhere have aided and abetted the hide-peeling, by buying the stolen hides knowingly.

4th. That the country near the Rio Grande is being rapidly depopulated of good citizens on account of the insecurity of life and property.

5th. That the negro United States soldiery give no sense of security to citizens outside of towns, but on the contrary are regarded with fear.

6th. That there is an intelligent and industrious population on the Texas border of the Rio Grande, who only need security from foreign incursions to make them valuable, law-abiding citizens, whose flocks and herds will add very largely to the wealth of the State.

The question then arises as to the course to be adopted to remove the irritating causes, which, if allowed to continue, will sooner or later involve the two countries in war.

The first necessity is that the despotic power of Cortina be removed. Second, that there must be such an agreement between officers of the peace on both sides, as will prevent the collection of criminals on the line, where they can escape from one nationality to another, as may be necessary to their safety.

Failing in such peaceable measures, it is necessary that there should be a large force, under one head, on the Rio Grande, with orders to pursue and capture felons into Mexico, if necessary. Immunity from pursuit no longer existing, stealing would be reduced to the petty proportions that is found everywhere.

Herewith, I inclose affidavits and statements of various parties, in support of the opinions above expressed, as follows:

B.—Affidavit of Anastasio Cavasot.

C.—Affidavit of Lawrence S. Hynes.

F.—Affidavit of A. E. Erwin.

G.—Affidavit of F. M. Rhodes.

H.—Affidavit of J. T. Callaghan.

I.—Affidavit of G. A. Hall.

J.—Affidavit of N. Champion.

K.—Affidavit of D. McLean.

L.—Affidavit of C. Stillman.

M.—Copy of letter to Judge Ed. Dougherty, from Thos. F. Wilson, United States consul, Matamoras, April 10, 1875, inclosing letter of Lucius Avery, United States consular agent, dated Camargo, April 6, 1875.

N.—Copy of letter to Judge Ed. Dougherty, from Thos. F. Wilson, United States consul, Matamoras, April 14, 1875.

O.—Report of John Vale, deputy collector, dated Roma, April 6, 1875, to collector of customs at Brownsville.

P.—Letter to J. L. Haynes, from Joseph Dunn, sending copy of letters from Matt. Dunn, Carrizo, April 17, 1875.

Q.—Letter to collector of customs, Brownsville, from S. G. Stewart, Rio Grande City, April 23, 1875.

R.—Copy of inquest on body of George Hill, county of Cameron, April 18, 1875.

S.—Copy of report of grand jury, Hidalgo County, April 23, 1875.

T.—Substance of circular of Francisco Fuentes Fareas, president of common council, Matamoras, May 26, 1874.

U.—Letter of C. Stillman to Henry Klahn, dated La Jarita, June 13, 1875.

V.—Certificate of J. L. Haynes, Brownsville, June 21, 1875.

W.—Letter of J. G. Brown, sheriff Cameron County, to General J. N. Potter, U. S. A., commanding Fort Brown, Texas, Brownsville, June 1, 1875, and indorsement thereon of H. C. Merriam, major Twenty-fourth Infantry, temporarily commanding post, dated headquarters Fort Brown, June 2, 1875.

X.—Correspondence of Frontera to Corpus Christi Weekly Gazette of June 5, 1875.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. STEELE,
Adjutant-General.

His Excellency RICHARD COKE, Governor of Texas.

Report of Senator Dwyer.

SAN ANTONIO, August 14, 1875.

SIR: In compliance with the request, made by your excellency, in your letter of May 18, 1875, I joined General Wm. Steele, the adjutant-general of the State, in a tour of observation, to investigate the cause and extent of the recent disturbances in the country between the Rio Grande and Nueces Rivers.

I have the honor to say that I concur in the report made by Adjutant-General Steele. I respectfully submit the following remarks, especially to state more fully the complaints of our Mexican citizens living in Texas.

Undoubtedly robberies and murders by Mexicans from Mexico have almost continually been perpetrated in Texas, but in retaliation Americans have committed terrible outrages on citizens of Mexican origin.

In passing through Bee County, we heard of a Mexican, a quiet citizen, (so reported to be by the presiding justice of the county, an American,) who had been brutally murdered a few days before our arrival, by several Americans, because (as was stated to General Steele) the Mexican would not go and play the fiddle for them. This substantiates fully General Steele's report, viz: "That there is a considerable element in the country bordering on the Nueces and west, that think the killing of a Mexican *no crime*."

There is no justifiable defense for the outrageous lawless acts committed on Mexicans living in Nueces and Cameron Counties, in consequence of the recent raid of the Mexican robbers near Corpus Christi. Instead of exterminating the banditti who invaded Texas, the vengeance fell on the poor and unfortunate living in the country. But I am happy to state that the numerous indictments found by the late Nueces County grand jury indicate that these outrages have aroused the good men of the country with the determination to put down vandalism and sustain the majesty of the law.

There is a disposition on the part of some Americans, which crops out every once in a while, not to respect the property of Mexicans living southwest of the Nueces River. As a case in point, I would respectfully cite that of Señor Don Sabino Cavazos, a neighbor of Mr. Richard King, on the Santa Gertrudes, Nueces County.

Señor Cavazos is known to be a good, law-abiding Mexican citizen, a stock-raiser, having horses and cattle. Señor Cavazos has had a ranch in Texas for over a quarter of a century. Well, one of our enterprising Americans, living, I believe, in Live Oak County, openly claims Cavazos's brand as his own property, without any sale or transfer from Cavazos.

I myself read Sabino Cavazos's letter to Captain McNelly, appealing for protection.

Many of the citizens of Mexican origin complain bitterly that the safeguards and protection of the laws of the State are not usually thrown around their property as around that of a select few. They complain that the extensive beef-packeries too freely receive and butcher cattle bearing Mexican brands. They say that while reports of cattle or hides, with A's, B's, and C's American brands and ear-marks, giving full description thereof, are generally properly made, that when it comes to their property, their cattle or hides, that they are usually reported simply as so many cattle or hides with Mexican brands, without any description thereof; hence their inability to trace their property, even when sold without their authority.

Such are the complaints made by our Mexican citizens, and I have thought it my duty to report them to your excellency.

As to the relations with the adjoining republic, *smuggling*, in consequence of the immediate proximity of the "Zona Libre," (or Free Zone,) and cattle-stealing, by Mexicans from Mexico, have worked together to the destruction of Texas interest.

Many well-to-do Mexican rancheros, owning property on both sides of the Rio Grande, are engaged in smuggling, using the bold and intrepid for the business, and when depredations or murders are committed in Texas by these "employés," the smuggling rancheros do not dare expose them, in consequence of their own illicit traffic, and the honest ranchero, for self-preservation, dares not expose them, as his life and property *both* are at the mercy of the marauders.

The system of "rural police" on the frontier of Mexico is so perfect that the Mexican authorities are generally aware of nearly all the thefts of animals committed on the Texas side of the river, especially when the booty is carried over to the Mexican side of the Rio Bravo. But the Mexican officials on the Lower Rio Grande have acted in exceeding bad faith, even when our American citizens, or Mexicans claiming American citizenship, made fair and just reclamations, and that their identified stolen property was in sight.

As a ludicrous example of the bad faith and "*finesse*" of some of the Mexican officials on the Lower Rio Grande, I will relate one of their *escapades*, resulting out of what is known the Corpus Christi raid, as reported by Mr. Avery, United States commercial agent at Camargo, Mexico.

As soon as Mr. Avery heard of the arrest of several of the raiders by the principal judge at Camargo, he went to see if he would be permitted to inspect the stolen property, belonging to Americans, found in the possession of the raiders. This permission was refused. But

subsequently an order came from Matamoras, allowing the inspection by the United States commercial agent of the stolen property in charge of the Mexican authorities.

A long inventory was handed Mr. Avery by the judge, in court, and at the very bottom of the inventory was reported "a gold watch and chain."

As Mr. Avery had been notified, by one of the victims of the Corpus Christi raid, to be on the lookout for a gold watch and chain, in hopes to identify the property, he asked to see it.

Scene in court, Camargo, Mexico.

MEXICAN JUDGE. Very well, sir; you shall see it. Mr. Clerk, show the gentleman the gold watch and chain.

CLERK. The gold watch and chain; si Señor, hum! hum! (Clerk retires from courtroom, then returns.) Your honor, I don't know where the gold watch and chain are—hum! I believe—the prisoner has got them yet.

JUDGE. Bring the prisoner in court—(prisoner, one of the raiders brought in.)—Have you got the gold watch and chain?

PRISONER. No, sir; when coming through "Reynosa Viejo," my comrades and myself, as prisoners, having no funds to buy provisions with, I sold the gold watch and chain for \$15.

JUDGE. (To the prisoner.) That was *very wrong*, sir. (Then turning to Mr. Avery,) I regret this very much, sir; but is there *anything else* on the inventory you would like to see?

"No," replied Mr. Avery, and in disgust he went home.

It was claimed by respectable Mexican citizens at Matamoras, and by the indefatigable Mexican consul at Brownsville, that this condition of affairs existed owing to "Cortina's reign;" and in justice to several Mexican gentlemen, I would say that they did all in their power to cause the removal of Cortina from the frontier.

Now that the United States Government seems to have awakened from its "Rip Van Winkle sleep," after the *wanton murder* of Texas citizens, *high-handed thefts of Texas property*, and *open invasion of Texas soil* by a well-organized and armed body of Mexicans from Mexico, it is sincerely and most fervently hoped that a better era will dawn upon our unfortunate bleeding frontier.

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

JOS. E. DWYER.

His Excellency RICHARD COKE, *Governor of Texas.*

B.—*Affidavit of Anastasio Cavasos.*

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron:*

BROWNSVILLE, *April 21, 1875.*

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority, Anastasio Cavasos, who, being sworn, says:

"My name is Anastasio Cavasos. I live at the Mezquite ranch, thirty-nine miles north of Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas. I am a stock-raiser; I have lived in Cameron County twenty-four years.

"On the first day of January, of last year, I had on hand about one thousand head of cattle. They were worth about seven thousand dollars. The price of cattle has been depreciated on this frontier, on account of the want of protection and security. The same animals, if in the more interior parts of Texas, could have been sold for more than ten thousand dollars.

"During the early part of July, of last year, a party of armed Mexicans crossed into Texas from Mexico, and took by force more than one hundred beeves from me, and a larger number from James G. Brown, sheriff of Cameron County. They were crossed into Mexico, below Brownsville, at the ranch of El Pando. My son-in-law followed the trail to the bank of the Rio Grande.

"In the early part of November I was again robbed of beeves. I went to Matamoras to reclaim some beeves. Mr. H. S. Rock had seen them. I waited on the registrar of brands, and he had painted or copied my brand wrongly. He told me I had no right to recover anything, as I had not had any beeves there. I returned to Brownsville and got a certificate from H. S. Rock, deputy inspector of hides and animals, that he had seen beeves of mine in the herd which had been sold by the authorities of Matamoras. After a great deal of trouble and spending some money, I succeeded in recovering fifteen dollars for twelve beeves of mine which had been sold by the authorities of Matamoras. While I was engaged in recovering fifteen dollars for twelve beeves, I was robbed of nearly all the cattle

I had left at home. Don Matias Serrape followed the trail of the robbers, which led in the direction of the Rio Grande, and he recaptured fifty-nine of my cattle.

"I have had men engaged in searching the range, and they have gathered about one hundred and eighty head of my cattle. More than eight hundred head of my cattle have been stolen from me and carried into Mexico. These robberies were committed by Mexicans. The cattle were taken to Mexico, some of them sold publicly in Matamoras, with the knowledge and co-operation of the authorities.

"The *encargados*, or magistrates, in the different ranches on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande are assisted by the rural police in enforcing the laws and in preserving order; it is their duty to prevent the introduction into Mexico of property stolen in Texas. If they had done their duty, they, aided by the rural police, could have prevented the robbers from crossing with my cattle. It was their duty to have arrested the robbers after they had crossed.

"I am positive fifty armed Americans could not enter Mexico, go one hundred and fifty miles into the interior, rob, and commit other depredations, and then make a safe retreat across the Rio Grande. The rural police, the facility with which they can communicate news from ranch to ranch would render such a thing impossible.

"I have never known a party of Americans to enter Mexico for the purpose of raiding.

"The people of the State of Tamaulipas, Mexico, generally breed horses and mules. They buy beeves from Texas.

"ANASTASIO CAVASOS."

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this the twenty-first day of April, eighteen hundred and seventy-five.

CORN'S STILLMAN,

Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 2, Cameron County, Texas.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Eastern District of Texas :

I hereby certify that I have carefully compared the above and foregoing copy of the affidavit of Anastasio Cavašos with the original, and that it is correct.

JOHN S. FORD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of June, A. D. 1875.

[L. s.]

F. J. PARKER,

Clerk United States Circuit Court, Eastern District of Texas, at Brownsville.

C.—*Affidavit of Lawrence J. Hynes.*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Eastern District of Texas :

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority, Lawrence J. Hynes, who being sworn, says:

"My name is Lawrence J. Hynes. I live at the ranch of Santa Maria, thirty-five miles above Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas. I have lived there six years—four years of the time I was justice of the peace, precinct No. 3. I have been engaged in farming and selling goods.

"Ever since the close of the civil war in this country, bands of armed Mexicans have been crossing from Mexico into Texas. They have assassinated citizens, robbed stores, taken stock by force, and they have carried their stolen property into Mexico, and sold it publicly in the markets of that country. These outrages have continued up to the present time.

"Since June, 1873, a dozen droves of stolen cattle have been crossed into Mexico in the vicinity of Santa Maria.

"About the middle of the present month a party of armed Mexicans crossed the Rio Grande, collected a drove of cattle belonging to citizens living in the vicinity of Lake Tio Cano. They killed George Hill, about four miles west of Tio Cano, where he lived. He was hunting horses, and appears to have come upon the marauders unawares. They shot him four times, robbed him of a pistol, saddle, bridle, rope, and all his clothing but his shirt. That night two droves of stolen cattle were crossed into Mexico, one near the Carricitos, the other in Hidalgo County, at the Esterito ranch.

"Since that time, armed men from Mexico have been seen in the range around Tio Cano. They shot at the herdsmen of Francisco Fuentes, and drove them out of the range; also, at other herdsmen. They were in Cameron County a few days ago, and are said to be there now. Herdsmen will not leave the houses, and stock are at the mercy of the invaders. A sense of insecurity prevails among the residents who have anything to lose, and their only concern is to save their lives by keeping out of sight of the marauders.

"The citizens of Mexican origin say that the invaders declare their intention is to kill the Americans, or drive them off, and to take Texas back; and Americans have been cautioned of impending danger by friendly Mexicans.

"I cannot say how many thousand heads of stock have been driven into Mexico from Texas within the two years last past, but I am satisfied that one-half the stock on hand in June, 1873, has been taken by bands of armed Mexicans and carried into Mexico. I form my opinion from the declarations of stock-owners, also from having been engaged in the purchase of hides:

"I have five Americans, besides myself, on my ranch. I have a watchman employed to look out for my corn and hides at night, and I frequently have others on watch when danger is apprehended. I live in constant danger of being attacked by marauders from Mexico, of being killed and robbed.

"L. J. HYNES."

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of April, 1875.

F. J. PARKER,
Clerk United States Circuit Court,
Eastern District of Texas, at Brownsville.

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of the affidavit of L. J. Hynes, executed before me day and date above written.

[L. S.]

F. J. PARKER,
Clerk United States Circuit Court,
Eastern District of Texas, at Brownsville.

F.—Affidavit of Arthur J. Erwin.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Eastern District of Texas :

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority, Arthur J. Erwin, who, being sworn, says:

"My name is Arthur J. Erwin. I live at the Coyote ranch, about fifty-five miles northwest of Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas. I have been engaged for four years and a half in raising cattle. I commenced with eleven hundred head of cattle, and of these eight hundred were 'mother cows.' The first year I branded over seven hundred calves. According to usual rate of increase in this section, I should now have on hand about four thousand head of cattle. I have on hand about two hundred head. I have sold about two hundred head. The balance, including original stock and increase, have been robbed from me by bands of armed Mexicans, and carried into Mexico.

"In addition to the loss of property, I have been living in constant danger of personal injury from marauders. I have received warnings from my Mexican neighbors, that my life was in danger, should I remain at my ranch. I left, and remained in Brownsville for some time, visiting my ranch occasionally, and generally with a military escort. After Captain McNally's fight with the cattle-thieves, June 12, 1875, I thought I could remain at my ranch with safety. I received notice, sent by express, to quit my ranch at once; that I was in greater danger than before; that the Mexicans were going to avenge the killing of the raiders. I am now in Brownsville, where I shall stay until I can return to my ranch with safety.

"I have reason to particularly dread the hostility of a Mexican, who was in my service, robbed me, and fled to Mexico. He is driving General Cortina's carriage. He has threatened me.

"ARTHUR J. ERWIN."

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 22d day of June, 1875.

[L. S.]

F. J. PARKER,
Clerk United States Circuit Court, Eastern District of Texas, at Brownsville.

G.—Affidavit of Thaddeus M. Rhodes.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Eastern District of Texas :

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority, Thaddeus M. Rhodes, who, being sworn, says:

"My name is Thaddeus M. Rhodes. I live in the ranch of Relampago, thirty miles below Edinburg, Hidalgo County, Texas. I am a farmer and stock-raiser. I am justice of the peace, precinct No. 1. I am also United States commissioner.

"I have been living on the frontier of the Lower Rio Grande for twenty-seven years. I have been a witness of many scenes of violence and robbery, committed by Mexicans, and Indians from Mexico, upon residents of Texas. In 1852, I was robbed by a party of Mexicans and Tampacuas Indians. In 1859, I was robbed by Juan N. Cortina, and his band of cut-throat invaders; my houses, fences, &c., were burned. Since 1866, I have been robbed, from time to time, of horses and cattle, by bands of armed men from Mexico.

"After the marauders had thinned the stock, they commenced robbing custom-houses, stores, and ranches. These operations brought them into immediate contact with those in charge of these different governmental establishments, and with the occupants of ranches, and the owners of stores. The danger to life was greatly augmented.

"In the month of March last, there was a body of more than eighty men, organized and armed, occupying a position in Mexico immediately in front of my house. They were at a ranch claimed by General Juan N. Cortina, of the Mexican army. They avowed their object was to cross into Texas, murder, rob, and plunder. I was compelled to keep a guard over my ranch for a week. I became worn out with watching and anxiety, and concluded to remove to Brownsville with my family, to place them out of danger.

"The marauders were the friends and adherents of General Cortina. One of the principal men among them was Capt. Santos Garza, formerly of Cortina's brigade. The leaders were Oeguín and Aleno Trevino. The latter was one of the leading men in the raid upon Corpus Christi. He has been in the Mexican service.

"I feel perfectly sure that I saved my life by the abandonment of my ranch and property. I have been to my ranch once since. I slept in the woods, being confident I should be killed should I attempt to sleep in my house. I found matters had grown worse instead of better; that danger to life, and the insecurity for property had become greater. The marauders had established a regular crossing upon the Rio Grande, near my house. They had thrown down my fences, and passed droves of stolen cattle through my fields.

"The civil authorities were entirely powerless to execute the laws. They were at the mercy of armed invaders. The marauders traverse the country in bands of from ten to forty well-armed men. The people seldom left their houses—I mean the honest ones. Everything has been left at the mercy of the raiders, and they dominate the whole country. I shall remain here until I am assured of adequate protection at home.

"THADDEUS M. RHODES."

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the twenty-fourth day of June, eighteen hundred and seventy-five.

[L. S.]

F. J. PARKER.

Clerk United States Circuit Court, Eastern District of Texas, at Brownsville.

H.—Affidavit of John T. Callaghan.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Eastern District of Texas:

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority, John T. Callaghan, who, being sworn, says:

"My name is John T. Callaghan. My post-office is Austin, Texas. I am assistant superintendent of the Texas and California Stage Company, and am traveling in its interest over the route between Corpus Christi and Brownsville, the same being a mail-route of said company, on which service will commence July first.

"On the evening of the 19th I arrived at the Paistle ranch, where there is a way-station in charge of a colored man. While there, I ascertained from the station-keeper that the station-house was attacked by a party of armed Mexicans on the night of the 16th instant; they fired shot into the house, the balls passing through the planks on one side and striking the logs on the other. He abandoned the house to save his life, and hid himself in the sand. After having fired a number of shots, the Mexicans closed in around the house, and found the station-keeper. They asked him in Mexican and broken English what had become of the party which had been there in the evening. He told them they got frightened and had gone back to Brownsville. The Mexicans laughed at the idea, and said they did not care for the negro soldiers. They asked if Captain 'Nally' was not with the soldiers. He said no. They then asked who it was. He told them a surgeon of the United States Army.

"They remained at the station about three-quarters of an hour, and rode off. The station-keeper said they were well armed, well mounted, and well dressed—the best-looking Mexicans he had seen; and that three of them were the same men that were there during the day with the escort.

"The stage from Brownsville reached the Paistle station that night. The driver told me he saw two armed Mexicans standing by their horses, near the road about five miles south of the Paistle, and about two o'clock in the morning of the 17th.

"The station-keeper at Montreaux told us three Mexicans came to his station on the 16th instant. He described them as above. This station-keeper is an Englishman.

"The station-keepers, on this side of Capt. King's ranch of Sauna Gertrudes, feel very insecure. They fear the stations will be attacked by raiders, the keepers killed, and everything carried off. If they are not more adequately protected I believe they will quit. The cost of transporting the mails has already been augmented by the operations of the raiders. Unless there shall be a change for the better the cost of transportation will be further increased, and the contractors will incur losses, and ultimately be compelled to abandon the route between Corpus Christi and Brownsville. Stock has been stolen from our predecessors, and now organized bands of armed Mexicans have commenced to make hostile attacks on the station-houses. We have the worst to fear for the future, and earnestly ask for protection.

"JNO. T. CALLAGHAN."

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this the 21st day of June, 1875.

[L. S.]

F. J. PARKER,

Clerk United States Circuit Court, Eastern District of Texas, at Brownsville.

I.—*Affidavit of Geo. A. Hall.*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Eastern District of Texas:

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority, George A. Hall, who being sworn, says:

"My name is George A. Hall. My post-office is Burton, Washington County, Texas. I am first sergeant of Capt. McNally's company of Texas State troops.

"I was directed by Capt. McNally to proceed to Bagdad, Mexico, and ascertain all I could in relation to cattle driven to that place by General Cortina, of the Mexican army, to be shipped to Havana by a Spaniard named Bustamente.

"I arrived at Bagdad on the 7th instant. I saw cattle just above the town, and was informed there were four hundred and eighty of them. I examined the brands as carefully as I could under the circumstances, knowing I was suspected and closely watched by the Mexicans in charge. They had heard I was a detective, and I had to make them believe to the contrary.

"I saw a large number of beeves with American brands. I copied about sixteen brands. One of them is the brand of Hale & Parker; another Rabb's. I saw a brand which I believe was I-K, or —, one of Capt. Richard King's, of Santa Gertrudes ranch. Some of the brands had been freshly burned.

"The men assisting to ship the cattle told me they were satisfied they were mostly from Texas.

"I have the copies of the brands yet in my possession, and will submit them to some person well acquainted with the brands in this section, and he can designate the owners. I believe nearly all the brands were American, or those of residents of Texas.

"I saw a large pile of beef-hides and I saw American brands on them. I think there were five hundred of them.

"I saw a large pile of dried beef, done up in bales or packages. I believe there was one hundred thousand pounds of it.

"I went on board the steamship, and saw some of the cattle shipped, and a considerable quantity of the dried beef.

"Señor Bustamente pays Captain Moore, of the Eunice Huston, \$40 a day for lightering. He pays the steamer Jessie \$100 per trip for towing Captain Moore's vessel. Bustamente offered Captain Moore \$30 a day to remain at Bagdad until the steamship returns for another cargo.

"The steamship is lying about three miles from Bagdad.

"I was told that Señor Bustamente is paying hands from two dollars and a half to five dollars per day to assist in loading the steamship.

"I was informed that General Cortina had been at Bagdad several days, and left the same evening I arrived at Clarksville—the 6th instant. He had seventy-five men with him.

"I was told that at least half the horses his men were riding had American brands.

"G. A. HALL."

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 11th day of June, 1875.

[L. S.]

F. J. PARKER,

Clerk United States Circuit Court, Eastern District of Texas, at Brownsville.

J.—Affidavit of Nicholas Champion.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Eastern District of Texas :

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority, Nicholas Champion, who, being sworn, says :

"My name is Nicholas Champion. I live at present in Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas. My proper home is the Florida ranch, on the Rio Grande, about thirty-three miles above Brownsville. I am a farmer and stock-raiser.

"Armed Mexicans have been banding together in Mexico, crossing into Texas, and committing murder and robberies, since the year eighteen hundred and fifty-nine. They have carried into Mexico hundreds of thousands of cattle, and thousands of horses. They have sold animals and other property stolen from the people of Texas, publicly in the markets of Mexico. This has been done with the knowledge and assistance of the Mexican authorities.

"In the spring of eighteen hundred and seventy-two several American citizens went to the Galveston ranch to deliver railroad ties. My brother Peter and myself were with them. While we were there a force of about forty Mexican soldiers arrived there with a large drove of stolen cattle. They put pickets on the road from Fort Brown to Ringgold Barracks, above and below the Galveston ranch, and they made prisoners of every person passing. Pedro Montalba, a citizen of Mexico, was a prisoner with us. He told us the armed force belonged to the army of Mexico. He pointed out soldiers, and said he knew them personally. The men were armed alike, and generally dressed alike. Mounted inspector of customs, Sheldon, who was stopped by the raiders, told us afterward that they were commanded by Captain Savos Garcia, of the Mexican army. Montalba cautioned us not to attempt to escape; that if we did, we would be killed. The soldiers remained at the ranch about three hours, until they crossed the stolen cattle into Mexico. An armed force was drawn up on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande. They assisted in crossing the cattle. After the crossing, and the pickets had been withdrawn, we were permitted to depart.

"These constant incursions and robberies have decreased the number of cattle and horses. In eighteen hundred and sixty-one I had about one thousand head of cattle. I have sold very few. I now have about fifty head of cattle. The original stock and the increase have nearly all been stolen and carried into Mexico. I consider this a fair statement of the loss of stock throughout Cameron County.

"As our cattle and horses decreased the danger to our persons increased. In addition to the stealing of stock, the raiders commenced to rob custom-houses, post-offices, stores, and ranches. These operations brought them into conflict more immediately with those in charge, and increased the number of murders. The danger to our persons became so great that my brother Peter and myself removed to Brownsville with our families, where we shall remain until we can be properly protected at home. We leave our property to be stolen and carried into Mexico, or to be destroyed by the raiders.

"NICHOLAS ^{his} + CHAMPION."
mark.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this the 23d of June, A. D. 1875.

[L. S.]

F. J. PARKER,

Clerk United States Circuit Court, Eastern District of Texas, at Brownsville.

K.—Affidavit of Daniel McLean.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Eastern District of Texas :

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority, D. McLean, who, being sworn, says :

"My name is Daniel McLean. I am acting assistant surgeon in the service of the United States. I have been ordered to San Antonio, and left Fort Brown on the 12th day of the present month for that place, accompanied by an escort, commanded by Lieutenant Wright. On the 15th instant William D. Thomas, the guide, came to his death at the Saltillo ranch by the accidental discharge of a pistol in his own hands, as is believed. This necessitated a division of the escort. One detachment of it took charge of the guide's corpse, another remained with Lieutenant Wright, and a sergeant and five men of Company H, Ninth United States Cavalry, proceeded with me to the ranch of El Paistle, Mr. Echart, of the stage line, acting as guide. Mr. Echart had received information at the Saltillo ranch which impressed him with a sense of danger from raiders. We were followed by three Mexicans, well armed, well mounted, and well dressed. They asked a great many questions, and acted in a suspicious manner. When we arrived at the Paistle, on the 16th instant, those men

halted there also. Mr. Echart told me that he saw one of said Mexicans, when near me, and unobserved by me, place his hand on his pistol, with an evident intention to draw it. This he communicated to the escort, with a request for them to be on the watch, as the Mexicans surely meant mischief.

"The keeper of the stage-station stated that three other Mexicans, well armed and mounted, had been there in the morning, and gave, as his belief, that a number of thieves were congregating in the prairie at a place called 'The Bovido;' this was corroborated by the information received by Mr. Echart.

"My escort had orders not to proceed any farther. I was convinced that an attack would be made on the Paistle ranch that night, and I deemed it prudent to return with the escort. We left the Paistle that evening for Brownsville. I believe one of the Mexicans who followed us is Señor Garrety, of Matamoras; that the Mexicans knew me, and the position I held in the United States service. They certainly knew the soldiers of the Ninth Cavalry; they had on their uniforms, their Government arms, &c., and there could be no mistake as to them.

"On the 20th instant, Mr. Callahan arrived at Brownsville, on the stage from Corpus Christi; from him and others I learned that the Paistle ranch was attacked and fired into by a party of armed Mexicans; that the station-keeper recognized the three Mexicans who stopped there while we were there.

"I believe that this party of Mexicans deliberately formed a plan to attack my escort and kill them, assassinate me, and rob the United States of horses, arms, &c. They would have sought security in Mexico had they succeeded.

"I also believe there is no security for person and property between the Nueces and the Lower Rio Grande, outside of towns, unless parties travel together in force, well armed, and on the alert. The inhabitants of ranches are at the mercy of the raiders. The raiders, emboldened by success and impunity, are now meditating the destruction of small detachments of United States troops.

"D. McLEAN."

Subscribed and sworn to before me on the 21st day of June, 1875.

[L. s.]

F. J. PARKER,

Clerk United States Circuit Court, Eastern District of Texas, at Brownsville.

L.—Affidavit of Cornelius Stillman.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Eastern District of Texas :

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority, Cornelius Stillman, who, being sworn, says:

"My name is Cornelius Stillman; I live at the Santa Rosa ranch, about sixty miles northwest of Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas; I am a stock-raiser.

"For many years parties of armed Mexicans have been invading Texas, stealing cattle and horses, and driving them into Mexico, where they have been sold in the public markets, with the knowledge and under the protection of the Mexican authorities. They have, also, murdered citizens of the United States, and kept the country between the Nueces and the Rio Grande in constant alarm; in fact, they have inaugurated a reign of terror.

"The constant drain upon cattle and horses reduced their numbers, and rendered the depredating adventures less profitable to the bandits engaged in them, and to their partners, the buyers of stolen animals and hides. The result has been the robbery of stores, ranches, and in some instances custom-houses and post-offices, and also attacking stage station-houses. In this manner the danger to persons has been augmented, and the sanguinary scenes of this border-war have increased in numbers and ferocity. A number of Americans have been forced to abandon their ranches and to leave their property to be preyed upon by the remorseless despoilers.

"After Captain McNally's fight, June 12, 1875, I thought I could live at my ranch. I received notice from a citizen of Mexican origin to leave at once, if I wished to save my life, and that the Mexicans were determined to kill Americans to revenge the defeat inflicted by Captain McNally. I have left ranch and property at the mercy of the marauders, and shall remain here till I can return and be protected at home.

"CORNELIUS STILLMAN."

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this the 24th day of June, 1875.

[L. s.]

F. J. PARKER,

Clerk United States Circuit Court, Eastern District of Texas, at Brownsville.

M.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Matamoras, April 10, 1875.

SIR: Inclosed please find a copy of a letter received at this consulate from Mr. Lucius Avery, United States commercial agent at Camargo, in relation to several persons arrested at Camargo, supposed to belong to the armed band which recently raided through Texas.

Whatever action your authorities may take to identify the prisoners, when they reach this city, and recover any stolen property that may be in their possession, will receive my hearty assistance.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS F. WILSON.

Hon. EDWARD DOUGHERTY,
Judge of the Fifteenth Judicial District, Brownsville, Texas.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Eastern District of Texas :

The above and foregoing is a true copy of the original.

JOHN S. FORD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on the 5th of June, 1875.

[L. S.]

F. J. PARKER,
Clerk United States Circuit Court, Eastern District of Texas, at Brownsville.

(Copy.)

UNITED STATES COMMERCIAL AGENCY,
Camargo, Mexico, April 6, 1875.

THOS. F. WILSON, Esq.,
U. S. Consul, Matamoras :

SIR: A few days ago the authorities of this place were informed, by telegraph from Mier, that a party of armed men, to the number of fifteen or twenty, of very suspicious appearance, had crossed from Texas, and were proceeding toward Camargo, and warned them to be on their guard. On their arrival here three of them were arrested in this city, and five others at a ranch a few miles below here, on the Matamoras road. The first three men had an examination before the juzgado, and will shortly be sent prisoners to Matamoras. I am told, by the chief of police, that their horses have American brands, and that many of the *prendas* taken from the prisoners are evidently American. There is no doubt that these men are a part of the band that made the recent raid into Texas and were on their return home with their booty.

I applied to the president of the ayuntamiento for permission to see the articles and take the brands of the horses taken from the prisoners. He has telegraphed to Matamoras to see whether he can show them to me. Should he receive a favorable answer before the prisoners leave, I hope still to obtain some information at this place. However, as they are to go to Matamoras with all their plunder, you will be able to take such steps as you may see fit in the matter.

I am, very respectfully,
(Signed)

LUCIUS AVERY,
United States Commercial Agent.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Eastern District of Texas :

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a correct copy of the letter of Lucius Avery, United States commercial agent.

JOHN S. FORD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on the fifth of June, eighteen hundred and seventy-five.

[L. S.]

F. J. PARKER,
Clerk United States Circuit Court, Eastern District of Texas, at Brownsville.

N.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Matamoras, April 14th, 1875.

Hon. EDWARD DOUGHERTY,
Judge of the 15th Judicial District, Brownsville, Texas :

SIR: Referring to my letter to you of the 10th instant, enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Avery, commercial agent of the United States at Camargo, in regard to the arrest of

several persons at and near Camargo, supposed to belong to the band of marauders which recently raided through Texas, and in which Mr. Avery stated that the prisoners would be sent to this city for trial, I have now to state that Col. Cristo informed me to-day, verbally, that the prisoners referred to had been ordered to Monterey by the federal government, there to be placed in charge of Gen. Escobedo, the military commander of the State of Nueva Leon.

I am, sir, your very obedient servant,

THOMAS F. WILSON.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Eastern District of Texas:

I certify the above and foregoing is a true copy of the original.

JOHN S. FORD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on the fifth of June, eighteen hundred and seventy-five.

[L. S.]

F. J. PARKER,

Clerk United States Circuit Court, Eastern District of Texas, at Brownsville.

O.

(Copy.)

CUSTOM-HOUSE, ROMA, TEXAS,
Collector's Office, April 6th, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that on the night of the 2d inst., at 10 o'clock, this town was surrounded by a party of robbers, numbering between thirty and fifty men, on their return from the interior of Texas, who intended to have robbed (as per their own statement, made to some of the Mexican prisoners they had taken *en route* here) this custom-house and the stores in town. Fortunately for us all, Capt. Beyer and his company of troops were here, which, as soon they found, they left, crossed the river, most of them at Saens' ranch, one mile below, and the balance at Los Arrieros, above here.

On the 4th, in the morning, an ambulance was stopped between this place and Rio Grande City, by another party of four armed Mexicans; but the driver being alone, and having nothing in the ambulance, was allowed to proceed on his road here.

Very respectfully,

JOHN VALE,
Deputy Collector.

To the COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS,
Brownsville, Texas.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Eastern District of Texas:

I hereby certify that I have compared the above and foregoing with a copy obtained from Col. John L. Haynes, collector of customs, district of Brazos de Santiago, and that the same is correct.

JOHN S. FORD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this the fifth day of June, eighteen hundred and seventy-five.

[L. S.]

F. J. PARKER,

Clerk United States Circuit Court, Eastern District of Texas, at Brownsville.

P.

(Copy.)

J. L. HAYNES, Esq.:

DEAR SIR: I send you enclosed a copy of a letter received from my brother Matt., who is a mounted inspector of customs at Carizo:

"CARIZO, April 18, 1875.

"DEAR BROTHER JOE: This place was thrown into intense excitement this morning by the appearance of a gang of Mexican thieves. Their first act was to kill Dr. D. Lovel in

his own store. They shot him six times. There was about twelve of them. They broke into the custom-house and ransacked it, upset the safe, broke off and carried away the knob and handle, and everything else they thought worth their while. Our deputy collector went with Col. Plato to Corpus. Jack and myself thought there was too many of them for us to handle easily, so we made tracks for tall timber, and thus saved ourselves by a mere scratch.

"Your brother,

"MATT. DUNN."

Your son James is here yet, but leaves this morning in company with the inspector-general and Capt. Hagan, who takes his company along to escort the inspector. So James will be safe.

Yours,

JOSEXH DUNN.

Postmarked *Rio Grande City*, April 22.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Eastern District of Texas :

I hereby certify that I have compared the above and foregoing copy of letter from Joseph Dunn with the original, and that it is correct.

JOHN S. FORD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this fifth day of June, eighteen hundred and seventy-five.

[L. S.]

F. J. PARKER,

Clerk United States Circuit Court, Eastern District of Texas, at Brownsville.

Q.

(Copy.)

CUSTOM-HOUSE, RIO GRANDE CITY,
Collector's Office, April 23, 1875.

COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, *Brownsville, Texas :*

SIR: George W. Lowe, mounted inspector of this post, while on duty below this place, was ambushed and shot at, the ball going through the breast of his coat; also through his coat, shirt, and undershirt sleeves. He had a narrow escape with his life.

The two inspectors, Dunn and Low, looked for the would-be murderer, but could not find him. This was on yesterday, the 22d.

Yours, truly,

SAM. J. STEWART,
Deputy Collector.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Eastern District of Texas :

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a correct copy of the communication of Sam. J. Stewart, and that I have compared the same with a copy obtained from Col. John L. Haynes, collector of customs, district of Brazos de Santiago.

JOHN S. FORD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this June seventh, eighteen hundred and seventy-five.

F. J. PARKER,

Clerk United States Circuit Court, Eastern District of Texas, at Brownsville.

R.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron :*

The inquest, held this 18th day of April, on the body of George Hill, found lying dead in the woods, about four miles west of Tio Cano Lake :

We, the jury, find that said Hill came to his death by being shot in the head and left and right shoulders, by pistol and rifle balls, either one being sufficient to cause death. The jury

find that the said killing was done by a party or parties unknown to them, but the opinion of the jury is, that said killing was done by a party of thieves from Mexico, who was driving a drove of stolen cattle from this immediate range, and was passed to the other side on the same night of which the killing was done.

THOMAS J. HANDY, *Foreman*.
VALERIO SOLIZ.

his
LAZARO + SOLIZ.
mark.

his
FRANCISCO + PEREZ.
mark.

his
RAFAEL + LOPEZ.
mark.

BENITO RAMON.
J. M. LONGORIA, *Coroner*.

I do hereby certify that the above is a true, correct verdict.

J. M. LONGORIA,
Coroner, Justice of the Peace, Third Precinct, Cameron County

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron:*

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original on deposit in my office.

Witness my hand and official seal, at office, in the city of Brownsville, this 4th day of May, 1875.

[SEAL.]

ADOLPHUS GLAEVECKE,
Clerk District Court, Cameron County, Texas.

S.

GRAND-JURY ROOM,
Edinburgh, Texas, April 28, 1875.

We, the grand jury of Hidalgo County, respectfully submit the following report of our labors during the brief period we have been in session: During a session of two days and a half we have returned three bills of indictment, embracing charges of murder against various individuals who are not in the custody of the law, and who are reported to have made their escape into the neighboring republic of Mexico—two for theft and one for assault with intent to murder.

We find that crime, of almost every grade and type, prevails to a great extent in our county, as well as along the entire frontier; and that the most revolting murders are perpetrated almost daily, on the Texas side of the Rio Grande, and that they are in a great degree unrebuked on account of the facility with which the offenders make their escape beyond the reach of our courts and their officers.

Organized bands of men, armed and equipped, not unfrequently make sudden and unexpected incursions from the opposite side of the Rio Grande into Texas, and rob and plunder our citizens of whatever falls in their way, and kill and murder such of them as resist them, or refuse to connive at their unlawful and desperate enterprises.

The military posts along the line of the Rio Grande, being situated at long intervals apart, and each post being weak in point of numbers, afford but little protection, even if the law and our relations with Mexico authorized active interference, and the desperadoes and the lawless disposed confederates of this side the river being so numerous as to defy the civil authorities, and thus to leave the hard-working, toiling classes of our population, who live by honest labor and the sweat of the brow, a prey to the unrestrained licentiousness of irresponsible and lawless men, who refuse to work, and who seek to live at the expense of society, and by appropriating forcibly and unlawfully that which others have accumulated by honest efforts.

Many of our best and most industrious citizens are beginning to despair of being able to live in the country unless some additional protection is given to person and property; and there exists almost everywhere on this portion of the border, a general feeling of insecurity, and business has been, in many places, partially suspended, and travel over the roads considered too hazardous to attempt, except in large parties, and where extreme necessity requires.

In view of these facts, we earnestly appeal to the legally-constituted authorities of the country, through your honor, for sufficient protection to secure us in some measure against

the lawlessness prevailing to such an alarming extent, and that we may have peace, and that confidence may be restored, and that honest industry may be encouraged and sustained,

We further respectfully suggest to your honor, that the county court of our county be instructed to promptly make provision, according to law, for the improvement and repair of our county roads, as in many places they are almost impassable for vehicles.

T.

CIRCULAR.

The president of the common council of the city of Matamoras, Francisco Fuentes Farias, by authority vested in him by several decrees of the supreme government of the State of Tamaulipas, ordering the prosecution of all cattle-thieves and horse-thieves, has published, under date of May 26, 1874, a circular, calling on and commanding all officers and employés within his jurisdiction, and also the rural police, to take active measures to arrest, and bring to Matamoras, all cattle-thieves and horse-thieves.

He orders the presiding officer of each precinct to call a meeting of all his neighbors, and to read the circular to them. Among the pressing causes he sets forth as of urgent necessity for these proceedings, he says, that not only do parties of armed Mexicans cross to Texas, and steal and drive animals to Mexico, but that the whole jurisdiction of Matamoras is desolated by them; that even the poor farmer who owns but one or two yoke of oxen, and the widow who owns two or three milch-cows, on which depends the subsistence of her large and helpless family, are frequently thrown into the deepest misery, by finding that their oxen or their cows have been killed for the sake of the hides, which is all that the robbers care to take with them.

He also calls their attention to the daily, almost hourly, complaints of the residents on both sides of the river, asking for protection and redress; and points out to them that it will not only be a dishonor and a disgrace upon Mexico, if these things are not put down, but that it will be the ruin of the country.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Eastern District of Texas:

I certify that the above and foregoing is a correct translation of the substance of the circular of Francisco Fuentes Farias, dated May 26, 1874.

JOHN S. FORD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this the 5th day of June, 1875.

[L. S.]

F. J. PARKER,
*Clerk United States Circuit Court,
Eastern District of Texas, at Brownsville.*

U.

LA JARITA, June 13.

HENRY KLAN, Esq.:

DEAR SIR: The body of Mahan was found yesterday near the Rancho Mezquite. I went over to-day and saw the remains; not having any interpreter, could not hold an inquest. Gathered the remains together and had them buried where found.

Yours, truly,

C. STILLMAN,
Justice Peace, Precinct No. 4, Cameron County.

V.

CUSTOM-HOUSE, BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS,
Collector's Office, June 21, 1875.

This is to certify that George W. Miller, mounted inspector of customs for this district, stationed at Clarksville, at the mouth of the Rio Grande, has reported to me that he went aboard of the schooner Inez Huston, that had cleared from the port of Bagdad, Mexico, to lighter cattle to a Spanish steamer off the mouth of the Rio Grande, in Mexican waters, the cattle being shipped from Bagdad for Cuba, whilst said schooner was taking aboard the cattle on the 2d of June, 1875, on the Mexican bank of the river, and that on that day, and

whilst aboard the schooner, he saw General Cortina superintending the shipment, accompanied by a large armed guard, among whom he saw and recognized the following persons: Pancho Lopez, Guadalupe Espinosa, Rafael Salinas, and José Maria Olguin *alias* El Agazo, all of whom were killed or wounded in the fight of Capt. McNally with cattle-thieves, near the old battle-ground of Palo Alto, in Cameron County, on Saturday, the 12th day of June, 1875, upon which occasion Capt. McNally recaptured from the said cattle-thieves some two hundred and fifty head of beeves that the thieves were driving in the direction of the mouth of the Rio Grande.

J. L. HAYNES, *Collector.*

W.

BROWNSVILLE, June 1, 1875.

General J. H. POTTER, U. S. A., *Commanding Fort Brown, Texas:*

GENERAL: I received positive news this morning that a party of men from Mexico were going in the direction of the mouth of the Arroyo Colorado in search of cattle. They seldom remain more than two or three days. Others, with myself, have made three unsuccessful trips, because I had not men enough to station in the rear while we went ahead.

Captain McNally, of the State volunteers, left for Corpus Christi last Thursday; therefore I am obliged to call on you for assistance—say ten or twelve men—for two or three days.

I am, general, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

JAMES G. BROWNE,
Sheriff Cameron County, Texas.

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS, FORT BROWN, TEXAS, June 2, 1875.

Respectfully returned to the sheriff of Cameron County, Texas, with the remark that, under recent instructions, I am not authorized to furnish troops as asked within.

H. C. MERRIAM,
Major Twenty-fourth Infantry, temporarily commanding Post.

X.

[From the Corpus Christi Weekly Gazette of June 5, 1875.]

FROM ROMA.—A VOICE FROM THE INTERIOR.—A LULL IN THE RAID-STORM.—BAD EFFECTS UPON CORPUS CHRISTI.—THE RAILROAD.—OUR ONLY SALVATION.—MOVEMENTS OF TROOPS, ETC.

[Special correspondence of the Gazette.]

ROMA, TEXAS, May 24, 1875.

As you may perhaps construe my long silence as an indication of me not taking any more interest in yourselves and borough, or as having forgotten my old friends in Corpus, I hope to relieve your mind from such impression by informing you that although I have now been absent from you for more than a year, I still retain the same lively interest for your welfare as when I left you last April.

I am glad also of being able to inform you that since the last and most disgraceful raid perpetrated at Carrizo, Zapata County, this upper country has been unusually quiet and peaceable, and for which I can only account as follows:

1. That said raid was the most successful one of any done for some time previous, as each raider got about \$500 in cash, besides the plunder; which certainly ought to keep them quiet for a few months.

2. That some of the leaders of the Nueces raid, who were caught at Camargo and Mier, were transported into the interior of Mexico, and whether or not they have been summarily dealt with as their acts deserve, and as rumor says, their transportation from the frontier has had the good effect of intimidating others from engaging in similar enterprises.

3. The arrival on this frontier of the company of State troops from Austin, who, according to all accounts, are rendering good service as scouts and lookouts, not found sleeping more than one night at any place in the immediate back country between Brownsville and Laredo—these are, in my humble opinion, the causes why the raid-storm has lulled for the present.

It is to be most sincerely regretted that these raids into our country, as well as the shameful attack (whether done by Mexicans or Americans) upon the Mexican train of carts some

time since near Palo Alto Creek, have given such a severe blow to all the resident stock-raisers and merchants in the country, as well as to all travelers passing through it. But its effect upon Corpus Christi has been still worse; for it struck to the very heart the prosperity of your city. Every good Mexican is now afraid to navigate the roads to Corpus on horseback or with carts, and the business in these parts has commenced turning into another channel, where less risk is found. To my own personal knowledge, more than 200,000 pounds of wool raised in this part of the country, and several thousand hides that previously took the Corpus route, have now already abandoned it, and are going by land and water to Brownsville and Matamoros. Several merchants on the river, who before supplied themselves at your city, are now taking the same route, supplying themselves from below, and thereby saving, they say, not only the risk but time and money also; all of which will certainly be felt by the merchants of your city, and even if they should now commence a *more liberal policy*, with their old customers on this river, than they have heretofore shown, it will be a long time before they will be able to divert the trade back again which they have already lost; and may perhaps laugh and not heed the remark which I am about to make, but which time will prove to be the truth, and is the following: *That the only salvation now left for the merchants of Corpus Christi and the stock-raisers in Nueces, Duval, and Webb Counties, is to take stock in your railroad, and have it completed with all possible speed to Laredo, via San Diego.* Had they done so when the charter was procured in the year 1873, in place of quarreling and wrangling about wharf monopoly, city charter, choice of mayor and aldermen, and other less important items, your city and county would to-day have been in a far better and more prosperous condition.

I was pleased to read in a late issue of your paper that you have now a new charter, both for your city and your railroad, and have lately elected a span-new mayor and a new lot of city fathers; that the hatchet has been buried at last, and the merchants and people of your city are now pulling together for the common interest and welfare of all; and if every one of you who have means to spare would only invest the same in the speedy building of your railroad, which is the only means now left for your recovery of losses in trade and stock, from the raids, you would see that long before the road is finished to Laredo a large immigration will come in, your real estate will advance in value, your business will increase, and the country soon be settled up with such a population as will make similar raids impossible in the future.

There has been no change or increase of the United States troops on this frontier since my arrival here. But to-day an order has been received from General Ord, commanding this department, calling in to their respective posts or garrisons the three companies stationed at Santa Maria, Edinburgh, and Roma, to Fort Brown and Ringgold Barracks. This is certainly a very strange order, and unintelligible to me, and I feel very sorry to part with their protection of this town, and believe, had such an order been issued about two months ago, I would not be able this day to pen this information to you, but would have been going my way rejoicing on the other side of Jordan.

To-day I have also learned that our sister republic, from which all our troubles and raids have emanated, is now taking the first step toward preventing them, by having sent to Mier yesterday about one hundred and fifty mounted soldiers, which I presume will be distributed at the different crossings and ferries of the river in these parts, and which I sincerely hope may have the effect desired.

The mercantile business of this place has been unusually dull for the last two months, and I am not even able to give you the quotations of the Roma market-value of hides and wool, for reason of not being in the business; but if you feel interested in knowing the market-price of roasting-ears and eggs, I will inform you that these commodities are held on the street at *seis por medio*; and very often when small change (not exchange) gets scarce in this market, the same amount of these luxuries are taken in trade by our merchants, giving in exchange therefor a small bowl, coffee-cup, or saucer, which transactions have not as yet been quoted in Corpus Christi prices-current.

Having nothing else of interest to write you, and having already extended this letter to a considerable length, I will here close the same by sincerely wishing that peace and prosperity may now commence and continue in our country forever, and particularly in that part of it situated between the rivers Nueces and Bravo, in which all of us are most interested.

Yours, truly,

FRONTERA.

APPENDIX A, No. 27.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, Tex., August 13, 1875.

SIR: A recent visit to the Rio Grande has developed that the telegraph between Fort Brown and Ringgold Barracks has been cut and pulled down three times by the Mexican inhabitants; that north and west

of Ringgold it is pulled down, as fast as it is erected, by Mexicans. As these people live along the line, and control the courts, there is no use in watching for them or attempting to arrest them. The judge of the district informed me that they cannot be convicted of any offense by the courts, for, when brought up, they can escape by suborned evidence, which is invariably at their disposal.

I shall not attempt to keep up the line along the Rio Grande, for these reasons, unless on account of the continued invasions of the country by Mexican raiders and murderers it is declared under martial law.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. O. C. ORD,

Brigadier-General, Commanding.

CHIEF SIGNAL-OFFICER,

United States Army, Washington, D. C.

(Through headquarters Military Division of Missouri.)

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION MISSOURI,
Chicago, August 18, 1875.

Respectfully forwarded, through headquarters of the Army, to the Adjutant-General U. S. A., to whom this should be addressed.

In absence of the Lieutenant-General :

R. C. DRUM,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

APPENDIX A, No. 28.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT TEXAS,
San Antonio, Tex., November 16, 1875.

To Assistant Adjutant-General Military Division of the Missouri, Chicago, Ill.:

The following just received :

FORT CLARK, November 16, 1875.

Stock-stealing from above San Felipe November 13, 1875; trail followed by Captain Bennett with Ninth Cavalry, stationed there. It crossed to the Mexican side eighteen miles above San Felipe. Indians were seen on the Mexican side. Citizens think there is a camp of Indians on the Mexican side, near this place; they were seen. Captain Bennett wishes to know if he shall follow the trail across; says that fifteen or twenty citizens wish to go with him. He thinks he can reach the camp and return in about five days.

J. A. HAMPSON,

Tenht Infatry, Commanding Post.

This is the second case same sort occurring at same locality in a few weeks. We all know that the central government of Mexico is powerless to control Indians on its frontier, and that unless the local government does it we must protect ourselves by attacking the Indians wherever we find them. I recommend the local governor of Coahuila be advised immediately that, unless he stays these outrages, we will, and that steps be taken to do so. I have the troops.

E. O. C. ORD,

Brigadier-General U. S. A., Commanding.

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION MISSOURI,
Chicago, November 17, 1875.

Respectfully forwarded through headquarters of the Army.
P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

[Second indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Saint Louis, November 18, 1875.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General, inviting attention to inclosed copy of telegram to General Sheridan on the subject.

By command of General Sherman.

WM. D. WHIPPLE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

APPENDIX A, No. 29.

DEL RIO, TEXAS,
Thursday, December 16.

To the Commandant of the Post of Fort Clark, U. S. A. :

SIR: We have just discovered that about five hundred (500) head of cattle, belonging to residents of this place, and to C. & W. Slaughter, of Frio County, were driven across the Rio Grande on the night of the 14th instant.

From the trail and other indications, we believe the thieves were Indians.

If it is in your power to render us any assistance in the attempt to recover the said cattle, we shall be very grateful for your assistance.

JEROME STRICKLAND.
W. B. REGAN.
C. H. SLAUGHTER.
H. C. TARDY.
W. R. SHRIER.
G. O. BURROW.
J. H. SLAUGHTER & CO.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT CLARK, TEXAS,
December 27, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith report of Lieutenant Goodwin, and indorsement of Captain Carroll (commanding at San Felipe) thereon, for the information of the department commander. I have reliable information that about one hundred and fifty Lipans, Apaches, and Kickapoos are now encamped on the spot where General Mackenzie struck them in May, 1873; they are nearly destitute, having been recently driven from the plains by Colonel Shafter. In my opinion these are the Indians who are driving the cattle from San Felipe. There seems to me no possibility of stopping their raids except by following

them across the river. I also inclose letter from Strickland and others, of San Felipe, showing their belief that the thieves were Indians.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. P. MORROW,

Major Ninth Cavalry, Commanding.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,

Department of Texas, San Antonio, Texas.

SAN FELIPE, TEXAS, *December 25, 1875.*

SIR: In compliance with verbal instructions, I have the honor to report that on the 23d of this month I proceeded to the Rio Grande River, at a point where it was reported that some five hundred head of cattle had been crossed. The cattle, it is said by the citizens of this place, were stolen from their herds, either by Mexicans or Mexicans and Indians; upon arriving at the crossing I found without difficulty the place where a large number of cattle had been driven over, but owing to the very heavy rains of yesterday and to-day it would be impossible for me to judge how many. I should say at least two hundred, and from the statement of the citizens it would appear that more than that were driven over.

I have visited the crossings near here; the one where the cattle crossed is known as the Winger crossing; wagons can cross but cannot get up the other side; they unload their goods in Mexico and return. The good crossing for wagons is about three miles from San Felipe. The cattle were crossed about ten miles from there, and four miles from the mouth of the Devil's River. Horses and cattle can cross the Rio Grande at most any point near here. These depredations are all committed so near the river that it is almost impossible to recover stolen property without following them across. It was reported to me to-day by a citizen that he saw two Mexicans drive over a hundred head of cattle across the river. He promised to give me his affidavit to that effect, but has not yet done so. I will forward it as soon as received.

It is reported that some thirty head of Mr. Slaughter's cattle were picked up by his herders about five miles in the interior of Mexico.

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

M. F. GOODWIN,

Second Lieutenant Ninth Cavalry.

COMMANDING OFFICER,

Camp near San Felipe, Texas.

[First indorsement.]

CAMP NEAR SAN FELIPE, TEXAS,

December 25, 1875.

Respectfully forwarded to the post-adjutant, Fort Clark, Texas. This report has been delayed for evidence promised by leading citizens and stock-men of this vicinity relative to depredations on their stock by Mexicans and Indians. I will forward as soon as received. It is reported that there is fifteen or twenty more head of cattle now grazed between the Rio Grande and Devil's Rivers, and near the mouth of the latter, by J. H. Slaughter & Co., who are driving to that point small herds almost daily. Verbal information is abundant, but positive scarce. Mr. Wyne informs me that Mr. Cornell, of Bracket, sent across the Rio Grande and purchased some stock recently stolen from himself, direct from the thieves. He promised me the affidavit of Zacarias, the man who recovered the stock. The general impression here is that Mexicans stole the stock last crossed. Some say the Mexicans and Indians have a rendezvous in the mountains and work together. Proof of the above has been promised, but may require weeks to obtain it.

HENRY CARROLL,

Captain Ninth Cavalry, Commanding Camp.

APPENDIX A, No. 30.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
INSPECTOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE,

January 25, 1876.

SIR: In compliance with your request of the 24th instant, I have the honor to furnish you with the following copy and extracts of reports of

Inspector-General N. H. Davis, with reference to the troubles on the frontier along the Rio Grande, made during his recent tour of inspection in the Department of Texas.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. B. MARCY,
Inspector-General.

The ADJUTANT-GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY.

FORT BROWN, TEXAS, (inspected April 4, '75.)

It is reported that there are 60,000 Mexican population between the two rivers named, (Rio Grande and Nueces.) Many of them are idle, indolent, and vagrant people, who are persistent cattle-thieves, and some of whom, in connection with bands of the same race from Mexico, frequently raid upon the settlements, stealing stock, robbing ranches, and sometimes murdering the inhabitants. To such an extent have these depredations been committed, that this country has been greatly despoiled of its stock, and the raising of it has become more or less hazardous.

These raids, and the stealing generally, have become a curse to the land.

I deem it not improper to call attention to the reported embarrassments under which the troops officers, and men labor in the execution of their orders to prevent marauding, robbing, and murder by Mexicans, caused by the interference and action of the civil authorities and Mexican juries.

In justice to and for the proper protection of the troops, it seems that some more definite instructions to them from the War Department are desirable.

RINGGOLD BARRACKS, TEXAS,
April 14, 1875.

I have taken every opportunity that offered to ascertain facts in regard to the troubles which have existed, and which do exist on this frontier along the Rio Grande. My information comes from Army officers, a judge, district attorney, and men of intelligence, believed to be reliable residents and business men, and from both sides of the river.

It appears that cattle-stealing and murders are becoming more frequent, and mostly from Mexicans across the Rio Grande, more or less aided by those on this side the river. Life and property are insecure; much less planting; and those having stock are selling and offering it for sale from \$4 to \$6 per head—hardly one-half its value. Persons who have valuable property are in danger of being robbed or murdered. Those who give information against them, or aid in their arrest and punishment, are threatened with death. Sums of money have been paid for murders, and offered for other assassinations, as reported.

Many of these men are said to be under the celebrated leader Cortina of Matamoras.

It is reported that these Mexicans claim that the country south of the Nueces belongs to them, and that they will have it.

One report is that General Rocha is urging Cortina to these raids, &c., to draw Mexican troops to their frontier to aid his operations against the Mexican government at the city of Mexico. It is also reported that parties are organizing in the interior of Texas against the Mexicans.

The outlook now is that a border-war here may, with reason, be anticipated if these depredations and murders are continued, and one-half the reports are true.

I have thought it best to report as above, with the view that it might be advisable to take steps to meet the existing or anticipated condition of affairs.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., *May 17, 1875.*

DEAR GENERAL: I inclose a letter from Major Wade, Ninth Cavalry, temporarily commanding at Ringgold Barracks, to General Hatch, colonel Ninth Cavalry, now here, of the 28th ultimo; and one from Lieutenant Loud, adjutant Ninth Cavalry; also extract from letter of General Potter, commanding at Fort Brown, of April 30—all received here this day; and in regard to affairs along the Rio Grande, sent for the information of the War Department, and to show that previous statements are confirmed; and that, unless something is done to check murder and robbery, and to protect the United States forces, a worse state of

affairs may be reasonably anticipated, resulting in very serious trouble, and that innocent persons will further suffer, and that troops are now suffering for doing their duty.

The indictments for burglary against General Hatch and Lieutenant French are, as the former states to me, for recovering United States arms and clothing taken and stolen from soldiers shot by Mexican assassins. The said articles were found outside a Mexican jacal-house on a ranch not far from the place of attack and massacre, (mentioned in a previous letter,) and about a week thereafter.

It seems that the facts make out an invasion of American soil by bands of armed men from Mexico, who are joined on the Texan side of the river by Mexicans, who are also Mexican citizens; and these bodies of armed men are aided, directly or indirectly, by Mexicans claiming to be American citizens, eluding some of the civil authorities on our side of the river.

The audacity of these invaders and marauders is both remarkable and insulting.

General Ord is anxious to do something to protect our soil and punish these outrages; but it seems to be a case demanding the action of the State and Federal authorities under other than existing instructions.

* * * * *

N. H. DAVIS,
Inspector-General.

NOTE.—The inclosures to Inspector-General Davis's letter, being included in copies prepared in Adjutant-General's Office, are omitted here.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX.,
May 14, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following special report of affairs in this State along the Rio Grande, briefly alluded to in my letter from Fort Brown, for the information of the War Department.

The importance of the subject seems to demand some action to correct the existing evils, and for the protection of the United States troops while in the proper discharge of their duties.

From good and reliable information it is established as a fact that organized bands of armed Mexicans cross over the river from Mexico into Texas, where they are joined and aided by their leagued confederates, Mexicans, to steal cattle, horses, and mules, rob stores and houses, and massacre unoffending and innocent persons, in the country between the Rio Grande and the Nueces River. This marauding upon the section of country named has been carried on for years, more or less, but for the past year it has been practiced to such an extent that life and property are insecure, and the better classes of people having property, and especially Americans, are fleeing to the towns for the protection of their lives; among these are persons who have lived in the country and with Mexicans for many years.

Messrs. Fulton, Morrell, Lovell, Hill, and Walker are the victims among Americans, or some of them, who have this year fallen by the hands of these Mexican assassins. Others have been fired at, and warned that a price has been paid for their heads, or that they are "marked," and their time will soon come. The deputy collector at Edinburgh, and sheriff there, I was told, had received such warning from across the river. Lovell was a deputy collector and postmaster, I believe, at Carrizo. Mexicans are also killed. Any one who aids in arresting and bringing to justice these brigands, or gives information regarding their cattle-thieving or murders, place their own lives in jeopardy from the vengeance of these bloody highwaymen. Soldiers, while in the lawful discharge of their duties, have been shot down, murdered and mutilated, by these marauding Mexicans, and now three lie in a felon's prison under the indictment of murder, of which they are innocent, and were so declared at the time of the affair, by a coroner's inquest, which was quite thorough in the investigation and lasted three

days. Officers are indicted and tried for various offenses, for simply attempting to protect life and property against the lawless acts of these Mexicans. The civil authorities, such as Mexican justices of the peace and juries, are more or less colleagues of the marauders, and aid them, or are afraid to punish them. If current report can be believed, they are in collusion with and are in fear of them.

About January 26 a patrol of one non-commissioned officer and four men were sent out from Ringgold Barracks to patrol and watch the river, and prevent the Mexicans running cattle across into Mexico. At night, while this patrol were bivouacked at or near a ranch, El Grullo or Solice, some sixteen miles below the post, it was fired into from the ranch. The non-commissioned officer went to the head man of the village and asked the cause of this attack; getting no satisfaction, and seeing many armed men there, he returned to his men, saddled up and moved off; but a short distance from the ranch this patrol was ambuscaded, fired upon, killing two soldiers; a brisk skirmish ensued resulting in two or three of the attacking party being shot, as reported; the sergeant barely escaped with his life, having been pursued within one and a half miles of the post; two others also escaped through the chaparral back into the interior and reached the post next morning.

In the attack, or firing at the ranch, one Mexican was killed. The coroner's inquest before alluded to, the evidence of some of the principal and most reliable of the Mexicans there, cleared the soldiers of said patrol of the charge of having shot this man; and to confirm this, the ball was extracted, which proved to be a smaller and different-shaped ball from those used by the troops. Nine Mexicans were, by the coroner's inquest, indicted for the murder of the soldiers. A justice bailed them on a small bail. At the term of court held in Rio Grande City, last month, three of these indicted Mexicans were there held for trial under an indictment of the grand jury. The soldiers of the patrol who survived the attack were summoned as witnesses, and were in attendance upon the court as such, when *they* were indicted for the murder of the Mexican killed at the ranch, and from whose body was extracted the spherical ball mentioned, and thrown into prison. They were brought before Judge Ware on a writ of *habeas corpus*, who offered to release them on \$500 bail, the smallest bail allowable, I am told, in such a case. The statutes of Texas, I am informed, require bail from property-owners in real estate, which excludes officers from bailing out these men. Citizens would willingly do it but for fear of the vengeance of the Mexicans guilty of the lawless acts stated, and the loss of their property and even their own lives.

These soldiers paid \$100 to a lawyer for his services when their case was brought before the judge on the writ of *habeas corpus*.

Is this not a case which demands the action of the Government to protect the lives of good soldiers, faithfully discharging their duties, against the bloody hands of these Mexican assassins and their abettors, and this, too, without any expense to the soldier? Furthermore, are these men to lie in a foul prison till the next term of court, next July, or will the strong arm of justice and protection release them?

The arms, horse-equipments, money, &c., taken from the soldiers killed, were on the other side of the river, and the Mexicans publicly talked or boasted of the murder and plunder. This is common practice I am told.

It is said and believed that all of these marauders are under the control of Cortina; that he has principally armed them. They are well armed with improved breech-loading rifles and pistols. It is said by

those well posted that he can, on short notice, assemble at his command fifteen hundred or more well-armed men on his side the river, and one thousand on our side. He is the head and front of this offending, apparently; he has his partisan subleaders. These Mexicans openly boast that they can, and yet will, clean out the Americans south of the Nueces River. They are fast doing it; they claim this country as theirs. The State of Texas has troops, "rangers," operating along and south of the Nueces. There is reason to fear that they may, in their rage and indignation, injure innocent persons.

There is a strip of land on the Texas side of the Rio Grande claimed as Mexican territory, and I was told in Brownsville it had so been decided by the district court. This constitutes a place to rendezvous for raids, facilitates smuggling, &c. The question simply is whether the old or the existing channel of the Rio Grande, under our treaty with Mexico, is the boundary between the two countries. The Mexicans exercise civil authority on this side, as reported.

The above is a general outline. Details can be had at the military posts and from citizens.

The subject in question is an important and mixed one. That action, to correct existing evils and prevent more serious trouble, is urgently demanded, is apparent.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. H. DAVIS,
Inspector-General.

Inspector-General R. B. MARCY,
War Department, Washington, D. C.

P. S.—This letter has been submitted to General Ord, commanding the Department of Texas, for his perusal.

N. H. DAVIS,
United States Army.

APPENDIX A, No. 31.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Eastern District of Texas:

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority, Albert Dean, who, being duly sworn, says:

My name is Albert Dean. My present residence is Edinburgh, Hidalgo County, Texas. I am a mounted inspector of customs, and have been so employed for the last five years past.

On the first day of October, of the present year, I saw a herd of about thirty-five stolen cattle on the bank of the Rio Grande, between the Rosario ranch and the Agua Negra. They were driven by four armed Mexicans; two of them had Winchester carbines.

On the twenty-fourth of November, of this year, I was traveling in company with Col. E. F. Jennings, of the U. S. Revenue Department. When about twelve miles below Ringgold Barracks, near the ranch of Las Grullas, we crossed a trail made by a large number of cattle, which had been driven at a brisk gait in the direction of the Grulla crossing; and had, no doubt, been passed over the river into Mexico. The signs indicated that the cattle had been driven by about twelve men on horseback.

It is reported among the Mexicans, and generally believed, that a

contract has been made between certain parties in Mexico for the delivery of a large number of cattle to the Mexican troops at Monterey, or to some man for their use and benefit. It is also reported that the cattle which have been recently crossed into Mexico have been driven to Monterey. I am clearly of the belief that the cattle which were crossed at the Cuevas on the seventeenth of November were taken to Monterey, with the exception of those delivered to Captain McNally.

The depredations upon the property of the people of Texas by bands of armed men from Mexico still continue in despite of the efforts of the United States forces.

ALBERT DEAN.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of December, A. D. 1875.

[SEAL.]

F. J. PARKER,
*Clerk United States Circuit Court, Eastern
District Texas, at Brownsville.*

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES,
Eastern District of Texas :

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the original.

Witness my hand and seal of court this 22d day of December, A. D. 1875.

[SEAL.]

F. J. PARKER,
Clerk.

APPENDIX A, No. 32.

TIO CANO, *December 14, 1875.*

SIR: In pursuance of your request I have the honor to state that I have trustworthy information that on or about the first of November of this year an agreement was made to deliver eighteen thousand beeves to a certain party in Monterey on or before January 10, 1876. I am satisfied that the recent raids were made into Texas for the purpose of filling said contract. You may remember that I notified you of the raid to be made from Las Cuevas about fifteen days before it happened.

I have used every means in my power to procure reliable data concerning raids; and I submit the following as worthy of credence:

About the 8th of November, 1875, a herd of about one hundred and twenty-five stolen were crossed into Mexico about nine miles above Edinburgh. Two citizens of Texas, claiming cattle in said herd, followed the thieves to the Mexican side, and considered themselves fortunate to be able to return unharmed.

On November 9, Custom-house Inspector Albert Dean saw a herd of one hundred and eighty cattle while being crossed into Mexico nine miles below Edinburgh.

On November 11, one hundred and twenty-five cattle were crossed into Mexico near Roma.

On November 14, about one hundred and fifty cattle were crossed into Mexico one mile below Ringgold Barracks.

On November 17, two hundred and fifty cattle were crossed into Mexico near the ranch of Las Cuevas.

About the 19th of November a herd was crossed into Mexico nine miles above Brownsville. They were followed by two of the owners, who were compelled to recross into Texas to avoid being killed.

About November 20 two herds were crossed into Mexico below Brownsville, said to contain five hundred cattle.

On November 24 a herd of three hundred cattle was crossed into Mexico at Las Grullas, nine miles below Ringgold Barracks. The trail was seen by Colonel Jennings, of the revenue-service, and by Mounted Inspector Dean, less than an hour after the animals had been passed over.

I am informed by Judge Edward Dougherty that two other herds were recently crossed into Mexico above Ringgold Barracks. These animals were intended for the Monterey market.

I am in possession of positive information concerning animals stolen from the people of Texas and carried into Mexico. I can name ranches in that country upon which can be found twenty thousand head of cattle and horses stolen from Texas, still bearing the brands of the Texan owners.

Very respectfully,

L. H. McNALLY,
Captain, Commanding State Troops.

Gen. J. H. POTTER.

A true copy:

J. W. CLOUS,
Captain Twenty-fourth Infantry.

APPENDIX B.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE FILES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

APPENDIX B, No. 1.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,
Monterey, Mexico, April 27, 1875.

SIR: Supposing that everything connected with the late raids into Texas by Mexicans from this side of the Rio Grande will be of interest, I have the honor to inform the Department that a few days ago there passed through Monterey, under guard of a detachment of troops of the general government, ten prisoners, said to be a portion of the Corpus Christi raiders—all of them Mexicans—captured on this side of the Rio Grande, and supposed to be en route for the city of Mexico. I think it well here to give a hint to the Department, that on the arrival of these prisoners at the capital, an effort may, perhaps, be made to prove them to be Texas Mexicans, which can easily be done, it being almost impossible to distinguish the Mexican people of our side of the river from those here. Whatever may be proved in this case, it will be difficult to convince any one here that the prisoners referred to are not residents of this republic. Besides, one thing is beyond a doubt, that if any of the raiders be Texas Mexicans, their raids are organized on this side of the river, and we generally here have intimations when one is about to take place.

About six months ago we had notice, through floating rumors, that a large body of Mexicans, said to be several hundred, were gathering at Guerrero, or thereabouts, to make an attack on the American settlement, a place called Dogtown, or at some point in Texas on the Rio Grande

between Laredo and Eagle Pass. A few weeks after hearing these reports, which we did not credit at the time, a raid was made into Texas, not, however, by so large a body of men as reported, and considerable damage done.

About four weeks before the last raid on Corpus Christi, and soon after General Hatch's operations at Las Grullas, persons coming from the Lower Rio Grande reported that, at many of the ranches on their route, on this side of the river, rumors were current that armed Mexicans were congregating at a point on this side of the Rio Grande for an attack on Edinburg, or some other place, to retaliate on the Texans for the conduct of General Hatch and his troops at Las Grullas. This was not followed by an attack on Edinburg, but by the last raid on Corpus Christi. There is no doubt from the conduct of these raiders but that, although plunder was the main object, retaliation for Hatch's course entered into their plans. The taking of prisoners, men and women, the marching them along their route, can be explained on no other ground than that they wish to treat Americans as Mexicans from Las Grullas were treated by our military authorities. If this be true, the raiders certainly acted under orders or suggestions from parties occupying a higher position than themselves. The instigators taking advantage of the known disposition of this class of their countrymen to plunder, used this propensity to have them add insult and cruelty to their acts. There is more than one man in Tamaulipas who would be willing to pursue a course like this, to show their hatred and contempt for the "Gringos." There exists no disposition on the part of the Mexicans anywhere on this frontier to censure the acts of these raiders, all whom I know, or have heard speak on the subject, being at all times ready to excuse them and to justify their acts, as being produced by the equally bad conduct of the Texans, a position wholly untenable and unfounded on fact, as there are no organized bodies of Americans, or Texas Mexicans, depredating on this side the Rio Grande, and we rarely hear of any stealing on this side by people from Texas. In fact, the Mexican side of the river is too poor to offer any inducements to thieves. There is no doubt these raids are entirely owing to the demoralized condition of the mass of the people of the State of Tamaulipas, and the class of men who hold office in that State. From Laredo to El Paso we hear nothing of raids by Mexicans on Texas, and there are really no persons in the State of Coahuila, on our line, who are disposed to such conduct. About Eagle Pass there is harmony, arising principally from a community of interests between the populations on both sides of the river, and that is the only point where there is any considerable number of persons living on the line between Laredo and El Paso. The proof of this harmony lies in the fact that over one-half (at least, 1,500) of the population of Eagle Pass are Mexicans, who have gone from this side of the river to enjoy greater peace and security in Texas. The State of Tamaulipas alone, from Laredo down, furnishes the material for these raids, and the killing of less than two hundred well known scoundrels in that State will, I really believe, put an entire stop to them. The Mexican government can hardly apply this remedy. No regular government troops can be stationed on the line; they will desert en masse and cross into Texas. The officers know this and always keep the regulars away from the frontier. Volunteers, or irregulars, recruited in this and the adjoining States, could be kept on the line. This, however, as affairs are here, is also impracticable. Five hundred volunteers taken from the rancheros of the frontier, armed and mounted, would be a dangerous body to the general government, as in case of political disturbances,

always possible in Mexico, they would form the nucleus for an "army" to assist any revolutionary chief to carry out his schemes. So neither regulars nor volunteers being a practicable means of keeping the peace on the frontier, the general government would seem to be powerless to act in the matter. American troops, on our side, so far, have proved inefficient. Under these circumstances the only practicable course would appear to be, (and if it can be done with the consent of Mexico all the better,) to draw a line from Matamoras to Laredo, in Mexico, covering a strip of territory about, say, twenty-five miles in width, put our troops on that, and defend Texas from the Mexican side. That will do it, and in default of Mexican regulars, at posts short distances apart, on this side; nothing else will. General Hatch's recommendation that the Rio Grande Valley should be placed in hands of the military, would have been of more value had he proposed, at the same time, applying his remedy to this side of the river.

I would not for a moment be considered, from this suggestion, as having the least desire to bring about a permanent occupation of Mexico, or any part of it. To do so would, in my opinion, be about equal to ingrafting a cancer on a human body, or reduce our country to the condition of a man suffering from hemorrhoids, who, although not likely to die from it, is nevertheless very uncomfortable.

If the newspaper reports of the Mexican minister's charge be true, that the raids are made by ex-confederates, no greater insult could be offered to the Americans of the Texas frontier. Such statements are constantly published in Mexican newspapers, and urged by Mexican orators who take advantage of the general ignorance of their countrymen to make assertions only ludicrous to intelligent persons, knowing well the national want of capacity to distinguish between a lie and the truth, and we, who are accustomed to seeing these tricks, have been astonished that a man occupying the position of Señor Mariscal should so mistake his audience as to make such a charge in the United States.

The writer is not an ex-confederate, but an old abolitionist of the Sumner and Greeley school. He has, however, felt the insult none the less keenly. He is personally under obligation to Señor Mariscal for making these charges, as, by so doing, he fully corroborates the opinion of Mexican diplomacy given to Department in dispatch No. 185 of July 31, 1873.

No half-way measures will answer in treating with Mexicans. There is no trait in the national character more striking, in all of them, high or low, than their utter disregard of consequences from any act. In every position of life, as servants, mechanics, lawyers, or governors, or merchants, they are never controlled, in any of their doings, by fear of a future responsibility. There must always be shown them that there is a watchful eye on their movements and a hand ready to strike. Fear alone will restrain them, and that must be fear of direct and immediate chastisement for misconduct. They are gamblers by nature, and are always ready to risk their all on a chance. They respect persons of no nationality but the Spaniards, and they only, as they understand from long experience their mode of treatment, which, from the conquest till now, has always been brutal, while they despise the American, who, from education and training, is disposed to treat every one on terms of equality, kindness, consideration, and a disposition on the part of any one to treat them as equals only elicits their contempt, and although these are their personal traits, they carry them into every relation of life. Nothing but the "hard hand" will keep them straight, either as individuals or as a nation.

Ex-Minister Nelson's opinion (published in our papers) on the border troubles furnishes a case in point to illustrate the effect produced on a man's opinions by a residence at the capital. No more unjust or distorted view of the situation could have been written, and nothing but the dust always thrown into the eyes of foreign ministers could produce such a case of moral ophthalmia. When the reports of Senators Cameron and Gordon and other distinguished visitors are received, a like rose-colored view may be expected. If either of these gentlemen wish to form a correct estimate of Mexico or Mexicans, an occupation in business of a few years, in any part of the country outside of the capital, will send them back home sadder, poorer, and wiser men. Public dinners, private entertainments, the smiles of the señoritas, blarney and flattery *ad libitum*, are foundations on which to base more kindly opinions than forced loans, imprisonment, and abuse generally that are meted out to all foreigners in business who pass through a revolution anywhere in Mexico, and this experience a resident is likely to gain at any time.

The statements in this communication may, perhaps, give no information which is not already in hands of the Department. I make them merely to assist, if possible, in remedying the sad state of affairs on our side of the Rio Grande, and in the hope I may aid in bringing about such a state of affairs as will not only protect our citizens in Texas, but Americans in every part of Mexico; which result is certainly demanded by the peculiar character of this people and their feeling toward us, which is not of the most amicable character, however their dislike may be covered up by surface politeness, which is one of their most striking characteristics.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

J. ULRICH,
United States Consul.

Hon. WILLIAM HUNTER,
Second Assistant Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

APPENDIX B, No. 2.

Letter of Mr. Foster to Mr. Fish. (See Report on Foreign Relations, 1875, part 2, p. 909.)

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Mexico, May 4, 1875. (Received May 18.)

SIR: In accordance with the instructions received in your dispatches Nos. 206, March 29, and 207, March 31, I communicated to the Mexican minister of foreign affairs copies of the inclosures to those dispatches relating to the burning of the post-office at Nueces, Tex., and the outrages committed in that State by Mexicans, as set forth in the telegram of Governor Coke to President Grant, and stated to the minister that the Government of the United States expected that the Mexican government would omit nothing which might be in its power toward preventing such raids upon the territory of Texas, and that it would do everything possible to secure the punishment, according to law, of the perpetrators of the outrages referred to. I also expressed the hope that I might at an early day be able to inform my Government of such action having been taken by the Mexican government as would satisfy its just expectations, restore peace and order to the exposed citizens of Texas, and quiet the complaints now being made in the United States.

Under date of the 17th instant, Minister Lafragua addressed me a note in reply, a copy and translation of which I inclose, in which he states that after receipt of notice of the unfortunate events to which my note refers, a special recommendation was sent to the government of the States of Nuevo Leon, Coahuila, and Tamaulipas, urging the adoption of the most efficacious measures for guarding the frontier, arresting the marauders, and preventing a repetition of similar deeds; that the same instructions were sent through the department of war to the military authorities of the frontier, increasing at once the force on that line, and inclosing a telegram from General Escobedo, reporting the arrest of eight persons supposed to be connected with the recent raid. Mr. Lafragua closes his note by assuring me that his government was using all the means within its reach to secure the pacification and tranquillity of the Rio Bravo frontier, and to prevent, so far as it may be possible, the repetition of similar outrages.

Not having any later communication from the Mexican government, and being desirous of transmitting you by the mail of the steamer, closing to-night, any further information which the Mexican government might possess, I called upon Mr. Lafragua at the foreign office on yesterday. In answer to my inquiries, he stated that a number of persons, suspected of being connected with raids into Texas, had been arrested, and that the authorities were exerting themselves to ferret out and secure the punishment of the guilty parties; and he hopes at an early day to inform me of the success of these efforts, but that at present he was not able to furnish me further intelligence.

I called his attention to the newspaper reports of additional raids and outrages in Texas committed by marauders from Mexico, which were in part confirmed by the official information in the mail, just received by me, and which I would transmit to him, and that I could not too strongly impress upon him the importance to the peace of that border of the Mexican government; adopting the most stringent measures for the punishment and repression of these continued outrages.

In this connection I alluded to one of the sources of irritation growing out of the refuge in Mexico of Indian tribes from the United States, and to the bad conduct of Mexican officials in connection with the recent efforts of United States commissioners to secure their return to their reservations, which will be made the subject of a separate dispatch. I also stated to him that one of the most fruitful causes of these border troubles grew out of the encouragement and favor shown the marauders by Mexican local authorities; that the history of the frontier disturbances and crimes established the fact that when the officials on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande were men of good character-maintained friendly relations with, and furnished information to, the American authorities on the Texas side of the river, and honestly sought to punish the offenders in Mexico, murder, robbery, and raiding into Texas were very infrequent and the border troubles insignificant. But, on the contrary, when the local authorities were men of bad character, and unfriendly to the United States, marauding bands were numerous; they always escaped into Mexico with their booty in safety, and were never punished by the courts. I did not claim that the federal government could always guarantee the honesty and good faith of the local authorities, but it should make an earnest effort to inspire these officials, especially those under its direct orders, with the cordial and friendly spirit toward the United States, and desire for the peace of the frontier, which the Mexican government itself constantly expressed. I referred to the bad rep-

utation which General Cortina sustained in the United States, to the general impression as to his hostility toward the people of Texas, and to the fact that his name was almost always connected, in some way, with the newspaper reports of the raids on the Lower Rio Grande, either as instigating, protecting, or profiting by them; and that his removal by his government to some other part of the republic would have a very salutary effect upon that frontier, and be accepted as an act of conciliation and peace toward the United States. Mr. Lafragua remarked that General Cortina was not now in the military service of the government, but was acting in a local civil position, as alcalde or mayor of the town of Matamoras, to which I replied that while such was the case, he still held his commission as general in the army, was receiving pay from the federal treasury as such, and was subject to orders of the government, and, as I understand, could be transferred by it at any time to any other part of the republic. I then referred to a conversation which I had held in his absence with Mr. Arias, chief clerk of the foreign office, on the 30th of November last, in reference to Cortina's interference in securing the escape of the fugitive defaulter, Hamilton, (a report of which interview I made to the Department in my dispatch, No. 214, of December 1, 1874,) and that Mr. Arias informed me that the war department had already ordered an investigation into his conduct. Mr. Lafragua stated that such investigation had been engaged in by General Escobedo, but that it had been found necessary to transfer the case to the civil authorities, who were prosecuting it, to which I replied, that five months had elapsed since I had made complaint of General Cortina's course, and, meanwhile, during the delay in deciding upon his conduct, the raids continued, and increased in vigor, and that public rumor implicated him in one form or another in them. Mr. Lafragua acknowledged that it was desirable to effect his removal from the frontier, but the government was embarrassed in adopting measures to that end, especially on account of the personal troubles between General Cortina and Governor Canales. In that event, I remarked that it might become necessary for his government to decide whether the objection to his removal, growing out of his personal relations toward Governor Canales, would outweigh the embarrassments likely to arise with the Government in case of his retention and continued complicity with the raiding and outlawry in Texas.

In closing our interview on this topic, Mr. Lafragua said that he would call the attention of the President to all of my representations, and that I might be assured that the government would omit no possible effort to restore and preserve peace on the Rio Grande frontier. In closing, I have to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch, No. 214, of the 14th ultimo, and to report that I have transmitted a copy of its inclosure, giving details of the burning of the post-office at Nueces, Tex., to the Mexican foreign office for its information.

I am, &c.,

JOHN W. FOSTER.

[Inclosure 1 in letter of Mr. Foster to Mr. Fish. See Report on Foreign Relations, 1875, part 2, p. 111.]

Mr. Foster to Mr. Lafragua.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Mexico, April 14, 1875.

SIR: I have been instructed by my Government to promptly bring to your excellency's attention the depredations and outrages which have recently been committed in the State of

Texas, near the Rio Grande, by raiding bands from Mexican territory, and to ask that your excellency's government will adopt such energetic and decisive measures as may be necessary on its part to punish the offenders and restore and preserve peace and order on that frontier.

The Department of State has been officially informed by the Postmaster-General that the post-office at Nueces, in Texas, was, on the 26th ultimo, robbed and burned, and a mail-carrier to San Antonio robbed and taken prisoner. I inclose copies of the correspondence on the subject.

Although it is not believed that the acts referred to were committed or instigated by officers in the service of the Mexican government, they are obviously such as must create great resentment in the quarter where they occurred, and will probably lead to a retaliation, which will result in augmenting the disquiet and sense of insecurity on the border.

I also transmit to your excellency a copy of a telegram from the governor of the State of Texas to the President of the United States, in which he represents in strong language the state of alarm and insecurity in the country between the Nueces and Rio Grande, in consequence of the depredations of organized bands of robbers from the republic of Mexico; and in which he calls upon the President for protection to the people of that region against the invasions, which are increasing in force and boldness,

This protection will, of course, be given to the extent of the power of the Government of the United States; but I am instructed to state to your excellency that it is expected that the Mexican government will omit nothing which may be in its power toward preventing such raids upon the territory of the United States, and that it will do everything possible to secure the punishment, according to law, of the perpetrators of these outrages.

It will be very gratifying to me, at an early day, to be able to inform my Government of such action taken by your excellency's government as will satisfy its just expectations, restore peace and security to the exposed citizens of Texas, and quiet the complaints now being made in the United States.

Your excellency will please to receive upon this occasion the reiterated assurances of my high consideration and esteem.

JOHN W. FOSTER.

His excellency J. M. LAFRAGUA,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mexico.

[Inclosure 2 in letter of Mr. Foster to Mr. Fish. See Report on Foreign Relations, 1875, part 2, p. 912.]

Letter of Mr. Lafragua to Mr. Foster.

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Mexico, April 17, 1875.

SIR: In your note of the 14th of this month, your excellency is pleased to call my attention to the recent outrages committed on the bank of the Rio Grande by bands organized and proceeding from Mexican territory, inclosing therewith documents relating to the robbery and burning of the post-office in Nueces, Tex., and the telegram addressed by the governor of the State of Texas to President Grant, asking him to extend protection to people of that region, and expressing the hope that on the part of the government of Mexico the most energetic and efficient measures may be taken for co-operating with that of the United States in restoring tranquillity to that frontier, where the people are greatly alarmed, and the excitement which there exists being liable to lead to retaliations which will augment the disquiet and insecurity that reign upon that frontier.

In reply, I have the honor to state to your excellency that, after the government received notice of the unfortunate events to which your excellency refers, it addressed a special recommendation to the government of the States of Nuevo Leon, Coahuila, and Tamaulipas, urging that they should order whatever measures they might judge proper for guarding in the most efficacious manner the frontier, and for discovering and arresting the authors of those outrages, if they should seek to take refuge in Mexican territory, striving with all diligence to avoid the repetition of similar deeds.

The department of war, to which was also addressed a similar "excitative," to the end that on its part it should adopt the necessary measures, has issued its orders to the same effect, increasing at once the armed force on that line; and, as a result of these various measures, said department has received the communication, a copy of which I have the honor to inclose herewith to your excellency, it being proper to add that the individuals who in it are said to have been apprehended, are held as prisoners at the disposition of the federal government, it having been ordered that they be tried conformably to law, and that the punishment be applied to them which they deserve.

In the future the same strict vigilance will continue to be exercised by every class of authorities, to the end that tranquillity may be restored on that frontier, and a repetition of these scandalous deeds be prevented.

I can assure your excellency that my government is using all the means within its reach to secure the pacification and tranquillity of the Rio Bravo frontier, and to prevent, so far as may be possible, the repetition of similar outrages.

Besides, fresh reports have been requested of the corresponding authorities, which I shall be careful to communicate to your excellency as soon as they are received, and meanwhile it is pleasant to renew the assurances of the sincere regard and very distinguished consideration with which I have the honor of being your excellency's attentive servant,

J. M. LAFRAGUA.

His Excellency JOHN W. FOSTER,

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

Inclosure in letter of Mr. Lafragua to Mr. Foster. See Report on Foreign Relations, 1875, part 2. p. 913.]

Letter of General Mejia to General Escobedo.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR AND MARINE,
Mexico, April 6, 1875.

CITIZEN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Citizen General Mariano Escobedo, in a telegram of to-day from Monterey, reports to me the following:

"The authority of Mier reports to me, on the night of the 2d, thirty Mexicans crossed the Rio Grande, carrying some clothing which they had stolen in Villa Nueva, Texas, where they burned a store; and these men on crossing the river dispersed, taking the road to the river San Juan. The police arrested two of them, and they declared that they were taken by the force which are servants of that village. The authority of Camargo reports to me eight individuals have been arrested in that municipality, mounted and armed, appearing of bad character, of the band to which reference is made, which passed between this place and Mier. This I communicate to you for your information."

I have the honor to inclose this to you for your information, and the effects thereto pertaining.

Independence and liberty.

MEJIA.

APPENDIX B, No. 3.

Letter of Mr. Foster to Mr. Fish. (See Report on Foreign Relations, 1875, part 2, p. 916.)

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Mexico, May 14, 1875.

SIR: In my dispatch, No. 279, of the 4th instant, I transmitted a copy of my note to the Mexican minister of foreign affairs relative to the late raid into Texas, with his reply thereto, and also a report of an interview which I had with the minister upon this subject. On the 3d instant I sent the minister a copy of the inclosure of your dispatch, No. 214, of the 14th ultimo, giving further information concerning the burning of the post-office at Nueces, Tex., and other outrages.

Under the date of the 7th instant, the minister, Mr. Lafragua, transmitted to me copies of communications received by him from the department of war and from the governor of the State of Tamaulipas, in reference to the measures ordered to guard the Rio Grande frontier and the progress had in the trial of the persons arrested upon suspicion of having taken part in the raid into Texas.

It will be noticed that the measures cited in said communications were taken very promptly by this government, ten days or two weeks before the date of my first note to Mr. Lafragua, under instructions of the department, making formal complaint of these outrages.

In a note of the 11th instant, in thanking Mr. Lafragua for the information furnished, I stated that I would forward it to my Government, which would doubtless be gratified to learn of the measures adopted, especially if they should prove efficacious in preventing the passage of the Rio Grande of further bands of outlaws to commit depredations in Texas.

I am, &c.,

JOHN W. FOSTER.

[Inclosure 1 in letter of May 14, 1875, of Mr. Foster to Mr. Fish. See Report on Foreign Relations, 1875, part 2, p. 916.]

Letter of Mr. Foster to Mr. Lafragua.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Mexico, May 3, 1875.

SIR: I inclose herewith to your excellency a copy of a communication, sent through the secretary of war to the department of state of my government, giving fuller information in relation to the burning of the post-office at Nueces, Tex., and other outrages, which were the subject of the note which I addressed to your excellency on the 14th ultimo, and to which I had occasion to refer in our interview of to-day.

Your excellency will please accept the assurances of my high consideration and esteem.

JOHN W. FOSTER.

His Excellency J. M. LAFRAGUA,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mexico.

[Inclosure 2 in letter of May 14, 1875, of Mr. Foster to Mr. Fish. See Report on Foreign Relations, 1875, part 2, page 917.]

Letter of Mr. Lafragua to Mr. Foster.

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Mexico, May 7, 1875.

SIR: In acknowledging the receipt to your excellency of your note of the 3d instant, and its inclosure relative to the outrages which have recently been committed in Texas, I state to your excellency that, in conformity with what I communicated to you in my note of the 17th ultimo, there have been ordered, both by this department and that of war, all the measures which have been thought most proper for the arrest, trial, and punishment of the criminals which may have sought refuge in Mexican territory. As your excellency will see by the copies which I have the honor to inclose, and which are of a communication from the governor of the State of Tamaulipas, and of two others from the department of war, the guard of the line of the Bravo has been increased, and the arrested men, who had crossed the Rio Grande below Roma, after the preliminary investigations having been made, have been sent under secure guard to Saltillo, where they are at the disposition of the government for assigning them to the proper authority, according as the circumstances of the case may require.

I reiterate to your excellency the protests of my distinguished consideration and esteem.

J. M. LAFRAGUA.

To His Excellency JOHN W. FOSTER,
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America.

[Inclosure 1 in letter of Mr. Lafragua.]

Mr. Mejia to Mr. Lafragua.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR AND MARINE,
Mexico, April 12, 1875.

CITIZEN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Colonel José L. Christo, in a communication dated the 29th of March last past, states to me the following:

"As I had the honor to say to you in my telegram dated yesterday, I to-day send you a certified copy of the letter of the citizen Mexican consul in Brownsville, sent to me on the

date stated therein, as also the newspaper which I received inclosed therein. By both of these you will be pleased to be informed of the recent events which have occurred in Texas, and the authors of which are said to be Mexicans from our territory, which, in my judgment, cannot be the case; granting that it is correctly stated that some Mexican robbers pass from this side to Texas, as also those from that side to this, they only engage in the robbery of cattle and horses, and never attack a town, as has occurred in the present case; for this reason my opinion is that the wrongs are committed by individuals resident in Texas itself, who, in consequence of local State questions, have risen up as a kind of insurrectionists against the government of Texas. Notwithstanding this, the same day on which I received the said letter I sent a force of cavalry to pass along the bank of the Rio as far as Reynosa, and I will keep it constantly in this service in order to be on the watch and to be prepared, both for anything which may occur and to furnish an opportune remedy, of which I will make report to your department, asking you, citizen minister, to give me orders for the manner in which I should proceed in this matter, as I greatly fear that, with the ideas only peculiar to Texas, efforts may be made to complicate the events, making us appear responsible for acts with which we have had no connection."

I quote this to you for your information and its proper effects, inclosing to you copies of the documents which are cited.

Independence and liberty.

MEJIA.

[Inclosure 2 in M. Lafragua's letter.]

Governor Echarte to Mr. Lafragua.

GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF TAMAULIPAS,
Victoria City, April 22, 1875.

CITIZEN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MEXICO: With due promptness the government of this State has addressed the authorities of the line of the Bravo, making known to them the contents of the telegrams which your superior authority was pleased to send me in your worthy communication of the 3d instant, relative to the local disorders or crimes committed in the interior of Texas, which outrages are supposed to have been perpetrated, in part, by some malefactors resident in Mexico, who avowedly went to those regions to commit acts of vandalism; with the object that these authorities may report to this superior authority the information which they may obtain, but especially with the object of preventing the crossing to American territory of any Mexicans to commit crimes, and also of arresting those who may have committed crimes there and who may come seeking a shelter in our communities.

You will please, citizen minister, to make known to the citizen President that there have already been taken the proper measures by this government, in order that there may not be the least occasion of complaint against the authorities of the frontier, stating to you that, on receiving the reports which have been called for, I will communicate them to your department for your superior information and in compliance with the request in your wort note cited.

Independence and liberty.

FRANCISCO ECHARTEA.

A. PERALES, *Secretary.*

APPENDIX B, No. 4.

Letter of Mr. Fish to Mr. Foster. (See Report on Foreign Relations, 1875, part 2, p. 924.)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 20, 1875.

SIR: Your dispatch No. 279, of the 4th instant, relative to Mexican raids in Texas, has been received. The assurances of a disposition on the part of that government to check them, which have been given to you by Mr. Lafragua, are satisfactory, so far as they go. Those maraudings, however, have of late been so frequent, bold, and destructive that they have occasioned much excitement in the public on this side the river, which will probably lead to an expectation that acts on the part of that government will show the sincerity of its professions. We are

informed that a few of the raiders have been arrested on the Mexican side, and that probably they are on the way to the capital for trial. It is hoped that, if the proof should warrant their conviction, they will receive a full measure of punishment according to law, so that their fate may serve as an example for deterring imitators.

I am aware of no purpose here of acquiring an extension of territory on that frontier. If, however, as has been suggested to us, that government is embarrassed by the risk of desertions in sending a regular force to that quarter, it might not be indisposed to allow United States troops to cross and temporarily occupy the territory whence the raiders are in the habit of coming. The tract for such occupation might be embraced in a line drawn from Matamoras to Laredo. You will consequently sound the minister for foreign affairs on this point, and report the result.

It may be regarded as frivolous to seek to justify the hostile incursions into our territory on the ground of retaliation for similar excursions from this side. There have been none such, and proof of the contrary is challenged. Indeed, the charge is improbable on its face, from the fact that Mexico, near the border, holds out no temptation to plunderers from this side, while the reverse is the case in respect to baits in Texas for Mexicans.

I am, &c.,

HAMILTON FISH.

APPENDIX B, No. 5.

Letter of Mr. Foster to Mr. Fish. (See Report on Foreign Relations, 1875, part 2, p. 943.)

[Extract.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Mexico, June 26, 1875. (Received July 22.)

SIR: Referring to your dispatch No. 228, of the 20th ultimo, relating to the Mexican raids in Texas, I have the honor to report that I, this morning, called at the Mexican foreign office and had an interview with Mr. Lafragua, in conformity with instructions contained in your dispatch. As the conversation had a wider range than the specific topic presented by me, I deem it important to give you a somewhat extended report of the interview, in order to enable you the better to understand the political condition of this country and the embarrassments which surround the present administration. I referred to the receipt by you of my dispatches, in which I had communicated the assurances given by Mr. Lafragua of the disposition of the Mexican government to do all within its power to repress the Rio Grande border troubles, and to the satisfaction with which they had been received; but I stated that these assurances alone were not sufficient, in view of the fact that the maraudings from Mexican territory continued to be frequent, bold, and destructive, and caused much public excitement in Texas; that it was expected that more energetic measures would be used by the Mexican authorities. Mr. Lafragua said his government had done all that was possible up to the present; that it had issued stringent instructions to the authorities on that frontier, and had arrested several of the supposed raiders, as he had previously informed me, and that their trial was progressing. He

had seen the report of the preliminary examination, the first stages of the trial, and that while the suspicions of guilt were strong, he feared it might be difficult to obtain proof sufficient to convict them upon trial.

It may be proper for me to state in this connection that these prisoners have not been brought to this capital for trial as your dispatch infers, but they were taken by the troops to Saltillo, the capital of the State of Coahuila, and, by order of General Escobedo, division commander, were placed on trial by a military commission; and he was about to administer to them summary punishment, when, by orders from the supreme government at this capital, he was instructed to suspend the military proceedings, as unwarranted by law, and to turn them over to the judicial authorities for civil trial.

Mr. Lafragua said the troubles on the border were an evil common to both sides; that raids occurred from Texas into Mexico as well, and referred to the reported assault of Texans recently on Cortina's hacienda, in the State of Tamaulipas. I asked him what information he had on the subject, when he replied, nothing but the newspaper reports; no official information had been received.

I then gave him the declaration contained in your dispatch, that no incursions had been made into Mexican territory from Texas, and that proof was challenged to the contrary. I asked him to furnish me with any information he might have to substantiate the statement which he had just made to me, as the Department at Washington was in possession of none such, and it was desirable that both governments should be informed as to the real situation. Mr. Lafragua promised to examine the data in his department and ask information of the governors of Tamaulipas and Coahuila, and advise me of the result. I remarked that I supposed your declaration referred to recent times and events, and may not have been intended to reach back for years; what both governments were concerned about was to punish the recent depredators and to repress the depredations for the future.

Mr. Lafragua said that your interview with Mr. Mariscal had been fully reported to him, and that the border troubles had been much discussed and considered by the President and cabinet; that it was apparently impossible to suppress the evil absolutely; that all that could be expected was to restrain and diminish it as much as possible; that the long line of conterminous territory made it impracticable to station an army along the whole extent of the frontier; and he asked me if I had any measures to suggest to remedy the disorder. I replied that I deemed it quite feasible to adopt measures to so repress and diminish the raids as to make them lose importance and cease to be a cause of complaint. In the first place the locality of the troubles was not along the whole line of the extensive border of the two countries, but was mainly confined to the comparatively small portion of it between Matamoras and Laredo, on the Rio Grande; and that it was practicable to so garrison that region as almost entirely to put an end to the raids.

I then mentioned that it had been suggested to you that the Mexican government is embarrassed by the risk of desertions in sending troops to that quarter. Mr. Lafragua answered that this was one reason, but there were others. The situation of the country would not permit it, as the revolutionary state of affairs in Michoacan, the troubles on the Guatemala border, and the pending elections required troops at many and very distant points; and, besides, in the condition of the treasury the government could not afford to maintain a large army on the Rio Grande frontier. I replied that, if I understood him correctly, there

were three reasons why his government was unable to maintain peace and restrain raids from Mexico into Texas: First, troops could not be sent to that quarter without fear of desertions; second, the internal troubles of the country rendered it impossible; and, third, in the state of the national treasury a sufficiently large force could not be maintained on the Rio Grande. I then stated that I was authorized to assure him that my Government had no information of any design for acquiring an extension of territory on that frontier, but the governor and citizens of Texas were clamorous in their demands upon the Federal Government for protection; and that the public press in the United States, in reporting these frequent incursions and depredations, was creating a strong public sentiment in favor of an aggressive and vigorous policy on the part of the Government. The acknowledgment of the inability of his government to restrain the lawlessness of its own citizens, as just made by him, would afford the strongest possible argument to whatever advocates of the acquisition of territory there might be in the United States.

Mr. Lafragua said the adoption of any such policy would be a greater evil than the present troubles. I replied that, however much both governments might regret it, in the light of such facts, with the continuance of the raids, the spirit of territorial acquisition could not fail to increase.

I then told him that, as he had asked me to propose a remedy for these evils, I would venture to do so.

I was not blind to the present political situation of Mexico, and felt that what he had stated as to the embarrassments which rendered it difficult for his government to put an end to the troubles on the border was, unfortunately, in a measure true. But it was in the power of the Government of the United States to provide a remedy, with the approval or consent of that of Mexico. I referred to the embarrassments under which the American Army on that frontier labored; that it either had no notice of the organization of raiding bands on the Mexican side of the river, or, if it had such notice, was powerless to disperse them; and that the bands were generally able to cross the river, avoid the posts, commit their depredations, and recross in safety before they could be overtaken by the troops, as the frontier line was a barrier which afforded them complete protection. It is this barrier which renders the American Army in a great measure powerless to prevent or punish this outlawry.

The remedy which I would propose is permission for the regular troops of the United States to follow the raiders across the border when in close pursuit, or, what would be still more efficacious, permission to temporarily occupy certain points on the Mexican side where the raiders are accustomed to cross the river. I was of the opinion that then the troubles would soon cease. But Mr. Lafragua said the executive has no authority to grant such permission without the consent of Congress, and it would not be prudent to ask for this consent; the sentiment of the country would not approve it; and he referred to the indignation occasioned by the passage into Mexican territory of General McKenzie. I replied that General McKenzie crossed without authority from either government; but, if permission was given, the necessity for it would be known to the public, and there would be no violation of national sovereignty, and good citizens ought to be satisfied.

* * * * *
I am, &c.,

JOHN W. FOSTER.

APPENDIX B, No. 6.

Letter of Mr. Foster to Mr. Fish. (See report on Foreign Relations, 1875, Part 2, p. 946.)

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Mexico, July 12, 1875. (Received July 22.)

SIR: The official journal of the government, the *Diario Oficial* of this afternoon, announces that General Juan N. Cortina was, on the 1st day of May last, ordered by the President to come to this capital and give a report of certain affairs on the northern frontier. The order was communicated by telegraph, and the general answered, asking for an extension of time when he should present himself, which was granted. This time having elapsed, the order was again sent to him, when he replied, tendering his resignation from the Mexican army. The President refused to accept the resignation, but again repeated the order, reserving the question of his resignation to be determined after compliance with the order. Having failed to obey, on the 18th ultimo his arrest was ordered, and on yesterday it was carried into execution, at the Union ranch, near Matamoras, in the State of Tamaulipas. The Mexican schooner Juarez sailed from Vera Cruz for Matamoras on yesterday to bring him to this city, where he will be placed upon trial for disobedience of orders.

This is the most decisive step yet taken by the Mexican government for the restoration of order on the Rio Grande border, and if it results in the permanent removal from that locality of Cortina and his punishment, I have no doubt it will have a salutary effect.

I am, &c.,

JOHN W. FOSTER.

APPENDIX B, No. 7.

Letter of Mr. Foster to Mr. Fish. (See report on Foreign Relations, 1875, Part 2, p. 946.)

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Mexico, July 7, 1875. (Received July 22.)

SIR: On yesterday, in a visit which I made to the foreign office, I directed Mr. Lafragua's attention to the telegraphic reports, received by the last steamer from the United States, of the continuance of trouble on the Rio Grande border in Texas, and of the re-enforcement of the United States Army and naval forces in that locality. I also called his attention to the fact that my Government had assigned the command of the Department of Texas to one of the most prudent and prominent generals of the Army; and that I deemed it very important that his government should send to that frontier an officer of position and capacity, in the full confidence of his administration, and supported by a strong force of the federal army. If such a representation of the army and government was on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande, and in communication and co-operation with our troops, I was satisfied the border outlawry would soon cease. Mr. Lafragua conceded that my suggestion was entirely correct, but replied, as he has done on other occasions, that it was difficult for the government, in the disturbed con-

dition of the country, to spare for that service either a prominent officer or a strong force of the army, but that it would meet the difficulty as far as it was possible. He said that he had confidence, however, that the arrest and removal of Cortina would have a great influence in diminishing the troubles; that the leader being taken away, the outlaws would soon disperse and cease their depredations, and that peace would again be restored in that locality. I expressed to him my gratification at the arrest of Cortina, and stated that I had no doubt of its beneficial influence, especially if his removal was to be permanent; but that this act alone would not be sufficient to restrain the raids and plundering; that the border region could only be kept in order by the presence of a federal force under a prudent commander. Experience proved that the local authorities were, to a great extent, in sympathy with or overawed by the robbers, and their punishment could only be expected at the hands of federal officials under the direct orders of the supreme government. I remarked that should the depredations continue, and it should be apparent that no serious attempt was made by the Mexican authorities to restrain or punish the raiders, while I had no official information on the subject, a repetition on General McKenzie's course might be anticipated. Protection to the citizens of Texas must be afforded; if not given by the Mexican government, it would come from the United States. Mr. Lafragua made no direct response to this latter intimation, but stated that his government would at least see that there was a change of Mexican officials on the Rio Grande and the troops in that quarter re-enforced as soon as possible.

I am, &c.,

JOHN W. FOSTER.

APPENDIX C.

MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS.

APPENDIX C, No. 1.

Extract from message of Governor Richard Coke to the Texas State legislature.

MEXICAN BORDER TROUBLES.

Since the last session of your honorable bodies, the depredations upon persons and property in the section of country bordering the Rio Grande River, by lawless men from the republic of Mexico, which for ten years past have been so fruitful of disorder and insecurity in that region, have augmented to such an extent as to render it imperative upon the executive to make some effort for their repression. The number of murders and robberies committed, and the values in stock driven off or destroyed for their hides by Mexican marauders from the west side of the Rio Grande, during the spring and the early summer, greatly exceeded in atrocity and magnitude transactions of that character for a number of years past. The calls of the people, by petition and through the county courts of several counties, and other local authorities, in consequence of the alarm created by the increasing boldness of the robbers, were frequent and urgent for protection and help. Having satis-

fied myself that the conditions existed which devolved upon the government the duty of using extraordinary means for protection of its citizens, I ordered into the service of the State, under the law of 1874, a minute company from Nueces County, of fifty men, which, on the 29th day of June, was organized by the election of Warren Wallace captain, and of all other officers authorized under the law. This company patrolled the county between the Lower Rio Grande and Nueces Rivers. Companies had previously been ordered into the same service, under the same law, of twenty-five men each, under a lieutenant respectively, in El Paso and Webb Counties, the former having organized on the 27th day of May, under command of Lieut. T. Montes, and the latter on the 13th day of June, under command of Lieut. Refugio Benavides. These companies scouted the country on and near the river respectively, in the vicinity of El Paso and Laredo. The orders which it was deemed necessary to issue to the commanders of these companies have been the subject of correspondence between the Hon. George H. Williams, Attorney-General of the United States, to whom they were referred by the Hon. Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State, and the executive, which correspondence, as setting forth more fully the reasons prompting the organization of this force, and the necessity for it, is herewith furnished. No further communication has been received on this subject from the Hon. Attorney-General, or from any other officer of the General Government, and the orders, as originally given, remained in force until the expiration of the terms for which the companies were respectively enlisted. This force gave peace and a feeling of security to the people of this section of country, which had not been experienced there for years. The raids of bandits and outlaws from Mexico ceased, and persons and property were safe, while it was in the field. With the view of economizing the appropriation for defensive operations, and the hope that the necessity for a military force no longer existed, on the 29th day of September, being the end of the term of enlistment of Captain Wallace's company, that company was disbanded. Since that time the section in which it operated has been kept in a constant condition of excitement from rumors and threats of invasion by the outlaws in Mexico, who, upon the organization of this company, had to cease their operations. More recently a number of atrocious outrages, involving murder, robbery, and the driving off of large herds of stock, have been committed by these brigands in this section of country, the latest instance of which is the sacking of a store at Los Olmos, a small village in Hidalgo County, by a party numbering thirty-five of heavily-armed Mexicans, supposed to be from Guerrero, Mexico, and headed by one Alberto Garza, a notorious robber and desperado from Matamoras. It manifestly was the intention of this band to have pillaged more extensively, and it is apparent that they were only prevented from it, and from murdering some of the inhabitants, by the accidental circumstances that a body of armed citizens, who were encamped a short distance from the village, went to its relief, charged the robbers and drove them off, when in the midst of their operations. The recurrence and growing boldness of these raids, and the constant exposure of the lives and property of the thinly-settled communities on this portion of the border, to violence and rapine, have left no other alternative than again to send a force for their protection. Accordingly on the 17th day of November, Captain Caldwell, of the frontier battalion, with his company, was ordered to Duval County, with instructions to patrol that and the neighboring counties, and give protection to the people, and is now performing that service. The terms

of enlistment of the companies at El Paso and Laredo having expired; they have been disbanded, in hope that a military force at these points may be dispensed with in future. It is believed to be necessary to the protection of the lives of the people, and their property from plunder and spoliation, that a force of about forty men under an energetic and vigilant commander, should be kept constantly in service, in patrolling the country between the Lower Rio Grande and the Nueces Rivers. This country is rich in stock, besides containing other wealth, and it is there that the Mexican robbers seize the most valuable and desirable booty. I recommend such legislation as may be necessary to enable the executive to continue a protecting force in this section of country. The defensive system of the United States Government on the Rio Grande border is doubtless sufficient for its protection against the incursions of large bodies of armed men, but as a protection to the persons and property of citizens, against the raids of murderers, robbers, and thieves, who cross the Rio Grande, singly and in small squads, and embody on this side of the river, perhaps far in the interior, and strike quickly and more rapidly, it is utterly inadequate and insufficient. The condition of that country establishes the truth of the assertion. Facts transpiring there almost daily, many of them almost in sight of the garrisons stationed there, prove its truth. I am informed by intelligent gentlemen, that going westward toward the Rio Grande, the cattle, horses, and other stock diminish as the river is approached, and that in many parts of the country, no stock is to be found within sixty miles of the river, it having been taken by Mexican thieves and carried across the river, or the owners having removed it to places of greater security. I have before me the proceedings of a grand republican mass-meeting held on the nineteenth of August last, at Brownsville, on the Rio Grande, which declares it the duty of the National Government to protect American life and property on this border "from the inroads of armed bands of robbers, who murder our people and devastate their lands almost within the shadow of the American flag, and in sight of our fortifications." I mention this simply to show that the complaint on this subject comes universally from the people of that section, and is so notorious as to be the subject of a resolution in a town meeting. An high obligation rests on the Government of the United States to protect this border against the foreign enemies who are plundering it, and to see to it that the people whose substance has been pillaged and destroyed are indemnified for their losses. When Texas merged her separate nationality in the union of the States, she surrendered to the common government her right to raise, as well as her resources necessary to maintain, an army for defense, (with the single exception named in the Constitution of the United States,) as her contribution to the common fund of power and means to be used for the defense of all the States, in return for which she has a right to a defense of her people, by that Government, against foreign invasion and spoliation. At the same time, Texas surrendered to the General Government her right to treat and deal with foreign powers, that Government assuming the burden of maintaining her rights and those of her people against foreign encroachments, thus creating in behalf of the citizens of Texas, who have been plundered by brigands and robbers who are Mexican citizens, a clear right to the power of the Federal Government to compel, if necessary, indemnity for their losses, by the Republic of Mexico. I therefore recommend that your honorable bodies memorialize Congress, and set forth the losses of life and property in the country on and adjacent to the Mexican border, the constant terror under which the people live, of murder and robbery by brigands

and robbers from Mexico, and the consequent damage to every interest in that country therefrom, the inadequacy and inefficiency of the military establishment now there, as a protection against the evils complained of, and the unjust and onerous expense devolved in consequence thereof on Texas for defense of her citizens and their property, and ask that the obligation of the General Government to the people of Texas be redeemed, and that the money expended by the State in defense of her people against a foreign enemy be refunded.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
Washington, July 23, 1874.

SIR: I have received from the Hon. Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State, copies of papers, the effect of which is to show that you, as governor of Texas, have issued a military order to Capt. Refugio Benavides, commanding a ranger organization or minute company in Webb County, that he must not regard the national boundary-line of the Rio Grande, but that he must cross over into Mexico, and continue any pursuit of Indians or cattle-thieves, in which he may become engaged.

These papers are submitted by the honorable Secretary of State for my consideration as to how far you have made yourself liable to prosecution under the statute of the United States by virtue of the said order, to a military force under your control, to invade the territory of Mexico.

I respectfully invite your attention to section sixth of the act of April 20, 1818, 3 Stat., p. 449, in view of which, I suppose, the said papers have been referred to me.

Any communication, should you think proper to make one to me, will be duly considered before determining what further action, if any, I shall take in respect to this matter.

Very respectfully,

GEORGE H. WILLIAMS,
Attorney-General.

Hon. RICHARD COKE,
Governor, Austin, Texas.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, STATE OF TEXAS,
Austin, August 6, 1874.

SIR: Your communication of July 23 reached me in due time, and its contents have been duly considered. You call my attention to an order issued by me, as governor of Texas, to Capt. Refugio Benavides, commanding a minute company on the Rio Grande border, requiring him, when in close pursuit of Indians, marauders, or cattle-thieves, for the purpose of recovering property taken by them from citizens of Texas, if necessary, to cross the Rio Grande River, and, in connection therewith, refer me to the act of Congress of April 20, 1818, prescribing penalties for breach of the neutrality laws of the United States, and desire to hear from me on the subject, saying that the matter had been referred to you by Hon. Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State. I have to say, in reply, that, in order to determine the propriety of the order to Captain Benavides, it is necessary to understand the circumstances under which it was given, and the condition and necessities of the people for whose protection it was issued.

The Rio Grande River, the boundary-line between the United States and the Republic of Mexico, is a narrow, shallow stream, and from Brownsville, thirty miles from its mouth, up, fordable except for a few weeks throughout the year. The country on the Texas side of the river is mostly covered with a dense thicket or chaparral growth. From the mouth of this river up to Fort Duncan, a distance of about four hundred miles, where the depredations hereinafter spoken of are chiefly committed, there are four stations or posts of United States troops, the four having in the aggregate eleven companies of infantry and seven of cavalry. Fort Clark, with eight companies of cavalry and three of infantry, still higher up the river, covers about sixty miles of the river, besides a long line of frontier not on the river. This constitutes the defense provided by the United States Government for the Rio Grande border. Of this force only the cavalry can be used with any effect in repelling and punishing the Indians and Mexican thieves and robbers who depredate on the country. The infantry are useless for that purpose.

For twenty-five years this border has been harrassed and depredated on by lawless bands from Mexico of Indians and Mexicans. In 1857 Governor Houston had to send a military force to the Rio Grande to repel an invasion headed by the bandit Cortina. During this time many millions of dollars' worth of property belonging to citizens of Texas has been

destroyed, stolen, and taken with the strong hand by these marauders. Especially since 1865 has it been the case that armed bodies of men from the west side of the Rio Grande are constantly coming into Texas, overawing the people and driving off into Mexico large herds of cattle, the property of citizens of Texas. At other times these parties shoot down and skin large numbers of cattle and carry off the hides, leaving the carcasses to rot on the ground. They not unfrequently, in executing their plans of wholesale robbery, butcher whole families, men, women, and children, and fire their houses. Losses by the people of Texas from this source amount to many hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, and, since 1865, to say nothing of losses previously, to many millions. Life and property between the Nueces and Rio Grande Rivers has from this cause been made so insecure as to threaten its depopulation and an utter destruction of its only producing interest—cattle and horses. The country is sparsely settled, and by the time a few of the citizens can get together for defense and pursuit, these robbers are at or across the Rio Grande with their booty, and, having reached this place of refuge, they taunt and defy the citizens of Texas, whom they have plundered, and leisurely divide the spoils.

Within the last six months the invasions of these bandits from Mexico have become so bold and frequent, and their robberies and murders of citizens of Texas so extensive and alarming, that I have been compelled to call out, at a heavy expense to the State, a military force for their protection. On account of the chaparral thickets and brushy character of the country on the Rio Grande, and the great extent of it, the small force the State is able to keep in the field is most effective in patrolling the country immediately on the river, and watching the crossings, where some delay occurs in driving over the stolen stock; and it frequently happens that the robbers are not discovered until they have partially or wholly crossed the river with their plunder. These depredations upon persons and property in Texas by Mexicans, I state, as an undeniable fact, are being committed, and for years past have been committed, with the knowledge and acquiescence of the local municipal authorities on the west side of the Rio Grande; and it is believed to be susceptible of abundant proof that in numerous instances these local authorities have colluded with the marauders, and shared in a division of the booty. Certain it is that in open day-light, without concealment, Mexicans, in full view of the municipal officers on the west side of the river, constantly come across the river into Texas, and return publicly with large herds of cattle and other property belonging to citizens of Texas, and have for years been doing it, without any effort by the authorities for its repression, when it was publicly and notoriously known that they were robbers, and had been plundering the people of Texas. It is equally certain that the central government of Mexico has been, and is now, fully informed of the depredations committed by citizens under its jurisdiction, and having homes and taking refuge from pursuit within its territory, upon the lives and property of citizens of Texas, and that that government, notwithstanding the enormity of the crimes, and the constancy, persistency, and publicity with which, for a number of years, they have been committed, has, up to this time, failed to take any steps to put an end to them, or to punish the criminals, or make reparation to the injured parties in Texas. The force placed by the United States Government on the Rio Grande border is shown by the present condition of that country, the frequency and impunity with which bandit raids are made upon it, to be utterly inadequate for its protection. The facts herein recited are of public and common notoriety, and have been brought to the attention of the Government at Washington time and again by the public press, by the Representatives in Congress from Texas, and by the State authorities of Texas, and can be proved to be true with any amount of testimony. Under these circumstances, and basing my action on these facts, as governor of Texas, in obedience to an imperious necessity, brought about by no dereliction of duty on the part of Texas, or her people, to protect citizens of Texas, as far as possible, from a predatory war being waged on them by foreign desperadoes and robbers, I called into the State service one hundred men, and have posted them in the country between the Rio Grande and Nueces Rivers, and issued to the officers commanding the orders of which complaint is made.

The portion of the order to which objection is made is in these words: * * * * *
 "Should the company be in close pursuit of thieves or marauders, with their plunder, it will follow as far as possible, whether on this side of the Rio Grande or the other, having a due regard for its own safety, and the prospect of recovering the stolen property." * * *

This order contemplates no "military expedition or enterprise to be carried on" against the territory of Mexico or the people of that country. It simply looks to the employment of the small force the State of Texas has been compelled to call out by an inexorable necessity for the protection of her otherwise defenseless people, in the only mode in which it can be used effectively. If these Mexican raids, which this force is called out to repel, were of recent date, of irregular occurrence, and of such character as to elude the efforts of an ordinarily vigilant and energetic government to suppress, and such efforts were being made in good faith by the authorities of Mexico. I grant in that case, that to allow an armed force to pursue even robbers, for the purpose of recovering their booty, across the Rio Grande, would be a violation of the rights of Mexico, and of well-settled principles of international law. The right of the government of Mexico to immunity for its territory from the incursions of armed forces of Texas, would then be based on a proper discharge of the duties of that government to Texas, in repressing the lawlessness of its own people, and preventing

and punishing their crimes attempted and committed against the people of their neighboring State. It is because each state or nation has undertaken to restrain its people from making war on the people of its neighbors, that the law of nations forbids an armed force from one entering the territory of another. The right of immunity grows out of and depends upon the performance of this duty, which each power owes to the other. No state has surrendered the right of defense of its people in its own way against aggressions from neighboring states or people except upon the promise and performance of the great duty toward itself, which all nations owe each other, of so governing their people as that they shall not deplete or make war upon other nations, or any of their people or territory. I apprehend that international courtesy, comity, and amity has never been required by the law of nations, carried to the romantic extent of surrendering the great natural right of self-defense against the constant infliction of serious, permanent and wrongful injury upon the people of one nation by those of another, although the attacks may be unauthorized by the government of the territory from which it comes.

The State government of Texas has to deal with the admitted and undeniable fact, that for a series of years a most destructive predatory war has been carried on against the people of Texas and their property, between the Nueces and Rio Grande Rivers, by Indians and Mexicans residing on the west side of the Rio Grande River, and belonging to the jurisdiction of the Mexican government. The fact exists that these people, whether from want of power or of will on the part of that government makes no difference as to results and as to our rights, are not ordered and regulated by the Mexican government, and restrained to a proper line of conduct toward the people of Texas, and that it has become an imperative necessity on Texas, in consequence of this failure of duty on the part of the Mexican government and the inadequacy of the force posted on the Rio Grande by the United States, to provide for the defense of her citizens, and being thus driven to exercise her inherent right of self-defense, it is insisted, if necessary, that she has a clear legal right to send her troops on Mexican soil for the purpose. Only friendly powers have the right to claim exemption of their territory from armed intrusion; and it is insisted that as to Texas, Mexico is not a friendly power, because Mexican citizens, with the knowledge of the authorities of their government, and unrestrained by them, are making war on the people of Texas and their property, rendering it necessary for their proper defense that Texas troops should pursue the freebooters on Mexican soil. This necessity, it report which has gone the rounds of the newspaper press of the United States uncontradicted, and which is universally believed, be true, has been twice in the last twelve months recognized and acted on by a gallant and able officer of the United States Army. I allude to General McKenzie, who, with troops of his command, pursued bands of marauders from Texas across the national boundary, and on one of these occasions is believed to have inflicted on them merited chastisement on Mexican soil. No word of disapproval has ever been heard here from the Government at Washington of the conduct of this distinguished officer, while the press and the people of the country have loudly applauded it.

Texas, when forced to assume the unjust burden of defending herself against foreign aggression, and of repelling invasion of her territory, as she is now attempting to do, is fully authorized, under article 2, section 10, Constitution of the United States, to use the war powers which ordinarily reside in the United States Government; and the constitutional obligation resting on the United States to defend the people of Texas against hostile invasion not having been discharged, would, independent of that provision of the Constitution, have vested in Texas the right to resort to any means for her own defense which might properly have been resorted to by the United States. If the forces of the United States have a right to cross the national boundary and continue pursuit of marauders on Mexican soil, of which there can be no doubt, Texas forces, which are doing the duty which ought to be performed by the United States troops, and are doing it because United States troops are not there to do it, and it must be done, have the same right. It will be observed that the order to Captain Benavides authorizes him to cross the Rio Grande only when in close pursuit, and for one specific purpose, and that is to recapture property stolen or wrested by force from citizens of Texas. He is not authorized to cross the river for purposes of retaliation, nor to make war on the territory or any of the people of Mexico, but only to pursue marauders going out of Texas, and take from them and bring back property found in their possession belonging in Texas.

A knowledge by these freebooters that they will be pursued, and that the west bank of the Rio Grande shall no longer be a sanctuary and place of refuge to them, from which they can sally at pleasure, and murder and plunder the people of Texas, will do more to put an end to their operations, and give peace and security to the people of that frontier, than quadruple the present force without authority to cross the Rio Grande. The claims of citizens of Texas for indemnity for property of which they have been plundered by Mexican citizens, already amounting to many millions of dollars, has for some years past been receiving the attention of the Congress of the United States; but no steps have been taken to remove the cause of accrual of these claims, and to-day the State government of Texas is incurring an onerous and most oppressive and unjust expense, which she cannot avoid because necessary for the defense of her people from murder and rapine, which should fall of right upon the Government of the United States. It is to be hoped that the necessities of

the people on the Rio Grande frontier will be recognized and appreciated, and cared for by the Government of the United States, and that Texas, as of right she ought to be, will be relieved of the burden now resting on her so unequally, of providing for the defense of a national boundary; but while she is thus taxed, that she will be permitted to use the means of defense she is compelled to employ in the mode she deems most effective. While I have clear convictions of my right as governor of Texas, under the Constitution and laws of the United States, and in view of the condition of affairs on the Rio Grande border, to issue the military order of which complaint is made, and have it executed, I at the same time am fully aware that if the officers of the United States Government entertain a different view, they have the power to prevent its enforcement, and that no good will result from further effort on my part to execute it. I therefore have given you the facts upon which the issuance of the order was predicated, by which its propriety may be determined, and if it is decided to be in contravention of the laws of the United States, when notified of the decision, I will revoke the order, but must say that it will be to the last degree unjust to Texas, on the part of the General Government, to refuse to her permission properly to defend herself, unless at the same time adequate provision is made for her defense.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

RICH'D COKE,
Governor of Texas.

Hon. GEORGE H. WILLIAMS,
Attorney-General United States, Washington, D. C.

APPENDIX C, No. 2.

REPORT OF JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE OF TEXAS STATE LEGISLATURE,
MARCH, 1875.

*Hon. R. B. Hubbard, President of the Senate, and Guy M. Bryan, Speaker
of the House of Representatives :*

Your joint select committee, appointed to consider that portion of the governor's message relative to the "Mexican border troubles," have been engaged for some time in the performance of the duty assigned them.

Col. Santos Benavides and Capt. Refugio Benavides, of Webb County, and Col. John S. Ford, of Cameron County, Texas, all of them gentlemen of extensive information and large experience upon the line of the Rio Grande River, were summoned and appeared and testified before the committee. There was also laid before your committee, by his excellency the governor, the sworn statement of thirty-one citizens and residents of the Rio Grande border, living in the counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Nueces. Presentments of reports from the grand juries of the counties of Kinney and Frio were also before the committee.

The extensive personal knowledge and acquaintance of the Hon. Louis Cardis, of the house of representatives, and one of the members of the committee, with the condition of affairs on the El Paso section of the Rio Grande, was also availed of by your committee in the performance of their duty.

The limited fund placed at the disposal of your committee, and the short time allotted to consider the subject-matter involved in this inquiry, prevented the calling of more witnesses from other portions of the national border, and precluded a more thorough investigation as to the origin and details of the difficulties, dangers, and losses with which our Rio Grande frontier has been visited for several years past.

All of the testimony above referred to, which is herewith submitted, having been carefully considered by your committee, we are instructed to report their findings and conclusions in the premises, to wit:

First. That there exists such a state of disquiet and general feeling of insecurity, both to persons and property, along the whole line of the

Rio Grande, as to discourage, if not to forbid, any growth, prosperity, or material development in that portion of our State, and such a wholesale and open robbery by armed marauders from the republic of Mexico of the people of Texas, resident on and adjacent to that border, as to have almost impoverished them, which depredations on the Lower Rio Grande, as high up as the county of Starr, are committed exclusively by armed bandits from our neighboring republic above said county, by marauding Mexicans and Indians.

Second. That these raiders and freebooters from Mexico, heavily armed and well mounted, make their incursions in large parties almost daily, and ride defiantly over the back country for the distance of one hundred or more miles from the river, burn isolated dwellings, rob country stores, murder citizens, gather herds of cattle, and return with their plunder to Mexico, and when they reach the west bank of the Lower Rio Grande find refuge and protection, are in perfect safety, and enjoy, at their pleasure, their ill-gotten gains; and to such an extent do these marauders plunder and murder that the resident upon his isolated and distant ranch, who may discover them while gathering their herds of stolen cattle or passing them to Mexico, is intimidated and hesitates to give information as to their movements through fear of the terrible and never-failing vengeance of the bandit and his confederates in crime.

Third. That murders, to the number of one hundred and five, have been proven, by the limited evidence before your committee, to have been committed by these bandits and Indians, within the past three or four years, in the section of country below Eagle Pass, Mexico, and the murderers invariably find a refuge in Mexico, from whence the authorities fail and refuse, with but few exceptions, to return them when demand is made for their extradition. Among the notable instances of crime, where the criminal has been protected and a refuge given in Mexico, your committee mention that of the murder of Mr. Alexander, a quiet and gentlemanly merchant of the city of Brownsville, in 1872. He was traveling in his carriage, in Hidalgo County, upon the high-road, and in full view of a large settlement was halted and shot by a Mexican desperado. The murder was most wanton and unprovoked. The assassin was not even incited to the bloody deed by any animosity to the unhappy victim of his cruelty, nor does it appear that a desire to rob influenced the act, but that the fiend was actuated solely by a general hate of Americans and desire to take the life of any whom he might encounter. The assassin sought protection in Mexico, and it was afforded him for some time afterward; and as long as he chose to remain there he could be seen almost daily in the streets of the city of Matamoras.

A Mr. Swift, an unoffending citizen of Refugio County, who, with his wife, was most foully murdered in his house. The murderer sought refuge in Guerrero, Mexico, where he was followed by citizens of Texas and identified; demand was made for his extradition, but the Mexican authorities declined to deliver him over to the authorities of his State to answer for his crime. One W. H. Green, as fugitive from justice, because of crimes committed in connection with the lunatic-asylum, reached Matamoras in his flight from the grasp of the law. On demand for his extradition he was arrested and held only two or three days. His delivery to the State authorities was refused, and he was permitted to depart toward the interior of Mexico; and one Alberto Garza, a noted and dangerous bandit-chief, the principal actor in many murders, and in the robbery and pillage of the store of Mr. Schubert, at the village of Concepcion, in Duval County, in 1873, and the store of Mr. Blaine,

at Los Olmos, in Nueces County, in 1874, as well as in many other crimes of robbery and murder, is protected, and a refuge afforded him in Mexico, from whence he is constantly raiding upon the lives and property of our citizens.

Fourth. That on the Lower Rio Grande, from Starr County to the Gulf of Mexico, these depredations upon the cattle interests have been so great, and have been carried on to such an alarming extent, that of the vast herds which but a few years back covered the great plains adjacent to the Mexican border, and which were such a source of profit to the thrifty and hardy herdsmen, and great wealth to the State, scarce 10 per cent. to-day remains to compensate the stock-raiser for his years and life of labor and toil; and of this amount, unless relief be speedily given, there will soon be not enough left to remind the stock-raiser of his once princely wealth, and of the almost countless herds which but a short time since bore his brand.

Fifth. That, although our Rio Grande border on the lower river has been almost entirely stripped of its wealth, and our citizens impoverished by armed marauders and bandits from Mexico, and the cattle of our people taken by them into the towns and cities and on the ranches of that country, our citizens can get no redress from the local authorities on the lower river in that republic. They often promise restoration, but more frequently refuse; and when aid and assistance is promised to the Texas owner seeking his stolen stock, he is generally foiled and annoyed with circumlocution until the cattle are made away with, or he abandons his purpose in disgust, and leaves his property with the thief or his employé. In one instance, where stolen cattle were recently restored, the owner was required to pay a duty or tax, upon the plea that the cattle were introduced into Mexico without authority of law. There is much evidence showing that cattle of Texan owners have been found on the several ranches of General Cortina, in Mexico, near Matamoras, and implicating other officials with these robberies, from which it seems that, if they do not actually participate in these raids, they must certainly connive at the acts and share the profits of the plunder.

Sixth. That on the Upper Rio Grande, above the county of Starr, while the same character of depredations exist as before described, they are not carried on to such an extent, nor does there seem to be any system or organization among the marauders as there appears to be below. Along this line and adjacent country it appears that only about one-half of the cattle have been driven off by bandit Mexicans and Indians. While the same insecurity to life and property exists, the loss has not been so heavy, principally, your committee infer, because the local authorities of New Laredo, Mexico, and in the State of Nuevo Leon, Mexico, do not aid the thief in secreting, or protect his plunder. From the testimony of Colonel and Captain Benavides, both of whom many members of your committee know to be gentlemen of high characters, it appears that the Mexican officials in the last-named places afford our citizens every facility for recovering their stolen property, and are anxious to cultivate and maintain friendly relations with our people. That the authorities of New Laredo, Mexico, upon Captain Benevides informing them last summer of the organization of his company, and asking their co-operation, invited the captain that, should he be in close pursuit, to follow the robbers over the river. The testimony of these gentlemen is very strong and positive as to the good disposition and just intentions of those officials, and your committee are pleased to report the fact.

Seventh. That during the few months of the past year, when Captain

Benevides commanded a company of twenty-five men in Webb County, and Telesfero Montez in El Paso County a similar company, those two counties and adjoining ones were kept quiet and the peace preserved; but since the disbanding of those small companies the bold and desperate bandit has again begun the work of plunder.

Eighth. That notwithstanding it is the duty and obligation of the United States to protect the State of Texas and her citizens against forays and plunder by armed aliens, that duty has been sadly neglected and that obligation disregarded to the great wrong and injury of the people of Texas. The great doorway between Mexico and Texas has been left almost unguarded, the national forces upon the border, except in few instances, have been and are utterly inefficient for the service required to protect the Rio Grande line against such a foe as infests and depredates on that country, the number being too small under the system of management and movement of troops in the Regular Army to accomplish much good or to effect the necessary protection, no matter how good may be the intention or however willing the officers may be to fully discharge their duty in the premises. And although it is the duty of the Mexican government to restrain the lawless and bandit portion of her population from depredating upon a friendly State, that duty is entirely disregarded, and your committee recommend that complaint thereof be made to the General Government by his excellency the governor. Your committee are decidedly of the opinion that on the whole line of the Rio Grande from the Gulf of Mexico to El Paso at the foot of the mountains, with the exception of in the towns and cities and under the guns of the United States garrisons and forts, there is no security or protection to the life or the property of the citizen or resident of Texas. The American citizen cannot dwell upon American soil or travel upon American highways or pursue his daily avocations under the laws, and almost in sight of the flag of his country, as it waves above the Federal garrisons, without great risk and danger of forfeiting his life to the vengeance, or of being reduced to utter poverty by the cupidity and robbery of armed marauders and bandits from the republic of Mexico, who make such profitable raids and dangerous forays upon American soil with impunity.

Your committee would earnestly recommend that suitable provisions be made by the legislature for the protection as far as possible of the lives and property of our citizens on the Mexican borders, trusting that ere long the Federal Government may do its full duty in the premises, and not only re-imburse the State of Texas for the necessary expenditures in the performance of that duty, which rightfully devolves on the General Government, but will take such prompt and necessary action as may be required to indemnify our people for their past losses, and give ample security for the future.

Adopted.

APPENDIX C, No. 3.

Resolution and memorial of the constitutional convention of the State of Texas, asking the attention of Congress to the condition of Texas frontiers, and praying compensation for losses sustained by the people of Texas, by reason of the incursion of Indians and Mexicans, and re-imbusement for sums of money expended by that State in defending the frontier, &c.

COMMITTEE-ROOM,
Austin, November 24, 1875.

To the Hon. E. B. Pickett, president of the constitutional convention of the State of Texas :

Your select committee, to which was referred a resolution concerning depredations upon the people of Texas frontier by bands of marauders, organized beyond the limits thereof to invade the territory of the United States and murder and plunder its citizens, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report :

That they find that since the time of the annexation of Texas to the United States, and especially since the termination of the war between Mexico and our Government, resulting in the acquisition by us of an immense and valuable territory theretofore belonging to the republic of Mexico, the people of the latter government, especially those of the northern and frontier States of Mexico, have entertained feelings of bitter hostility toward Americans. They have also coupled with that sentiment a vehement desire to avenge their defeats and retrieve their losses. This feeling has been evinced in various ways.

They have robbed, murdered, and maltreated citizens of the United States who were residing or traveling in Mexico, in violation of positive treaty stipulations, the laws of nations, and the laws of humanity; they have passed legislative enactments hostile to the interests of Americans living adjacent to Mexican States, injurious to American commerce, and entailing great damage to and upon the revenues of the United States; they have set on foot expeditions upon Mexican soil, or allowed the same to be done, for the purpose of invading the territory of the United States, and of waging a predatory war upon her citizens and their property; and they have made themselves the allies of Indians whose mode of warfare respects neither age nor sex. These acts of savage aggression have been perpetrated upon our peaceful citizens for more than twenty years.

In 1859 they became open and unconcealed. During that year Juan Nepomuceno Cortina organized an expedition, mostly in the Mexican State of Tamaulipas, made a descent upon the territory of Texas, and captured the city of Brownsville. He murdered unsuspecting citizens in cold blood, robbed houses, and committed other acts of violence. This outlaw prosecuted an inhuman war upon the flag and the people of the United States for eight months. He did so with the knowledge, tacit consent, and secret co-operation of the Mexican authorities. He drew supplies of men and means from Mexico, and used her territory for the purpose of re-organizing his forces, depositing his stolen property, and as an asylum for himself and followers.

No attempt was then made by the government of Mexico to restrain her citizens. When once upon her soil they were free from arrest and molestation, and received the protection of her laws, and her authorities looked to him as the champion of their sentiments of hatred and revenge. He was their favorite because his hands were stained with American blood. He rose in the estimation of the authorities. They rewarded crime by promoting him, and he is now a brigadier-general in the Mexi-

can army. During the presidency of Mr. Juarez he was sent to the Rio Grande as the commander of the line of the Bravo, and the representative of the supreme government of Mexico. He resumed his position as the leader and protector of the desperadoes, thieves, and criminals who were depredating upon the people of Texas. He was retained on the Rio Grande against the protest of General McCook, of the United States Army, and of an indignant people he had outraged. His presence upon our border in any official capacity was an insult to the Government and the people of the United States. He was the first to give coherence and form to the Mexican feeling of hostility to Americans, and his admiring countrymen have faithfully followed his examples.

Notwithstanding General Cortina has been recently arrested for disobedience of orders to his government, and for nothing more, yet the border war he inaugurated has been persistently and energetically carried on by his followers. We are informed, and believe it true, that he will soon be upon the Rio Grande to rejoin his plundering partisans, and to finish a historical record which has been written in letters of blood.

The *Zona Libre*, or free belt, was first established by a decree of the governor of the State of Tamaulipas. It provided that goods, wares, and merchandise could be introduced and sold, free of duty, in a belt six miles in width and about three hundred in length. It commenced at the mouth of the Rio Grande and extended to the upper boundary-line of the State of Tamaulipas. This decree received the sanction of the supreme government of Mexico, notwithstanding it is in direct violation of the constitution thereof. Its object is expressed on its face. It was a blow aimed at the commerce and merchants of the United States. It encouraged smuggling, and did much to concentrate upon the Rio Grande a horde of lawless Mexican adventurers. It has shifted business from the American to the Mexican side, and has well nigh ruined American traders in the valley of the Rio Grande. The custom-house records show that the goods introduced by the way of Brazos Santiago and the mouth of the Rio Grande, previous to the late civil war between the States, amounted to more than \$10,000,000 per year, and that the amount now scarcely exceeds \$3,000,000 annually. The Government of the United States requested that of Mexico to abolish a system which discriminated against her commerce and her interests, and produced so many results prejudicial to her revenues and the welfare of her people. The answer to this just demand was an extension of the free belt to about double its former length.

The border warfare which has been waged upon the territory of the United States, and the people of Texas and their property, has been characterized by savage atrocities. Men have been murdered in cold blood in almost every conceivable way; they have been shot, stabbed, burned alive, and strangled, and their bodies have been indecently mutilated; women have been captured, their persons violated; captive children have been held and sold as slaves. In the latter enormities the Mexicans and Indians have co-operated. In proof whereof the evidence taken before the United States Frontier Commission, in 1873, in the cases of H. M. Smith and others, is respectfully referred to. To be brief: On our exposed frontier, especially on the Rio Grande, a reign of terror has existed which prevented citizens from attending to their vocations; the prices of real and personal property have depreciated; population has not increased; hundreds of lives have been sacrificed, and millions of dollars' worth of property have been taken into Mexico, and into the haunts of their savage allies. It is a question of supremacy.

The homes, the property, and the lives of frontiersmen hang upon the issue. On the Rio Grande the decision will consign the country to Mexican bandits, or secure it to the American settlers. It is abandonment on the one side, and reconquest on the other. It is a contest between civilization and savagery.

The outrages on the part of Mexico have been committed boldly and defiantly. Citizens and soldiers have participated; officers of the Mexican army have crossed the Rio Grande at the head of their commands, and have committed outrages upon the persons and the property of our people. Mexican officials, civil and military, have been participants in the profits arising from this border war. They have given their sanction to acts of violence and rapine; they have protected the perpetrators, and, as far as they could, they have legalized robbery and murder. To the dishonor of the supreme government of Mexico, the proceeds of the sale of cattle stolen from the people of Texas have found their way into the public treasury. The custom-house authorities of Reynosa and Camargo have seized stolen cattle, knowing they had been feloniously acquired. They have refused to deliver them to the authorized agents of the American owners, and have condemned and sold them, on the ground that they had been introduced into the country contrary to law. A municipal tax has been assessed and paid upon property publicly known to have been robbed from Texans. This has been done in Matamoros and other places.

It has been the practice of the Mexican authorities to throw insuperable obstacles in the way of recovering property stolen from Americans, and carried into Mexico. Our citizens have been threatened and imprisoned for daring to ask for the restitution of property. To be concise: We have suffered the evils and the calamities of war from a people with whom we are professedly at peace.

The supreme government of Mexico has been notified of the hostile and piratical aggressions of her authorities and citizens upon the territory, people, and property of a neighboring and peaceful power, and no adequate steps have been taken to prevent the fitting out of expeditions upon her soil. Her territory has been used as a place of deposit for stolen property; the same has been sold publicly in her markets, and the marauders have found refuge upon her territory; once across the Rio Grande, and the outlaw is safe from molestation; he is covered by the flag of Mexico, and is the peculiar object of protection by her authorities. For these and many other hostile acts, Mexico stands condemned by the law of nations as the indorser of the aggressions of her citizens. She has utterly failed to comply with her treaty obligations. She has been an inactive spectator of the murders and robberies committed by her citizens and soldiers upon citizens of the United States and their property.

Her failure to comply with her duties under the obligations of international law, and to extend to a neighboring and friendly power the offices of comity and good neighborhood, attach to her a fearful responsibility. By so doing she has encouraged her citizens in their wanton acts of robbery; and up to the present time, as we are informed by dispatches from the distracted frontier of the Rio Grande, those depredations are still continuing upon our peaceful people and their property in the immediate vicinity, and in sight of the armed forces of the United States.

Again, our extensive northwestern frontier has for forty years been exposed to constantly recurring inroads of the nomadic tribes that dwell in the regions beyond that line—resulting in the murder of men,

women, and children, and the stealing and destruction of property of immense value, often leaving whole settlements of hardy frontiersmen (the pioneers of civilization) utterly divested by wholesale plunder of all the accumulations of an industrious life, acquired in rescuing, from the savage, fertile plains, and devoting them to industrious civilization.

Therefore, in consideration of the premises, which are abundantly established by the testimony of the civil and military officers, and various citizens of the United States—

We, the delegates of the people of Texas, in constitutional convention assembled, do most respectfully but earnestly invoke the interposition of the Government of the United States, through its legitimate and constituted authorities, to take such prompt and efficient action as shall secure to her citizens security of person and property and just compensation for the injuries they have so wrongfully suffered at the hands of the people and officers of the government of the republic of Mexico, claiming to be at peace with our Government, so that in the future there shall not be the constatly impending danger of a war between the two countries, and our people be left to enjoy their rights of person and property in peace and security, and that they be compensated for the losses and injuries they have sustained, and the State of Texas be reimbursed for the sums of money she has expended in defense of her exposed and suffering frontier, along the entire Indian and Mexican border.

In making these requests, which we prefer to the honorable the Congress of the United States, we feel that we are but asking that which as citizens of that great Government we are justly entitled to; nor can we entertain a doubt that the relief will be granted when the facts shall be made known to the properly-constituted authorities.

We therefore request that his excellency the governor of the State of Texas transmit a copy of this report and memorial to His Excellency the President of the United States, and that a copy thereof be transmitted by the president of the convention to our Senators and Representatives in Congress, that the subject may be properly presented to the consideration of the Congress of the United States.

GEORGE FLOURNOY,
Chairman.

J. R. FLEMING.
L. S. ROSS.
JOHN S. FORD.
D. A. NUNN.
B. D. MARTIN.
E. L. DOHONEY.
J. W. BARNETT.
JOHN S. MILLS.
C. S. WEST.
HENRY C. KING.

APPENDIX C, No. 4.

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, *December 21, 1875.**To his excellency Governor Richard Coke, Austin, Texas :*

At a mass-meeting of the citizens of Brownsville, and of the frontier, present in this city, held on December 20, 1875, it was resolved that a committee be appointed to draw up a memorial to your excellency, to represent the condition of this frontier, and to request that the State troops under command of Captain McNally be not only retained on this frontier for our protection, but that the same be increased to such number as will afford efficient protection; and the undersigned were appointed a committee to draw up the memorial in accordance with the resolution.

We respectfully represent that while the troops of the United States are prompt and ready at all times to aid the civil authorities in making arrests of cattle-thieves, yet the manner in which they are placed in garrison along the Rio Grande at points distant from each other, and the doubts as to their authority to make arrests except when accompanied by a civil officer, prevents them from affording sufficient protection; whereas the State troops under Captain McNally move from point to point, and, in addition to their character as troops, they also possess the character of peace-officers of the State and conservators of the laws, and they can act promptly in making arrests and bringing guilty parties before the proper magistrates for trial. On these grounds the State troops are indispensable to an efficient enforcement of the laws.

The activity and zeal displayed by Captain McNally and his command since they have been on this frontier is well known to your excellency. They have produced great terror among the cattle-thieves, and a corresponding feeling of security among the stock-raisers, and have thus rendered important service. We take occasion to say that the conduct of Captain McNally and the men of his command has been most admirable; they are sober, steady, soldierly men, not hanging around our towns, but constantly in camp or on the move for our protection, and they have won the good opinion and regard of the whole people of this frontier.

We would also suggest to your excellency that the necessity for the continuance of a force on this frontier is made manifest by the continued depredations upon our stock-ranches, notwithstanding the zeal and activity of the small command of Captain McNally; and in evidence of this necessity we present the annexed affidavits, which not only prove our statement of the necessity of retaining this force but of increasing it to such an extent as will enable Captain McNally to cover the entire line of the operations of the cattle-thieves, which extends from the mouth of the Rio Grande to Eagle Pass, a distance of nearly four hundred miles. The small force at the disposition of Captain McNally cannot possibly cover this long line; but we are satisfied that if his force could be increased to two hundred men, he would be enabled to crush out the cattle-thieves and prevent their future depredations.

As an evidence of the estimation in which Captain McNally and his command are held on this frontier, and the feeling of security to the stock-raisers that his presence has afforded, we need only cite the fact that a few days since one of our large stock-raisers, Capt. Richard King, sent the company a present of \$500 as a testimonial of his appreciation of their services. It is the universal desire of the people of this frontier that this command be retained and increased, thereby enabling them to give full security to our people, &c.

We would further suggest that the removal of this command at the present time would have a very bad effect, for it might be construed by the evil-doers as a condemnation of the activity and zeal of the command in the recent affair at Las Cuevas; and this your excellency well knows cannot be thought of, for it would stimulate the raiders to renewed activity in their depredations.

Very respectfully, your obedient servants,

JOHN L. HAYNES,

Chairman of the Committee.

JOHN S. FORD.

F. J. PARKER.

EDWARD DOWNEY.

W. NEALEY.

ROBT. B. KINGSBURY.

M. FRENIN GRA.

EDWARD DOUGHERTY.

STEPHEN POWERS.

WM. H. RUSSELL.

A. WERBITZ.

We, the undersigned citizens of the frontier, fully indorse and approve the foregoing memorial :

L. Cowen.	Henry Bishop.
Bloomberg & Raphael P. Cowen.	William McCabe.
Nestor Maxan.	William Kelly.
J. A. Vivier.	Louis Duval.
B. Rosenthal.	M. B. Kingsbury.
Ross Storms.	H. L. Howlett.
L. Kowalski.	Chas. J. Murphy.
George Willmun.	Jas. Saml. Moth.
James G. Browne.	Severo Garza.
John W. Hoyt.	W. T. Gomila.
F. Gturria.	A. Ximines.
J. A. Michel.	W. E. Garland.
B. Kowalski.	W. W. More.
T. O. Ranch.	Jas. L. Rudolph.
Nat. Mitchell.	Pierce & Terry.
Julius G. Tucker.	Chas. André.
Jno. Jay Smith.	R. H. Wallis.
C. Jagow.	Sam. P. Gelston.
E. S. Fondard.	S. E. Starck.
Cornelius Stillman.	J. M. Bailey.
Joe Turner.	James Dougherty.
C. B. Combe & Co.	Henry St. Clair.
Thomas Carson.	Wm. Scanlon.
Joseph Webb.	Adolphus Glaevecke.
Sam. A. Belden.	Rafael B. de Sorin.
Louis A. Ruckert.	F. Weewood.
J. L. Putegnat.	Arthur J. D. Ear.
S. Ashheim.	A. Bollack & Bro.
Et. Melon, M. D.	Richard Crothers.
Robt. H. Kingsbury.	Frank H. Pierce.
Benj. Kowalski.	Henry Miller.
G. G. Davis.	G. M. Raphael.
Jos. P. O'Shaughnessy.	E. H. Goodrich.

Chas. F. Tilghman.	W. F. Dennett.
R. H. Bradford.	Geo. H. Watson.
Louis Wise.	Henry Klahn,
Wm. Devine.	<i>Presiding Justice,</i>
J. L. Mausur.	<i>Cameron County.</i>
H. S. Rock.	
Miguel Lopez.	H. E. Woodhouse.
S. Schwarz.	H. M. Field.
Wm. A. Valls.	Jeremiah Galvan.
Joaquin Maize.	Jesse Dennett.
Simon Celaya.	John McGovern.
E. C. Foero.	C. W. Montgomery.

APPENDIX C, No. 5.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, *December 30, 1875.*

To his excellency RICHARD COKE,
Governor of Texas:

GOVERNOR: At a mass-meeting of the citizens of Nueces and Duval Counties, held at Corpus Christi on this day, for the purpose of co-operating with the citizens of Cameron and other counties of the frontier in devising means for its better protection, and requesting that the company of State troops commanded by Captain McNally be retained in service, and its efficiency for frontier defense promoted by increasing its numbers, the undersigned were appointed a committee in behalf of the citizens composing the meeting, to prepare a memorial to your excellency expressive of their views, and have the honor to state:

That while we acknowledge with pride and gratitude the eminent and effective services rendered to the frontier by Captain McNally and his gallant little band, we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that murders and robberies in the territory between the Rio Grande and Nueces have constantly become more audacious and alarming, and the consequent terror and insecurity of our people are daily becoming more intense and widespread. It is evident that, unless endowed with ubiquity, forty men, however gallant and devoted, are inadequate to the defense of the long line of frontier exposed to the inroads of Mexican raiders.

A long and bitter experience has demonstrated to our people that, however well disposed the regular forces of the United States, garrisoning positions on the Rio Grande, may be, they must, from the nature of their organization, be inefficient in checking the incursions of raiders, in comparison with troops composed of such material and organized and officered as are McNally's company. A glance at the results accomplished by the latter within the limits to which the paucity of their numbers has confined their efforts will reveal this.

In the pursuit and capture of robbers who move from point to point with the rapidity of Arabs, over a country with which they are perfectly familiar, the brief experience of the last six months shows that State troops, disciplined and commanded like those of Captain McNally, are best adapted to enforce a wholesome terror among the outlaws and give security to our people. The services rendered by this gallant little band have become a portion of the history of our State, and their achievements on the field reflect honor on your administration.

We respectfully suggest that the withdrawal of this little force at this time from the theater of their late successful operations would lead to redoubled attacks by the robbers, who would not fail to construe such withdrawal either as a signal of defeat or a weak abdication by the State of its right to defend its frontier, and an abandonment of our people to the attacks of a public enemy.

The interest and well-being of the people of the frontier, as well as the honor of the State at large and the integrity of American soil, demand that this force be continued and its numbers increased.

We therefore earnestly unite with our fellow-citizens of Cameron and the other counties of the frontier in requesting that the company of Captain McNally be increased to a battalion of such numbers and appointments as may be, to some extent at least, commensurate with the requirements of a proper defense of the lives and property of our people.

It is evident that raiding on this frontier can never be effectively suppressed as long as armed citizens and soldiers of Mexico engaged in depredations on our soil can find security in the possession of their plunder, in sight of our people, by crossing an imaginary line, beyond which it is unlawful for our despoiled citizens to pursue them.

With the most earnest desire to abide by the laws, our long-suffering people, to whom these outrages have become familiar by almost daily occurrence, find it hard to understand why the operation of laws designed for the benefit and protection of men in organized communities should in their case be converted into a shield for the protection of wrong-doers.

While we do not look for such protection as would place our citizens on a level with other portions of the State more favorably situated in a geographical point of view, we urgently pray that we shall at least receive such protection as it is in the power of the State government to bestow, in view of the fact that we contribute equally with all other sections to the maintenance of its organization and authority.

As a means to this end, we again respectfully urge upon your excellency the retention in service of the present company of Captain McNally, and its increase to a battalion.

Respectfully, your obedient servants,

JOHN J. DIX,

Chairman.

JOHN M. MOORE.

F. E. MACMANUS.

JNO. S. McCAMPBELL.

FRANK C. GRAVIS.

T. H. CLARK.

JAMES T. SCOTT.

H. A. GILPIN.

DR. HIRSCH.

WM. L. ROYERS.

U. LOTT.

T. DODDRIDGE.

R. M. GROOMS.

CHAS. A. BERNARD.

P. W. HUMPHREY.

APPENDIX C, No. 6.

STATE OF TEXAS,

*County of Nueces :**To the Hon. T. C. Barden, Judge of the Sixteenth Judicial District of Texas :*

In accordance with your instructions the grand jury of Nueces County respectfully present the following report of their investigations of the late raid made on the citizens of this county :

They have ascertained that the band which penetrated to Nuecestown, about ten miles from Corpus Christi, and destroyed by fire the post-office and other buildings, and carried off male and female prisoners, Americans and Mexicans, were citizens of the republic of Mexico who crossed the Rio Grande in a body, and returned to Mexico with their booty.

While this band were engaged in their depredations, there were several bodies of armed men, citizens of Mexico, seen in other parts of the country between the Rio Grande and Nueces Rivers, and we firmly believe, and our belief being based upon the testimony before us, that it was the intention of these raiders to devastate this country in detached bodies, and then to effect a concentration of their forces for their own protection, and for the purpose of effectually securing their escape to Mexico. For details of the crimes perpetrated by these raiders we respectfully call your honor's attention to the annexed sworn statements of Mrs. Charlotte Sidberry, and Messrs. Lane, Franks, Borden, Noakes, Mann, Garza, and Reynolds. The results of these raids have been disastrous to our county and surrounding counties. Their effects are visible in the stagnation of business, and the feelings of insecurity which prevail in all parts of the country lying between the Rio Grande and Nueces Rivers.

As to the results of our investigations of the crimes charged upon the citizens of this State, we respectfully refer to the indictments we have presented.

There being no further business before us, we respectfully ask to be discharged.

E. N. GRAY,
Foreman of Grand Jury.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,

County of Nueces :

I, Joseph Fitz Simmons, clerk of the district court in and for said county, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the report of the grand jury of Nueces County, filed in said district court of said county at its June term, 1875.

Witness my hand and the seal of said court at office in Corpus Christi this 25th day of June, 1875.

[SEAL.]

JOSEPH FITZ SIMMONS,
Clerk District Court Nueces County,
By L. LEE LACY,
Deputy.

To his excellency RICHARD COKE,
Governor of Texas :

SIR: In accordance with the request of Adjutant-General Steele, I have the honor herewith to forward to you a certified copy of the report

of the grand jury of Nueces County upon the subject of the recent Mexican raid into Nueces County. The report is not as full and specific as it might have been, but accompanying it are the affidavits, taken before the grand jury, of quite a number of persons who were either taken prisoners by the raiders or who witnessed their operations. These affidavits are on file among the records of the district court of Nueces County, and copies thereof may be procured if desired by the executive.

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

T. C. BARDEN,

Judge Sixteenth Judicial District, Texas.

Certified copy of the report of the grand jury of Nueces County Filed June 21, 1875. Joseph Fitz Simmons, clerk district court, Nueces County.

APPENDIX C, No. 7.

The following is an official list of the indictments pending in Cameron County, against Juan N. Cortina. The list does not embrace the indictments in Hidalgo and Starr.

No. 388. The State of Texas *vs.* J. N. Cortina. Filed April 26, 1859. Cattle-stealing.

No. 387. The State of Texas *vs.* J. N. Cortina. Filed April 26, 1859. Cattle-stealing.

No. 391. The State of Texas *vs.* J. N. Cortina. Filed April 26, 1859. Cattle-stealing.

No. 394. The State of Texas *vs.* J. N. Cortina et als. Filed November 19, 1859. Murder.

No. 395. The State of Texas *vs.* J. N. Cortina et als. Filed December 9, 1859. Murder.

No. 396. The State of Texas *vs.* J. N. Cortina et als. Filed December 9, 1859. Assault with intent to kill.

No. 398. The State of Texas *vs.* J. N. Cortina et als. Filed December 9, 1859. Murder.

No. 399. The State of Texas *vs.* J. N. Cortina et als. Filed December 9, 1859. Murder.

No. 418. The State of Texas *vs.* J. N. Cortina et als. Filed May 12, 1860. Treason.

No. 509. The State of Texas *vs.* J. N. Cortina et als. Filed May 7, 1866. Murder.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,

County of Cameron :

I, Robert B. Foster, clerk of the district court in and for the county of Cameron, 15th judicial district State of Texas, hereby certify that the foregoing are true copies from the criminal-docket of said court, of indictments therein pending against Juan N. Cortina.

In testimony thereof witness my hand and seal of court at Brownsville the 21st day of February, 1872.

R. B. FOSTER,

Clerk District Court Cameron County, Texas.