

MESSAGE

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING,

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate, a letter from the Governor of Texas, concerning the alleged hostilities existing on the Rio Grande, between the citizens or the military authorities of Mexico and that State.

MARCH 6, 1860.—Read.

MARCH 7, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

To the Senate of the United States:

In compliance with the resolution of the Senate of the 23d of February, 1860, I transmit to that body a communication of the Secretary of War, furnishing all the information requested in said resolution.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

WASHINGTON, *March 5, 1860.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, *March 5, 1860.*

SIR: In answer to a resolution of the Senate of the 23d ultimo, requesting to be furnished with "any communication" which "may have been received from the governor of the State of Texas, and the documents accompanying it, concerning alleged hostilities now existing on the Rio Grande, between the citizens or the military authorities of Mexico and that State respectively," I have the honor to state that:

In preparing the papers called for by the resolution, I have thought it might be a matter of interest, perhaps of importance, to have a succinct statement of the origin and progress of the troubles on that border. With this view, I have made a synopsis of the transactions as they appear from papers on file in this office, but which are not sent to the Senate because they have not been called for. It will appear from these documents that nothing could exceed the contrariety of statement and opinion, even amongst those having the best opportunity of knowing. One thing only is certain, and that is, that from a small beginning these difficulties have rapidly increased, until they seriously threaten the peace of the two countries.

On the 5th day of February, 1859, Brevet Major General D. E. Twiggs, then commanding the military department of Texas, with the approval of the general-in-chief, but without the sanction of the War Department, issued orders directing the abandonment of *Fort*

Brown, Ringgold barracks, and Fort McIntosh, posts on the Rio Grande, each garrisoned by a single company of troops.

The reasons assigned by General Twiggs for breaking up these posts are given in a communication received from him under date of March 28, 1859, of which the following is a copy :

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, March 28, 1859.

SIR: I have heard incidentally (not officially) that "the department at Washington disapproved of my breaking up the posts in Texas." It was not until after consultation with the lieutenant general commanding the army, and his verbal approval, that I determined to do so, of which I, on the 13th of January, informed the Secretary of War, through your office. The order was not issued until the 30th of January, and the movements were not hurried, in order to give time, if it was not approved of by the Secretary, for it to be countermanded. Having an extensive frontier to guard from an enemy who was making daily inroads upon the inhabitants, and having so few troops, I, after mature consideration, determined to abandon the posts on the Rio Grande, and place the troops on the frontier. There is not, nor ever has been, any danger of Mexicans crossing on our side of the river to plunder or disturb the inhabitants, and the outcry on that river for troops is solely to have an expenditure of the public money. At every post that has been abandoned in Texas an outcry has been raised, and plenty of Indian signs seen. The citizens in the vicinity of these posts are very unwilling to lose the opportunity of handling a portion of the money necessarily expended by the government and troops.

In conclusion, I have respectfully to say that I have always, *as far as I knew them*, carried out the views of the Secretary and commanding general, and shall still do so to the best of my ability, and it is a source of mortification and regret to me to find I have failed in this instance.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

Brevet. Maj. Gen. U. S. A., com'g Department.

Colonel S. COOPER,

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

It was not thought proper to countermand this order, because of the high military authority upon which it was made, and because it was believed that the movement would have already been made before orders to the contrary could reach the troops. There was no well-founded reason to apprehend any danger from the withdrawal of the garrisons until, on the 20th of October, 1859, information reached the department that Cortinas, with a band of desperadoes, had, on the 27th of September, entered Brownsville and murdered several citizens of the place, beside committing repeated acts of plunder. This information came through General Twiggs, the officer in command of that department, and to whom application was made for troops to protect the place. The general promptly determined upon the disposition of

certain troops, which he thus explains: "I shall order one company of infantry to the junction of the Leona and Frio rivers, and one to some point below Fort Duncan. A detachment of artillery has been ordered to scout between Forts Clark and Duncan, and a company of cavalry from Camp Hudson to the same point."

In addition to these movements, orders were given from this department to General Twiggs to reoccupy Fort Brown immediately with two companies from Fort Clark. On the 29th of October this information was communicated to the Hon. John Hemphill, a Senator from Texas, in response to a request of the citizens of Brownsville, asking for protection.

Disturbances, however, seemed to increase at Brownsville, and in consequence of communications from the above-named Senator and from citizens of the town, relative to the disastrous state of affairs on the Rio Grande, received on the 3d of November, 1859, orders were given from this department to move one company of artillery from Baton Rouge to Fort Brown, which order was promptly executed.

On the 19th of November, the following dispatch was received from General Twiggs:

"NOVEMBER 12, 1859.

"General Twiggs reports that an express had just arrived at his headquarters with information that Brownsville had been burnt and one hundred Americans killed by Cortinas. He ordered out seven companies of foot and two of horse, under Major Heintzleman, to take the field."

This alarming state of affairs, thus set forth by the commanding general, seemed to demand that prompt and active measures should be taken by the department, and orders were at once issued by telegraph to Colonel Sumner, to send from Fort Leavenworth two companies of light artillery and three companies of foot; and similar orders were sent to the commander at Fort Monroe, to send six companies of foot with all speed to the Rio Grande. But the following despatch from the commanding general came just in time to prevent the above movement of the troops:

"NOVEMBER 21, 1859.

"General Twiggs reports that the reports concerning Cortinas prove to be mostly false. The order sending the troops to Brownsville has been countermanded."

Very great and perplexing difficulties presented themselves in the progress of these events, to determine upon the proper line of action to pursue. Cortinas was represented, alternately, as a Mexican bandit, leading Mexican invaders, and as a citizen of Texas, merely engaged in a private feud, backed by and opposed to citizens of his own State. But about the disorder and growing feeling of hostility between the Mexicans and Americans there could be no doubt, and, therefore, it was deemed proper to concentrate such a force on the border as the means and men at the command of the department would authorize.

It is certain that whatever may have been the origin of the quarrel, or who the parties to it at first, it has now grown to formidable and dangerous proportions. The band of Cortinas increased rapidly, until its numbers reached over five hundred men, and he posted himself on the banks of the Rio Grande, there keeping up constant and friendly intercourse with the Mexican shore, and maintaining an attitude of determined hostility to all Americans. So things remained until the 24th of December, when Major Heintzelman, with one hundred and fifty regular troops and one hundred and eighty Texan volunteers, fell in with Cortinas, strongly posted, and after a sharp engagement routed him completely, taking his guns, camp equipage, and munitions, and killing about sixty of the banditti. Cortinas fled with his shattered band to the Mexican shore, where he still remains, insulting and firing upon Americans across the river, in defiance of Mexican authority, if they attempt to exercise any, which is greatly questioned by many intelligent men having good opportunities to observe, whilst marauding parties of his men cross the river continually for the purpose of plunder and theft.

This state of affairs, as I understand it, constitutes the foundation of the report of the commissioners sent by the governor of Texas to the frontier to examine into all the facts connected with the disturbances on the border. And upon their report, he declares that Texas has been invaded, and he calls for the "interposition of the federal arm" for the protection of the citizens of the State.

This call of the governor is the first which has yet been made by the authorities of Texas for any assistance in these disturbances from this government; no doubt, because it was considered by them, up to this time, as a matter involving local laws and interests rather than such as pertained to the honor or interests of the Confederacy.

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

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. FLOYD,
Secretary of War.

The PRESIDENT.

BROWNSVILLE, *January 31, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: During my intercourse with the Mexican people, on both sides of the Rio Grande, I have had many opportunities to sound the Mexican mind in reference to the future political condition of the country. Although many turbulent leaders exist among them, the Mexican people, as a mass, are hoping for a deliverance from anarchy, and would rejoice in the establishment of a stable form of government, which would protect their lives and property, and give them peace.

The liberal party entire, look to the United States with hope, and pray for its interposition in behalf of their unhappy country. The Miramon party, emboldened by late success, are hostile to the

measure, because its leaders hope by the establishment of their power to gain wealth and influence.

Many of the most intelligent men of Tamaulipas regard a protectorate as the only means by which Mexico can be redeemed from the reign of outlaws and petty tyrants. There are many such men to be found, even in the border districts, and if a guarantee were offered for their lives, by the appearance of a sufficient body of American troops to overawe the unruly portion of the population, they would speak out their sentiments, and at once set themselves to work to better the condition of the country.

The Cortinas trouble has aroused much bad feeling on the part of those who wish to sustain anarchy to aid their schemes of robbery, and great effort is made to excite animosity against all Americans. The result has been that many of the lower order of rancheros have been drawn to his standard. The Miramon party being opposed to the Juarez treaty, are interested in encouraging this feeling, as anything which tends to excite prejudice against Americans militates against the treaty.

The leading men of Matamoras, knowing that the Miramon party will not hesitate to turn Cortinas and his followers upon their city, fear to excite his opposition, and are forced to countenance his movements.

That there is a deep-seated hostility on the part of many to everything American, there can be no doubt; but, with the great mass, even this would yield before the same course of justice and humanity which characterized the United States in its annexation and acquisition policy.

Mexico has been oppressed beyond degree; but there are yet in her midst men who hope for the redemption of their country. I honestly believe that such men lend their support and influence whenever a fair opportunity offers, to extend and establish American influence, in Mexico. An emergency like that presented to the United States, calls, in my opinion, for prompt action. How the character of the nation can be maintained, and these things continue, I am at a loss to determine; and if they continue, and the United States do not interfere to protect Texas, I cannot see how Texas can maintain the proud position she now occupies, unless she not only repels these invasions of her soil, but puts it beyond the power of the outlaws upon the Mexican border to aggress upon our people, by taking possession of a sufficient portion of the border sections of Mexico to enable us to establish order and check these hostile incursions, if attempted thereafter.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ANGEL NAVARRO.

Governor SAM HOUSTON.

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

[Special Order.]

SIR: From and after this date your movements, and the troops under your command, will be directed by Major Heintzleman, or other commanding officer of the United States army on this frontier, and you will, therefore, obey all orders emanating from such officers.

Respectfully,

A. NAVARRO,
ROBERT H. TAYLOR,
State Commissioners.

Captain J. S. FORD,
Commander Texas Rangers, Rio Grande Frontier.

BROWNSVILLE, February 6, 1860.

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

On Friday, on my march from Rio Grande City to this place, at the same time guarding the steamer *Ranchero*, on her way also from Rio Grande city to this place, she was fired into from the Mexican bank of the river at a ranche called the Balsa. The fire was promptly returned from the steamer with a small piece of artillery she had on board, after which she landed on this side of the river. Just at this time I met Captains Ford and Littleton with their companies on their march up the river, when a hasty consultation was had, and it was resolved that the troops should cross the river in pursuit of the enemy, which resolution was promptly executed; and about sixty men, consisting of detachments from Tomlinson's, Ford's, and Littleton's companies, crossed to the Mexican side, and attacked the enemy in his position, which consisted of a barricade, and, after a short conflict of about one hour and a half, completely routed him. The enemy had about two hundred men, and, I think, lost about twenty-five or thirty men. No Americans were killed; one wounded mortally and two slightly.

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

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

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM G. TOBIN,
Major commanding Rangers.

His Excellency, Governor SAM HOUSTON,
Austin, Texas.

BROWNSVILLE, February 6, 1860.

DEAR GENERAL: The Mexicans since yesterday's fight, of which I have no report as yet, are arming everything that can carry a gun,

and I anticipate much trouble here. I have, therefore, thought proper to keep Tomlinson's company in service until I hear from you. I think it necessary. I believe that a general war is inevitable. The authorities of Matamoras have armed the populace, some of whom were in the fight on Friday. New arms have been distributed to all the rancheros, so I apprehend trouble; I shall, therefore, take the responsibility to retain Tomlinson until further orders from you, which I can get, if you write by the return mail, in twelve days.

Yours, truly,

ROBERT H. TAYLOR.

STATE DEPARTMENT, *Austin, February 17, 1860.*

I, the undersigned, secretary of state, hereby certify that the foregoing are correct copies of the originals, now on file in the executive department.

Given under my hand and the seal of the department, at Austin, this the 17th day of February, A. D. 1860.

J. W. CAVE,
Secretary of State.

OFFICE OF TEXAS STATE COMMISSIONERS,
Brownsville, Texas, January 12, 1860.

DEAR SIR: The undersigned, commissioners appointed by the governor of the State of Texas, were required to consult with you as to the best mode of quieting the disturbances on this frontier. They beg leave, therefore, to request that you will advise Major Tobin, Texas volunteers, as to the risk the frontier will suffer by the order this day transmitted by us to him, ordering him to this place for discharge.

Respectfully,

A. NAVARRO,
ROBT. H. TAYLOR,
Commissioners State of Texas.

Major HEINTZLEMAN, *U. S. A.*

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

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

Yours, respectfully,

ANGEL NAVARRO.

Major HEINTZLEMAN.

HOSTILITIES ON THE RIO GRANDE.

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS,
Brownsville, January 12, 1860.

SIR: You will proceed to this place with your command without delay, for the purpose of being mustered for discharge. Before leaving your present camp, you will consult with Major Heintzleman, United States army, as to what risk the frontier will suffer by your leaving your present position.

Respectfully,

A. NAVARRO,
ROBERT H. TAYLOR,
Com's State of Texas.

To Major WM. TOBIN,
Commanding Texas Volunteers.

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

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

In my opinion, the two companies of rangers now in the service of the State are sufficient. I have but one company of cavalry at my disposal, and this force I consider entirely inadequate for the security of the frontier, as I am not authorized to cross the river into Mexico, where the marauders recruit and organize, and to where they flee for safety when pursued. The ease with which incursions can be made from the other side will make it exceedingly difficult to give complete protection unless the troops are authorized to occupy the opposite side of the river.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
S. J. HEINTZLEMAN,
Maj. U. S. Inf., com'g Brownsville Exp.
Messrs. ANGEL NAVARRO and ROBERT H. TAYLOR,
Commissioners State of Texas.

STATE DEPARTMENT,
Austin, Texas, February 18, 1860.

I, the undersigned, secretary of state of the State of Texas, do hereby certify that the foregoing are true copies of documents connected with the report of Rio Grande commissioners, now on file in the executive department.

Given under my hand and the seal of the State department, at the city of Austin, this the 18th day of February, A. D., 1860.

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

CITY OF AUSTIN, *February 15, 1860.*

The undersigned, one of the commissioners appointed "to investigate the causes, origin, and progress of the disturbances upon the Rio Grande river," begs leave to make the following condensed report of the facts substantially contained in our report submitted to your excellency, dated at Brownsville, Texas, February 4, 1860.

We have come to the conclusion, from our observation and from testimony of divers persons, that the difficulty was originally occasioned by a private feud between Juan Nepomuceno Cortinas and sundry individuals of the county of Cameron. We find the testimony taken, that this man Cortinas is a thief and a murderer, as an indictment for murder has been standing against him since the year 1850, and he never has been arrested. In the month of July last, he had the audacity, in open daylight, in the streets of Brownsville, to attack and shoot the city marshal, and rescue a prisoner from the hands of said marshal.

On the 28th of September last, we find this same man Cortinas at the head of a band of forty outlaws, at day-break, attacking the county jail, killing the jailor, one Johnson, and a Mexican, in whose house Johnson sought refuge, killing a young man by the name of Neale, and a man in the garrison named Morris. He then deliberately paraded the streets of Brownsville, demanding that the citizens should give up to his vengeance certain men named. Immediately afterwards he fortified his mother's rancho, collected around him all the ruffians he could from both sides of the river, and bid defiance to the authorities. Some time in October last, he was attacked in his defenses. A part of his forces met a party of Captain Tobin's command, and defeated the latter at Palo Alto. On the 4th of December last, Major Heintzleman, United States army, joining the Texas troops with his command, completely routed Cortinas' force. After that he recruited his band to four or five hundred men, and concentrated his force at Rio Grande City; and on the 27th of December last, that same gallant officer, Major Heintzleman, with Captains Ford and Tobin, of the Texas troops, completely routed him, and dispersed his force, and it was supposed he was entirely broken up. Since then he has been encamped eight miles above Matamoras, on the Mexican side of the river, recruiting and sending his parties into Texas stealing cattle and horses, and replenishing his commissariat, ready to cross as he may think proper.

All this, we believe, is known to the Mexican authorities. It is our opinion that the authorities on the Mexican side of the river are cognizant now, and have been all the while of his movements, and that his men have been armed by them, and he has been furnished ammunition, and received aid and comfort from the beginning. His parties cross the river daily, in squads of two, three, or more, and at night have driven across the river, stock, horses and cattle, to the amount of more than a thousand dollars.

We believe that Cortinas is sustained by Mexican money and arms. He is kept for the purpose of aiding the reactionists, or priests' party, in the event of the ratification of the McLean treaty. He has, we

have no doubt, between Camargo and Matamoras five hundred men subject to his order; they are stationed at the crossings between the two places. When our troops move up or down the river, they can be seen at any time in armed parties of ten, fifteen, and as high as fifty, and have appeared on the opposite bank and defied our troops.

Such is the state of affairs on the Rio Grande. The ranchos or farms are destroyed or abandoned, the cattle and horses, as far out as the Arroyo Colorado, have been driven off, and, in fact, the whole country from Brownsville to Rio Grande City, a distance of one hundred and thirty miles, is an utter desolation.

The Mexican families have, with a few exceptions, crossed the river, and are encamped, many of them without house or shelter. There is no security for life or property on the Rio Grande, except in Brownsville, or in the immediate presence of the military.

Finding this state of things when we arrived in Brownsville, and Major Heintzleman being absent at the time at Ringgold barracks, we concluded that the United States force, joined with two companies of rangers, would afford protection to the frontier; and, finding Captain Tobin's command without organization, muster-rolls, or anything like discipline, we ordered Major Tobin to Brownsville, for discharge. We concluded that these companies were not entitled to a major. We have discharged Lieutenant Walker's company on the —— day of January, and mustered a new company under the late law.

On the first day of February, instant, we discharged Captain Littleton's company, and, after a reorganization, mustered it in again. Rolls are herewith transmitted. Captain John S. Ford is the senior officer, and will command, under instructions from the United States officer commanding that frontier. (See our order dated February 4, 1860, and also letter from Major Heintzleman, as to the necessity of keeping two companies in the field.)

Attached, we submit a copy of an order of the governor of Tamaulipas, Mexico, to General Guadalupe Garcia, military commandant of the line of the Bravo, directing the dispersion of Cortinas' bands. But the state of feeling to Americans is so hostile that the Mexicans cannot check him. Nothing but anarchy and discord reigns in Mexico; and, in our opinion, the only way to stop these disturbances is to occupy the right bank of the Rio Bravo. In this we are sustained by the opinion of the military commandant. This boundary line is worse than an imaginary one, and, to defend what we already possess, it is necessary for us to adopt a line of defense west of the Rio Bravo.

The feeling against Americans, on account of former fillibustering expeditions, together with the bad feeling engendered by the treaty of the Juarez government, is such that we can no longer live as neighbors in peace.

It then becomes those in authority in our government to take steps to the end that, at least, American life and property may for the future be secure. General Guadalupe Garcia, commandant of the line of the Bravo, called on us and assured us that he would use all means in his power to break up the rendezvous of Cortinas in Mexico. We believe

he is not able to do it, from the fact that a large majority of the Mexicans, and those in power, too, sympathize with the bandit Cortinas.

A. NAVARRO.

To General SAM HOUSTON,
Governor of the State of Texas.

Statement of William Nelson.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron.*

My name is William Nelson; I am the clerk of the district court of Cameron county; I have lived here since July, 1848; I am acquainted with Juan Nepomuceno Cortinas; I know of an indictment pending in the district court of this county against said Cortinas, since 1850, for murder. During the time that I have acted as clerk, I have issued *capias* for the arrest of Cortinas; and, in fact, I know that there has been a *capias* in the hands of the sheriff ever since the indictment was found. I believe that through the influence of politicians, or political maneuvering, the arrest of said Cortinas was heretofore prevented. There are indictments pending against said Cortinas, of which there are three for cattle stealing, and others, copies of which are hereto attached. I am satisfied that the authorities of Matamoras are cognizant of the fact of Cortinas' men being in that city, and that they sympathize with him, and even encourage him in his movements, at least, privately, if not openly; and I am satisfied that, in his band, there are many Mexicans from the opposite side of the river, as well as from this side, and that all of them are Mexicans, or of Mexican origin. I believe that a certain movement made here in 1848, commonly known as the territorial movement, at which time great many speeches and addresses were made in the English and Spanish languages, tended to impress the Mexicans on this side of the river with the idea that Texas had no claims to the territory on this side of the Nueces river, or, at least, that her claim to said territory was doubtful; and I believe that up to this time, from the fact that the Mexicans are generally ignorant of our language and our laws, they are impressed with the idea that the territory or lands west of Nueces river are held by Texas by a doubtful title, and that her claim is questionable. The honorable representative from Hidalgo and Cameron county, now in the legislature of the State of Texas, took an active part in the territorial movement, and made speeches. I am satisfied that the reason why Cortinas was not arrested on the old indictments, was because he was known to be an influential man in elections, and that some of our officers feared him on account of his political influence, and, wishing to use him for political purposes, he was treated with a great deal of leniency; more so than any other criminal in this county.

W. W. NELSON.

Signed before us, this 17th January, 1860,

ANGEL NAVARRO.

Statement of A. Werbeskie.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron.*

My name is A. Werbeskie; I live in Brownsville; I have been living in this county since 1848. I am well acquainted with Juan Nepomuceno Cortinas. Five or six days after the first attack of Cortinas upon the town of Brownsville, I had an interview with him at his mother's rancho, about seven or eight miles from here; Cortinas asked me whether I was authorized to guarantee to him that he would not be molested by the Americans if he attempted to cross his stock to the Mexican side of the river. I told him I was not, but that I thought he would not be molested. He stated to me at that time that he intended to cross his property to the other side of the river; and that as to his enemies, those persons that had wronged him, that he would take revenge from them whenever he would meet them; that the world was large, and that he would probably meet them at some place. Cortinas' stock was estimated at about three or four hundred head of cattle and two *manadas* of horses, (about fifty head.) Before the difficulty of Cortinas with Bob Shears, which was in the month of August last, if I recollect right, which resulted in the shooting of Shears by Cortinas, I know, of my own knowledge, that Juan N. Cortinas used to come into the city of Brownsville three or four times a month, or, in fact, whenever he pleased, and walked publicly in the streets of Brownsville, for although I understand that there was an indictment pending against him for some connection in the killing of somebody, and another indictment for stealing, yet it seemed that these things had been hushed or looked over, as he was friendly with the sheriff, Brown; and I believe that if that difficulty with the Marshal Shears had not occurred, Cortinas would not have been troubled with the authorities of Brownsville, for it seems so from the fact that he had not been arrested before, when he was often in the city and could have been arrested.

I think that the first origin of the whole difficulty of Cortinas rising and taking arms arose from some private quarrels which he had with Adolpho Glarecke and others, as Cortinas thought, or at least professed, that he had been treated wrong.

After he took the first steps, considering that he had done something to put himself out of the pale of the law, I believe he has become desperate, and has endeavored to do wrong as much as possible. When he made the first attack upon Brownsville, if he had been willing to do it, he could have robbed and sacked the whole town. I know nothing of the depredations that he has committed only from hearsay. The report is that he has destroyed a great deal of property in the way of cattle, &c. I do not know of any connection of the Mexican officials with the movements of Cortinas; but I do know that some of Cortinas' men, and particularly some of his head men, cross over to Matamoras, and that they are allowed to remain there without being molested by the Mexican authorities.

A. WERBESKIE.

Sworn and subscribed before me, this 10th day of January, 1860.

S. POWERS,

Chief Justice Cameron County, Texas.

On the 16th of January, 1860, Adolphus Glarecke, a resident of Cameron county, appeared before us, the undersigned authority, and who, after being duly sworn, made oath and says :

That I know Juan Nepomuceno Cortinas since 1836. In 1847 he was employed by a gentleman, Mr. Somerville, to buy eighty mules for him, and after buying those mules he started with his employer into the interior; but only nine miles from the river he murdered Mr. Somerville, and drove his mules to Brazos St. Jago, and sold them there to our government; for which he was indicted, but never arrested.

In 1849, he, in company with Juan Chapa, Juan Itnocha, and others, came over and attacked a train of carts, loaded with dry goods, belonging to Charles Stilman & Brother, and robbed it of a large amount of goods, which he carried with him over the river.

In 1852, he again crossed with a band of robbers, and attacked and tied down a servant of A. T. Mason and a shepherd of T. B. Bigelow, within six miles of Brownsville, and drove off some forty head of horses and mares, and killed, at the same time, fourteen fat sheep belonging to T. B. Bigelow.

Since that time he has avoided the law more than before; but he has regularly kept up making his sallies into our country, and principally in the moon nights, driving off large droves of cattle into Mexico, up to November, 1858, when I followed him over the river, and found and brought back some of my cattle, one of John T. Cross's, and two of Mr. Mallett's, which I found fifteen miles from the river, at a rancho called Mayelles.

In the spring term of our court I had him indicted for his numerous robberies, and since then he has been seeking my life, and I, consequently, watching his movements closely on both sides of the river. I knew that he had a captain's commission to raise one hundred men to assist the Federals at Tampico, and I further knew that he did pay his men regularly two dollars per week, and that he received this money from Matamoras. All this I learned from his own men, to wit: Minguil de los Santos, and Gaudalupe Barzenos, both very intimate with Cortinas.

Of the shooting of our city marshal, in July, 1859, I know nothing, being absent at the time.

In the month of August, 1859, I wrote several letters to Miguel Tijerina, Esq., in Matamoras, requesting him to let me know whether Cortinas was really going to start for Tampico, having then his men quartered in Matamoras, and he always assured me that he was on the eve of starting, Tijerina being the commander of the cavalry.

On or about the 14th September, 1859, I saw Tijerina in person, and he again assured me that he was going to start with Cortinas the day after the celebration of the 16th of September.

On or about the 24th of September, I again spoke to Tijerina, and complained a great deal to him about the loss of so many beeves, which Cortinas was robbing to kill for his men every day; and that I, for one, would not believe that Cortinas ever would leave the river, and he again assured me that he was going to start him off, although not to Tampico, but to Camargo.

I further know that he had crossed the river with about fifty men,

with the rumor that he was leaving for Camargo, and did receive twenty horses to mount his men, and not receiving any order to march, he crossed the river and attacked our town on the 28th of the same month.

On or about the 4th October, he crossed over into Mexico with his whole force, and encamped there at the rancho *Sabinito*, only nine miles above Matamoras, and he and his men were greeted everywhere, in and out of Matamoras, and never were persecuted by the Mexican authority.

I now know he has a camp within thirty miles above Matamoras, on that side of the river, and that good many of his officers and men are daily seen in Matamoras, and that they are greeted instead of persecuted.

I further know that the authorities of Matamoras did arrest three men belonging to Cortinas, to wit: Jesu M. Tririno, Maryelo J. Carra, and Encarnation Carillo, but not on account of being implicated with Cortinas, but on account of thefts committed on that side of the river.

ADOLPHUS GLARECKE.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, the undersigned justice of the peace, this January 17, 1860.

WM. D. THOMAS,

J. P. Cameron county, Texas, Pri. No. 7.

Statement of O. H. Carolan.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron:*

My name is O. H. Carolan, I reside in the city of Brownsville, Texas. I left Brownsville last Saturday, with the intention of going to Rio Grande City to settle some business with the rangers. On the day I left this place, about five or six o'clock, p. m., I reached a Mexican rancho on the Mexican side of the river, which is about thirty miles from Brownsville. Three men were in company with me, Justo Trevino, and his brother José Trevino, and an American; when I reached this rancho, I ascertained from the Mexicans at the rancho that Cortinas was camped about a league from there, and they advised me not to go any further, as they thought we would run a risk of our lives. I stayed at this rancho all Saturday night and Sunday. On Sunday I sent José Trevino to get some information; he returned late in the afternoon Sunday, and reported that Cortinas was up there with about one hundred and fifty men, and was receiving reinforcements, and I ascertained that it was not safe to travel on the other side of the river, as all the ranchos above that place up to the Reynosa were in arms against the Americans. Cortinas was at the rancho called *la Bolsa*. On Sunday night late, I saw Cortinas' camp; from common report, I ascertained that he had then about one hundred and fifty men. I was told this by Cheno Babazos, a man at whose rancho Cortinas had been the night previous. On Monday morning, I ascertained that he had crossed to this side of the river about forty men, and that on the night of that day he would cross over the

balance of his force. I know of several persons on the Mexican side of the river at the rancho, who were pointed out to me as Cortinas' men; that Monday evening I returned to Brownsville. I am satisfied from what I saw, and from all the circumstances and information obtained, that in all these ranchos above where I stopped, up to Reynosa, on the Mexican side of the river, Cortinas' men harbored, with full knowledge of the owners of the ranchos, or those who stay there. I am satisfied that the authorities of Matamoras are cognizant of the fact of Cortinas being up there, and have full knowledge of his whereabouts. I am likewise satisfied that Cortinas' men come and go out of Matamoras whenever they please, and with full knowledge of the authorities of the town; and even at this time there are some of his men that walk the streets of Matamoras publicly. I know of my own knowledge, that shortly after the first attack of Cortinas upon Brownsville, Cortinas was publicly serenaded in Matamoras; and from all the circumstances, I am well satisfied that the Mexican authorities, and generally all the Mexicans, give aid and assistance, if not openly, privately to Cortinas, and sympathize with him. On the night previous to the first attack upon Brownsville, there was a ball at Matamoras; on the night of the fifth with Cortinas, when the Mexicans from Matamoras fought with him, it was notoriously known here that ammunition and provisions were sent to Cortinas from Matamoras. I believe this was somewhere about 13th or 14th of October last; and the day after the fight, I heard Mexicans in Matamoras conversing about the fight, and telling how the Americans run. At that time I was clerking at the French consul's, in Matamoras. I understand the Spanish language tolerably well.

BROWNSVILLE, *January 13, 1860.*

I know that Mexicans on the other side are authorized to constitute themselves into a police force to prevent Americans to cross after Cortinas.

O. H. CAROLAN.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this January 13, 1860.

WM. D. THOMAS,
Justice of the Peace, Cameron County, Texas.

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, *January 18, 1860.*

GENTLEMEN: Agreeably to your verbal request, I have the honor to present to you the following brief statement of facts which led to the late disaster on this frontier;

Some time last spring, a number of Mexicans, say from fifteen to twenty, of a reputed bad character, were driven away from the section of country bordering on the Nueces river, by a vigilance committee, formed in some of the counties thereabouts. These Mexicans, when ordered to leave that section, came hitherward, and camped at a place, or rancho, called "San José," occupied by one Cortinas, situate about half way between the Rio Grande and the arroyo Colorado, at which

place, or rancho, they recruited their numbers from the bad characters which have infested this valley since the Mexican war. Juan Nepomucino Cortinas was, at the same time, at the rancho of Doña Etefena, (his mother,) about ten miles above this place, on the Rio Grande, where he also had a great many bad characters around him, for what purpose can only be accounted for by his subsequent course of conduct.

As early as last spring, many trains of ox carts came down from Roma, Rio Grande City, and Edinburg, laden with wool, hides, and other produce and merchandise. No steamboats were running up the river at that time, on account of low water; and it is a notorious fact most of those trains of carts were robbed of oxen and saddle-horses in that neighborhood, and, in some instances, the stolen property was trailed into the very rancho of Cortina's mother, where the parties were resisted by armed Mexicans. Such was the state of affairs up to the time I left here for New York, in the latter part of June. When I returned home, about the 1st of December last, I found a letter, purporting to be from J. N. Cortinas, addressed to me, in which he informs me he will batter down the city of Brownsville, unless the citizens thereof deliver to him (Cortinas) two certain enemies of his, who were then protected here. I also found this city in a state of siege, and the citizens forced to military service, in protecting the city, to the injury of their usual avocations and business. Juan Nepomucino Cortinas, the leader and principal actor in all these difficulties, has never owned any land in Texas, nor has any of his comrades or members of his band; nor is any citizen, of Mexican origin, who is a land owner in Cameron county, an aider or abetter of Cortinas.

Cortinas has been, beyond dispute, supplied with arms, ammunition, and provisions from the city of Matamoras, in Mexico. They have always considered themselves belonging to Matamoras, and have always hailed from there when abroad. The records of Cameron county do not show that they, or any of them, have ever lost, or even had a lawsuit for land in Texas. They are men of reputed bad character, and never have been identified with any lawful or respectable occupation or business. Cortinas himself, if he owned any stock, has kept it in Mexico, where he properly belongs. I have now in my possession receipts of men, recognizing Cortinas as their leader, for horses, beeves; arms, and corn, forcibly taken by orders of Juan Nepomucino Cortinas from my rancho, called the Santa Rosa, where they made three visits. The last visit they took away three of my men with them and drove off the balance. My loss is considerable, but I have not yet made up a statement of how much it amounts to. I know of many other stock ranchos in Cameron county upon which they have levied forced contributions or made forced loans, the particulars of which parties interested can give more fully than I can.

I know the principal men who have been with Cortinas in these outrages, and none of them are tax payers or land owners in Cameron county, and many of them have long been outlaws of both sides of the Rio Grande.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES STILLMAN.

MESSRS. TAYLOR & NAVARRO,

Commissioners of the State of Texas for Special Purposes.

BROWNSVILLE, *January 14, 1860.*

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron:*

This is to certify that I, the undersigned, Robert Shears, a native of the United States, and city marshal for the city of Brownsville, State and county aforesaid, on the 13th day of July, A. D. 1859, was handed by Mr. Stephen Powers, mayor of the said city, a warrant to arrest a disorderly Mexican; and as I was in the act of executing the same I was shot at from the rear by one Juan Nepomucino Cortinas, to me formerly unknown; and immediately again, as I proceeded to take my prisoner to the court-house, I was fired at by the said Cortinas, with a six-shooter in his hand, which second shot took effect in my left shoulder, the ball coming out in the back, when Cortinas took my prisoner, set him up on behind his horse, and rode off unpursued.

From the date of this catastrophe up to the 28th day of September, 1859, the day of entrance of Cortinas and his party into this city, he sent me from the city of Matamoras several messages, offering money to reconcile and compromise the shooting affair and the damages and pains I sustained; he informed me at the same time that he was in command of a company of soldiers in Matamoras; of which fact I am fully aware.

Again, on the morning of the 28th day of September, when he entered the city, he came to my house, broke open my doors and searched for me, but fortunately, I had absented myself a few moments previously.

I never knew him previous to the 13th day of July, nor had ever any animosity against the man. I was told by his messengers that he said that he held a commission from the government of Mexico to raise a company of soldiers.

In testimony whereof, I herewith annex my scrawl and signature on this 14th day of January, A. D., 1860.

ROBERT SHEARS, [L. S.]

City Marshal City of Brownsville, by A. L.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron:*

Before me, on this 14th day of January, A. D., 1860, personally came Robert Shears, and made oath to the above statement, and acknowledged the same to be just and true.

JOSEPH R. PALMER,

Justice of the Peace for Cameron County, State of Texas.

Statement of Thaddeus Rhodes.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron:*

My name is Thaddeus Rhodes; I am deputy collector and inspector of customs for the port of the rancho of Rosario, in the county of Hidalgo, Texas. I know of my own knowledge that there has been a great

amount of property destroyed by Cortinas and his men on this side of the river. I am well acquainted with the country up to Rio Grande City. I believe that the Mexican authorities in Matamoras, and all the Mexicans generally on the Mexican side of the river Rio Grande, countenance and encourage Cortinas in his movements.

My house was robbed by a party of Cortinas' men, in number about thirty-five, in the month of October last. When this happened, myself and family had left the house, and none were there but my servants. Last month, on their way to Rio Grande City, Cortinas' men burnt down my rancho and stole all my stock. I am now living in Brownsville with my family. My stock stolen by Cortinas' men consisted of fourteen head of horses, seventeen head of cattle, and about ninety head of goats. I do not know what amount of stock I may have had stolen since.

THADDEUS RHODES.

BROWNSVILLE, *January 13, 1860.*

Statement of J. Turner, Esq.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron:*

I have been living on the Rio Grande since 1846. I know that Cortinas' men have been stealing cattle and crossing them over to the Mexican side of the river, at different points, for the last month, and are doing it now. I know that Cortinas has organized his forces on the Mexican side of the river, in the jurisdiction of Reynosa; and also that Cortinas and his men cross backwards and forwards to the Mexican side of the river whenever they please.

I believe that the Mexican officials in Matamoras are cognizant of the fact that Cortinas and his men are often on the Mexican side of the river; and I believe that all the Mexicans, or the greatest number of them, sympathize with Cortinas.

J. TURNER.

BROWNSVILLE, *January 24, 1860.*

STATE DEPARTMENT, *Austin, February 17, 1860.*

I, the undersigned, secretary of state of the State of Texas, do hereby certify that the foregoing are true copies of the original papers connected with the Rio Grande commission, now on file in the executive department.

[L. s.] Given under my hand, and the seal of the state department, at Austin, this the seventeenth day of February, A. D. 1860.

E. W. CAVE,
Secretary of State.

AUSTIN, *February 15, 1860.*

SIR: I have the honor to forward, by my friend, General Forbes Briton, assistant adjutant general of the State, and a prominent member of the State senate, dispatches which I deem of importance, and desire that his excellency the President shall consider the contents thereof.

I deplore the situation of Texas; an empty treasury, the Indian troubles, unexampled for the last ten years, and the forays from Mexico on our southern borders, are well calculated to impress the mind of the executive of the State of Texas with the intricacies of the attitude which he has, in justice to his fellow-citizens and humanity, to assume, should not the federal arm be speedily raised, and extended in behalf of our suffering frontier. The executive of Texas is greatly desirous to avoid any course which might raise even a question as to the propriety of his action. Notwithstanding all his moderation, and desire to eschew an attitude unpleasant to him, he may in a short time be required to resort to the indefeasible right of self-defense to protect his fellow-citizens. He will, in addition to manifest forbearance, endeavor yet further to defer to the action of the federal government. But matters new and startling arise, and he may feel that his duty is to meet the emergency in carrying his action so far as to not only repel the aggressions from Mexico, but to adopt such measures as will prevent the recurrence of similar inroads upon our frontiers.

Texas can, and will if appealed to, in thirty days be able to muster in the field ten thousand men, who are anxious, embarrassed as her finances are, to make reclamation upon Mexico for all her wrongs.

Can we hope for aid from the federal government?

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

SAM HOUSTON.

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,
Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *March 3, 1860.*

SIR: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 18th January last, inclosing a bill making appropriations for the support of one regiment of Texas volunteers. I herewith return the bill, with the information desired, and beg to add that the opinion of this department, so frequently urged upon Congress heretofore, as to the pressing necessity for additional mounted troops, is unchanged; and the exigencies of the service, in the opinion of the department, require that the appropriation should be made.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. FLOYD,
Secretary of War.

Hon. JEFFERSON DAVIS,
Chairman Com. Military Affairs, Senate.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, January 31, 1860.

SIR: In reply to the last paragraph of the letter of the honorable chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate, inquiring as to the sufficiency of, or necessity for, the several amounts in bill No. 18, submitted to the Senate on the 22d of December last, proposed to be appropriated for the support of one regiment of Texas mounted volunteers, authorized by an act of Congress approved the 7th of April, 1858, I have the honor to report that some of the items of the bill are for larger and some of them for smaller amounts than will probably be necessary.

In regard to the regular allowances, comprehending fuel, forage, straw, and stationery, if full allowances be made, the sum required will be \$183,000; but as the troops will probably be a large portion of the year in the field, when their horses will necessarily be grazed, and when the fuel used will be provided by the troops, it is believed that but little more than half of that sum will be necessary. I therefore estimate that for those supplies one hundred thousand dollars will be sufficient.

For the incidental expenses of the regiment, including blacksmith's and shoeing tools, horse and mule shoes and nails, iron and steel, horse medicines, picket ropes, and shoeing horses, and other miscellaneous expenses, five thousand dollars will be sufficient.

For transportation, including supplies of the quartermaster's department, of clothing, camp and garrison equipage, of ordnance and ordnance stores, of subsistence and medical stores, and for the purchase and repair of wagons and ambulances, and the hire of teamsters, it is believed about one hundred and thirty thousand dollars will be sufficient. And for providing clothing, camp and garrison equipage, fifty thousand dollars—making altogether the sum of two hundred and eighty-five thousand dollars.

This sum is based upon the supposition that the troops, when not in the field, will be either in tents or stationed at posts already established, and where no expenditure will be required for quarters.

I return the letter of the honorable chairman of the committee, with the copy of the bill, and I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP,
Quartermaster General.

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD, *Secretary of War,*
Washington, D. C.

OFFICE OF COMMISSARY GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE,
Washington February 1, 1860.

SIR: In compliance with your instructions, I have the honor to report upon the last paragraph of the letter of the honorable chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate, which inquires as to the sufficiency of, and the necessity for, the amount set forth in bill No.

18, submitted to the Senate on the 22d December, for "subsistence in kind" for one regiment of Texas volunteers, authorized by an act of Congress, approved April 7, 1858, by stating that the amount named in the bill for "subsistence in kind," would be about the amount required, if the regiment was called and retained in service for the period named in the act of April 7, 1858, viz., eighteen months. Of the necessity for the regiment being called into service, it is presumed I am not called upon to express an opinion.

I return herewith the letter of the honorable chairman of the committee, with the copy of the bill.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. F. TAYLOR,
Acting Commissary General of Subsistence.

Hon. J. B. FLOYD,
Secretary of War.

PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE, *February 3, 1860.*

SIR: I have the honor to return the letter of the chairman of the Military Committee of the Senate, dated the 18th ultimo, inclosing a bill making appropriations for the support of one regiment of Texas volunteers, authorized by act of April 7, 1858, and to report that the amount called for in the bill, for the payment of said volunteers for the period of one year, is correct.

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

BENJ. F. LARNED,
Paymaster General.

Hon. J. B. FLOYD,
Secretary of War.

ORDNANCE OFFICE,
Washington, February 2, 1860.

SIR: In answer to so much of the letter from the chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs and Militia, as relates to the functions of this office, I have to report:

The amount that will be necessary to procure arms and their appropriate accouterments (exclusive of horse equipments) for one regiment of Texas volunteers, authorized by the act of Congress, approved April 7, 1858, will be from \$58,964 70 to \$81,263 70, according to the armament which may be directed for the regiment, under the provisions of the second section. The smaller amount will suffice to arm the regiment as the United States cavalry and dragoons are now armed; the larger will be necessary to furnish a different kind of carbine, and two pistols instead of one per man. I inclose an estimate in detail, and return the letter and its inclosures.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. K. CRAIG,
Colonel of Ordnance.

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,
Secretary of War.

Estimate of the amount required for arms and their appropriate accouterments (exclusive of horse equipments) for one regiment of Texas mounted volunteers, authorized by the act approved April 7, 1858.

If armed like United States cavalry or dragoons:

890 Sharps's carbines and appendages, at \$30 each	\$26,700 00
890 Colt's belt pistols and appendages, at \$18 each.....	16,020 00
890 cavalry sabres, at \$8 50 each.....	7,565 00
890 sets of cavalry accouterments, at \$6 28 each	5,589 20
89 packing-boxes for carbines, at \$2 50 each.....	222 50
18.....do.....pistols, at \$4 each.....	72 00
30.....do.....sabres, at \$2 25 each.....	67 50
18.....do.....accouterments, at \$2 25 each.....	40 50
Spare parts for repairs of 1,780 carbines and pistols, at \$1 50 each	2,670 00
	<hr/>
	58,946 70

If furnished with Joslyn's carbine and additional pistols, two per man, add:

890 Colt's belt pistols and appendages, at \$18 each	\$16,020 00
890 holders for the same, at 50 cents each.....	445 00
890 Joslyn's carbines, (\$35 each,) at \$5 additional.....	4,450 00
18 packing-boxes for pistols, at \$4 each	72 00
Spare parts for repairs of 890 pistols, at \$1 50 each	1,335 00
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	81,268 70

H. R. CRAIG,
Colonel of Ordnance.

ORDNANCE OFFICE, February 2, 1860.