

CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN THE

U.S.
" TREASURY DEPARTMENT, &c.,

IN RELATION TO THE

775
CUBA EXPEDITION,

4 1/2
AND

✓
WILLIAM FRERET,

LATE COLLECTOR.

NEW-ORLEANS,
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1851.

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TO THE PUBLIC.

THE President of the United States having been pleased to remove me from the office of Collector of the Port of New-Orleans, for a neglect of duty, in allowing the departure of the steamship Pampero, I have thought proper to publish for the information of my friends, and as a part of the history of the unfortunate Cuba expedition, my connection with it. I do this, also, for the purpose of refuting the base and slanderous insinuations made against me by a sycophant press, whose barking has caused its whelps to join in the tirade of abuse that has been heaped upon me. This press (I allude to the "Republic,") has endorsed the charge made by a contemptible and, I suppose, insignificant sheet, the "Newark Advertiser," that I "connived at the departure of the Pampero." I am too well known in this community for such a charge to injure me—but abroad it may not be so, unless refuted. I publish this correspondence for another reason. Much stress has been laid on the important particular, "that, although every means had been placed at my disposal and ample

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authority given me, yet all was disregarded." This is nearly the language of the Republic and National Intelligencer. The letters now published will disabuse the public mind on that score. But the most important part of the whole history is, that although they knew at Washington all about the reported outbreak in Cuba, no instructions were sent me until the 31st July, and received on the 9th August—seven days after the sailing of the Pampero. [See letter No. 1.] And the first letter on the subject from Col. Bliss, by order of Gen. Twiggs, asking for information, was received on the very day the Pampero departed.

One other fact and I submit the whole matter to the world. I was the only Federal Government officer in the city at the time of the departure of the Pampero. The District Attorney and the U. S. Marshal were both absent, at Washington, on business. The acting District Attorney was across the Lake indisposed. But a victim had to be selected to appease the wrath of the Queen of Spain! and I, for being at my post and doing my duty, was the one. When the Creole and two sail vessels left here under *clearance papers* for the Cardenas expedition, no such outcry was then made against the Collector (Mr. Peters), or any other Federal officer.

The acting Secretary, Mr. Hodge, in his letter of the 23d of August, says: "the arrangement for the departure of the Pampero was a matter of public notoriety." The President in his Message says: "that this expedition departed *stealthily and without clearance.*" Then I was bound to know what he *acknowledges was not known* to any but those concerned in it; and for this offence I was dismissed.

There is a great discrepancy in these two statements. If Mr. Hodge is correct in his, then the President must have been misinformed by that gentleman. If the President is correct, I leave it to the public to decide if justice has been done to their

Obedient servant,

W. FRERET,
LATE COLLECTOR OF THE PORT OF
NEW-ORLEANS.

CORRESPONDENCE.

No. 1.

[Received August 9.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

JULY, 31, 1851.

Sir:—

Information of a reliable nature has been received that new attempts will be made, or are making, of armed expeditions against the Island of Cuba from ports of the United States, which will probably receive additional stimulus in consequence of the recent reports of insurrectionary movements in that Island, which, if not entirely fabricated for the purpose of creating excitement in this country, are undoubtedly and really greatly exaggerated.

You are requested and instructed to use increased vigilance within your District, as regards any illegal attempts of the kind, and to report the same promptly to this Department, and you will use all legal means within your power to check and break up any such attempts.

Very Respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. CORWIN,

Secretary of the Treasury.

To the Collector of the Customs,

New-Orleans.

—
Answer.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, August 9, 1851.

Sir:—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 31st ult., with instructions in relation to the course to be pursued in the event of any attempt being made to get up armed expeditions against the Island of Cuba.

In reply I have to state that I shall promptly report to the Department as instructed, and shall use all the means within my power

to frustrate the designs of the individuals engaged in this unlawful attempt to revolutionize the Island of Cuba.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, with much respect,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

Hon. THOS. CORWIN,

Secretary of the Treasury—Washington.

[By Telegraph.]

NEW-ORLEANS, August 4, 1851.

Hon. THOS. CORWIN:

The steamer Pampero, Capt. Lewis, with 800 men and six pieces ordnance, I am credibly informed, left here at 2 o'clock Sunday morning. She did not clear, and her destination is unknown. It was a very sudden movement and kept quiet. She only commenced taking in coal at 11 o'clock Saturday night. She is half owned by J. P. Heiss, of Washington.

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, AUGUST 4, 1851.

SIR:—

I had the honor to address you by telegraph this day, to the following effect:

"The steamer Pampero, Capt. Lewis, with 800 men and six pieces ordnance, I am credibly informed, left here at 2 o'clock Sunday morning. She did not clear at the Custom-House, and her destination is unknown. It was a very sudden movement and kept quiet. She only commenced taking in coal at 11 o'clock Saturday night. She is half owned by J. P. Heiss, of Washington."

This vessel is 379 tons burthen. She entered at the Custom-House from Galveston on the 29th ultimo, and the Captain reported that "his boilers were burnt out"—it has, therefore, astonished every body that she could have been got ready with such expedition.

Neither the District Attorney or myself having received any new instructions from the Department, since the report of the rise of the Cubans, I hardly knew what would be a strictly correct course of duty. Suppose the steamer A B, clears at the Custom-House

for Chagres, and she takes 5 to 600 passengers—(not an unusual occurrence)—although I may have every reason to believe she is destined for Cuba, would I be justified in stopping her.

I await with anxiety explicit instructions from the Department, and rest assured, sir, they shall be most strenuously enforced—in the mean time I shall act with the advice of the acting District Attorney, with due discretion, should any thing further transpire to demand my interference.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

Hon. THOS. CORWIN,

Secretary of the Treasury—Washington.

No. 2.

[Received August 12.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

AUGUST 5, 1851.

SIR:—

I acknowledge receipt of your Telegraph of the 4th, announcing the departure of a Steamboat from New-Orleans with 800 men, which the Department learns with great regret, and is at a loss to understand how so large a force could have embarked without previous intimations on the subject, which should have led to the detention of the vessel, and awaits your full report on the subject.

The Department again urges the utmost vigilance on your part, and the most prompt and rigorous steps for arresting any illegal and armed expeditions from your District against the territories of friendly powers.

I am, Respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. CORWIN,

Secretary of the Treasury.

WM. FRERET, Esq.

Collector—New-Orleans.

Answer.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, AUGUST 13, 1851.

SIR:—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communi-

cation of the 5th, in which you inform me that you had received my 'Telegraph of the 4th, and that you learn with great regret the departure of this vessel, and await a full report on the subject.

I had the honor to address you on the 4th inst. on the same subject, by Mail, giving you more detailed particulars than the Telegraphic despatch contained. I will now add some additional.

The Spanish Consul called on me on the Friday preceding the departure of the Pampero, about $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 o'clock, P. M., and informed me that the boat was at the Julia Street Wharf, and was about departing for Cuba. I left my house in company with him, went to the Wharf designated, and remained there till $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10—the Pampero was not there. The next day, Saturday, I was informed that she was at Lafayette undergoing repairs. I heard nothing more from the Spanish Consul on the subject.

Even had I been aware of the intended departure of the Pampero on Sunday morning at 2 o'clock, which was the hour she sailed, it would have been impossible to have stopped her—the Acting District Attorney was absent for a day or two, as also the Judge of the U. S. Court. Had the Pampero cleared at the office, I should then of course had some previous intimation, not doing so completely disarmed me of any suspicion against her.

I trust the explanations made will prove satisfactory to the Department, and it may be satisfied that I shall use all the means in my power to carry out its wishes. It is a delicate and difficult duty to perform, in order that the government may not be compromised in any step I may take—but I shall not falter.

I will add, that persons who left the Pampero at the Balize and returned to the city, represent that she had not then finished the repairs necessary, thus fully sustaining me in the view I had taken that she was not in a condition to go on such an expedition.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, with great Respect,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

Hon. THOS. CORWIN,

Secretary of the Treasury—Washington.

No. 2.

[Received August 24, }
Answered 25th.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
August 14, 1851.

SIR:—

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 4th inst., on the subject of the departure of the steamer "Pampero," and asking specific instructions as to your course on any similar occasions.

The Department considers that under its previous instructions you had full authority to act in a case like that of the "Pampero," where the object of the parties was so obvious and notorious as being connected with an illegal attempt against the territories of a friendly power.

It is of course impracticable for the Department to give special instructions to meet every case of the kind which may occur, but you must exercise a sound discretion in detaining vessels which you may think are engaged in any unlawful expedition, and about departing from your District. You will of course, on such occasions, consult with the, and in concert with the United States District Attorney, and the Department considers that there can be no real difficulty in discriminating between parties embarking as bona fide passengers for the Pacific via the Isthmus, and those who assume to be such and go in transient and frequently unsuitable vessels, but who are really destined to act as an armed expedition against the citizens or territories of a friendly power. You are again requested and instructed to keep a vigilant look out for any such unlawful expeditions, and to use all the means in your power to check and break them up.

You will also keep the Naval officer in command at Pensacola, fully advised of any actual or suspected movements of the kind.

Very Respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. L. HODGE,

Acting Secretary of the Treasury.

WM. FRERET, Esq.,

Collector of Customs—New-Orleans.

Answer.

NEW-ORLEANS, August 25, 1851.

Sir:—

I have the honor to advise the Department that, notwithstanding the disastrous news received by the Empire City, large numbers of men continue to arrive here, for the purpose of going to Cuba.

Gen. Felix Huston has assumed control of matters connected with the expedition, and is now engaged collecting funds. The impression is, he will send off a large number of men this week.

Public opinion here seems to be so much in favor of sending aid to Lopez, that I fear it will be almost an impossibility to stop the reinforcements from going forward. The plan they will probably adopt is to send off small parties to the Balize, and there put them on board regularly cleared steamers.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 14th instant, and shall as requested continue "to keep a vigilant look out." I have several Inspectors watching their movements.

I shall, as also requested by you, keep the naval officer fully advised of any actual or suspected movements.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, with great Respect,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

Hon. W. L. HODGE,

Acting Secretary of the Treasury—Washington.

No. 4.

[Received September 3.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

August 23, 1851.

Sir:—

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 13th, in reply to the one from the Department of the 5th, and explaining your proceedings as regards the departure of the Pampero, and in reply, I have the honor to state that the War Department has transmitted to this Department a copy of a correspondence with you, forwarded

by Major General Twiggs, by which it appears that this officer notified you on the 1st instant, of the contemplated expedition, and of his readiness to furnish any assistance in his power under instructions to that effect from the War Department. Though thus notified and put on your guard on the subject, the Department does not perceive that you adopted or attempted any means to arrest these illegal proceedings, though from the information possessed by the Department, the arrangements for the departure of the Pampero, and the designation of that vessel as the one employed for the expedition, was a matter of public notoriety for some time previous to her departure.

The departure of this expedition is a matter of deep additional regret, now that the dreadful sacrifice of lives is ascertained, which has attended a portion of those who so unadvisedly and rashly engaged in it.

The Department can only re-affirm its previous instructions to you, to use all the means at your command to check and prevent any similar illegal expeditions from your District, in which you will be aided by the other officers of the Government, Civil, Military, and Naval.

Very Respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

W. L. HODGE,

Acting Secretary of the Treasury.

WM. FRERET, Esq.,

Collector of New-Orleans.

A true copy:—D. O. HINCKS, Dep. Collector. S. M. READ, Dep. N. Officer.

Answer.

NEW-ORLEANS, SEPTEMBER 3, 1851.

Sir:—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d instant, in reply to mine of the 13th instant.

In reply to your communication, I beg leave to state that the letter of Gen. Twiggs was received by me on the 2d instant—his letter only informed me of what was publicly known here, that an expedition would start as soon as they could raise the means. He

did not inform me of his readiness to furnish any assistance in his power—although I have no doubt he would have done so. I immediately replied to his communication, and informed him “that, as yet, nothing tangible had transpired,” nor had any thing transpired except street talk and rumor upon rumor.

The Department is pleased to state, “though from the information possessed by the Department, the arrangements for the departure of the Pampero, and the designation of that vessel as the one employed for the expedition, was a matter of public notoriety for some time previous to her departure.”

With all due deference to the Hon. Secretary of the Treasury, and the source from which he derived his information, I would state that the Department has been misinformed on this most important point, and the facts in the case will prove it. The Pampero arrived here from Galveston, on the 29th July—the Books of the Custom-House show that *she entered* on the 30th July; and when she entered, the Captain stated to the Deputy Collector, J. W. Hincks, Esq., that “his two boilers were burnt out.” The Pampero sailed from here on the night of the 2d August, only three days from the time she entered. Her condition was such, that she was towed down the River with machinists on board, repairing her boilers. I can further adduce evidence that, on Friday evening at six o’clock, she had not yet been chartered or sold by the agents. How, then, it could “have been a matter of public notoriety for some time previous to her departure,” I am at a loss to conjecture.

I again repeat what I urged in my previous communications to the Department, that, even had I been aware of the day, the hour of her sailing, it would have been impossible to have detained her. Where was my assistance? Gen. Twigs and his Staff, 110 miles from the city, requiring three days to correspond with him—the United States Marshal—the United States District Attorney, and the acting District Attorney—the United States Judge, all absent from the city. Is it to be supposed that at two o’clock in the morning, the hour at which the Pampero departed, the whole levee lined with friends of those departing, that I could have gone on board that vessel single handed, and enforced the law? The

whole city, friends and enemies of the expedition, will, with one unanimous voice, proclaim that it was impossible. If Gen Twiggs was to render me the aid of his authority, and knowing as he says he did, these rumors were afloat, why was he not here to render me that assistance? Where was I to obtain at that hour of the night, such aid as would have enabled me to carry out the wishes of the Department? In a communication I had the honor to receive from Gen. Twiggs, under date of the 15th ultimo, he says, “he was authorized to seize, and would seize any vessels you (I) would point out.” Again, I say, why then was Gen. Twiggs not here to carry out these instructions? Perhaps he was in possession of the same information that the Department had received in regard to the Pampero. If so, he should have been on the spot and detained her.

With due respect to the Hon. Secretary, I would submit whether there has not been an undue responsibility thrown upon me, in relation to this ill-fated expedition. The Military and Naval force of the country has been placed under the orders of a Civil Officer, whose only duty the law designates is the protection of the Revenue. It does seem to me that the Collector of so important a port as that of New-Orleans, has sufficient responsibility without the addition of any not authorized by law. The duty of furnishing necessary information and of making affidavits to the proper officers, would, at any and all times, have been cheerfully carried out; and, I have also endeavored faithfully to comply with the additional heavy responsibility with which I have been charged by the Department. If I have failed in this, I can only say, “I have done all that a man dare do, and he that can do more is no man at all.”

I have the honor to be,

Sir, with great Respect,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

Hon. THOS. CORWIN,

Secretary of the Treasury,

Washington.

No. 5.—CIRCULAR.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

August 28, 1851.

Sir:—

Official information having been received by this Department, that the Steamer Pampero left the Port of New-Orleans on the 3d inst., without clearing at the Custom-House, and with an armed body of men on board, destined as an expedition against the Territories of a friendly power, in the violation of the laws of the United States; you are directed to take all needful preparatory measures to seize immediately and detain the said Steamer, by due legal process, in case she returns within the limits of your District, and you are notified that you will be held to a strict accountability for the due execution of the law, so far as the duty depends upon you, in all cases connected with such illegal expeditions, prepared or attempted within the limits of your District.

Very Respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. CORWIN,

Secretary of the Treasury.

Collector of Customs,

New-Orleans, La.

No. 6.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

August 30, 1851.

Sir:—

The Department has no later advices from you by mail respecting the probable illegal movements in your District against the Island of Cuba, than your letter of the 16th, respecting the Steamer Fanny, and nothing by Telegraph later than your dispatch of 21st inst., alluding to the execution at Havana of a part of the force under General Lopez.

The Department is at a loss to account for your silence as regards the reported sailing of the Fanny and Alabama, and of the riots in the city connected with the Cuba question, which have

been transmitted by private individuals by Telegraph, and received here some days since, unless it should happily prove that these advices are fabrications without any real foundation.

The Department of course expects to be kept fully and promptly advised, both by Mail and Telegraph, of any new or important movement connected with this subject, and whilst it will learn with great satisfaction that the reported departure of an additional force from New-Orleans is unfounded, it will be doubly mortified if the officers of the Revenue have a second time allowed such an expedition to depart unmolested.

Very Respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. CORWIN,

Secretary of the Treasury.

WM. PARRET, Esq.,

Collector of Customs—New-Orleans.

Answer.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, SEPTEMBER 10, 1851.

Sir:—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 30th inst.

In this communication you express some astonishment that I should not have advised the Department of the sailing of Steamers Alabama and Fanny, and that private individuals had Telegraphed the information.

In reply I beg leave to state that the Department must be aware I could not know that individuals had transmitted false information, and I certainly could not transmit information of things that did not transpire. Ere this the Department must be satisfied that the many despatches published in the Washington and other papers in regard to the arrival of the bodies of Kerr and others, the mob at the city prison, &c., were base fabrications got up for the purpose of aiding and exciting the friends of the expedition.

I have kept the Department fully advised, both by Mail and Telegraph, of every correct movement that I became apprised of; further than this I cannot go.

I also have the honor to acknowledge circular letter of 2d inst., in relation to absence from the city. I beg leave to state that since the first news of the pretended revolution in Cuba, I have not been absent from my post, only for a day or two, and then within 4 hour's steam of New-Orleans.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

Hon. THOS. CORWIN,

Secretary of the Treasury—Washington.

No. 7.—CIRCULAR.

[Received September 10.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

SEPTEMBER 2, 1851.

SIR:—

Under present circumstances the President directs that you should remain permanently at your Post, and if absent should return forthwith.

Very Respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. CORWIN,

Secretary of the Treasury.

To the Collector—New-Orleans.

No. 8.

[Received and Ans'd Aug. 2.]

Private and strictly confidential.

HEAD QUARTERS, WESTERN DIVISION,

EAST PASCAGOULA, MISS., AUGUST 1, 1851.

SIR:

The rumor has reached Division Head Quarters in a form not to be disregarded, that an expedition is fitting out in New-Orleans for the Island of Cuba. The Commanding General desires that you will give him the earliest intelligence of any such expedition, and all information in your possession, or that can be procured

bearing upon the subject, that may be useful at Division Head Quarters.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. W. S. BLISS,

Assistant Adjutant General.

WM. FRERET, Esq.,

Collector of the Port of New-Orleans.

P. S.—Please acknowledge immediately.

W. W. S. BLISS,

A. A. G.

A true copy :—D. O. HICKS, Deputy Collector. S. M. READ, Dep. N. Officer.

Answer.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, AUGUST 2, 1851.

SIR:—

I have to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 1st instant. In answer, I beg leave to assure you that the desires of the Commanding General, shall be attended to.

Up to the present time, nothing tangible has transpired, which would authorize any interference on our part. Much has been said in the papers, and the subject has engrossed much of public conversation.

In the Department more immediately under my care, viz: the Clearances at the Customs, I have to state that no vessels have offered to clear for Cuba, having either volunteers, arms or ammunition, nor have any such vessels cleared for other ports. Further, I am not aware of the clandestine departure of any vessel on such mission.

The matter will continue to occupy my attention, and be pleased to assure the Commanding General, that he will be duly informed of any intelligence of any such expedition.

I am, Sir, very Respectfully,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

COL. W. W. S. BLISS,

Assistant Adjutant Gen. West. Division,

East Pascagoula.

No. 9.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, AUGUST 4, 1851.

Sir:—

Since I had the honor to address you on the 2d instant, I have certain information that the steam schooner Pampero, Capt. Lewis, left here about 2 o'clock Sunday morning, with some 800 men and six pieces ordnance. She did not clear at the Custom-House—she is, consequently, without papers—her destination is unknown.

Not having received any instructions from Washington since this new outbreak, I should be pleased to be placed in possession of such parts of yours, confidentially, as would be of interest in my Department.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

Col. W. W. S. BLISS,

Assistant Adjutant Gen. West. Division,
East Pascagoula.

Answer.

HEAD QUARTERS, WESTERN DIVISION,

EAST PASCAGOULA, AUGUST 6, 1851.

Sir:—

In reply to the last paragraph of your communication of the 4th inst., I am directed by the Commanding General of the Division, to say that he has received no instructions since those sent by Telegraph, April 15, which were exhibited to you, nor does he consider fresh instructions at all necessary for his guidance in a contingency similar to the one then contemplated by the War Department.

I am, Sir, very Respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

W. W. S. BLISS,

Assistant Adjutant General.

WM. FRERET, Esq.,

Collector of the Port of New-Orleans.

No. 10.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, AUGUST 13, 1851.

Sir:—

I have received explicit instructions from the Treasury Department in relation "to using the most prompt and vigorous steps for arresting any illegal and armed expeditions from your (my) District against the territories of friendly powers."

I now have the honor to inform you that the Steamship Alabama is undergoing repairs, preparatory to her departure for Cuba—she will probably take about 600 men. There are at least 1000 men here waiting for transportation.

The means at my disposal to arrest or detain vessels or men is very limited, having only the Cutter, and she at least a hundred miles off. If it is the intention, as it evidently appears from my instructions, that the Government desire I should prevent the departure of these vessels, I ought to have at my disposal a Government Steamer. I will therefore thank you to call the attention of the Commanding General to this subject, and if within his power to obtain one for me. It will be essentially necessary, in order to enable me to communicate with the Cutter.

I have issued orders to the Cutter to detain any vessel without papers, and also to stop any having men, arms and ammunition on board, which in his opinion would lead him to suppose there was an attempt to violate the Act of 1818.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, with great Respect,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

Col. W. W. S. BLISS,

Assistant Adjutant General U. S. A.—East Pascagoula.

Answer.

HEAD QUARTERS, WESTERN DIVISION,

EAST PASCAGOULA, AUGUST 15, 1851.

Sir:—

Your communication of the 13th inst. was received this morning by the hands of Mr. Van Buren.

I am directed by the Commanding General to say that the Company of Artillery at Baton Rouge has been ordered to New-Orleans Barracks, and will be employed, on your requisition, to detain any vessel that may be indicated as destined for an unlawful expedition. The Commanding officer, Brt. Lt. Col. Webster, is instructed to communicate with you on this subject.

It is not in the power of the General to furnish you a Government Steamer. He has, however, written to Pensacola for armed vessels to cruise off the Balize and Lake Borgne.

The Commanding General instructs me to say, that he observes with surprise that you speak of the limited means at your disposal to detain vessels or men. In his interview with you in April last, he informed you explicitly that under his instructions from the Secretary of War, he was authorized to seize, and would seize, any vessel you would point out, and you were advised on the 6th inst. that he did not consider fresh instructions at all necessary. He now wishes distinctly to reiterate what he then said, and to add that all the troops within reach will be called in requisition when you shall represent the necessity for it.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. W. S. BLISS,

Assistant Adjutant General.

WM. FRERET, Esq.,

Collector of the Port of New-Orleans.

Rejoinder.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, AUGUST 16, 1851.

SIR:—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of 15th inst., in reply to mine of 13th.

Brev. Lieut. Col. Webster reported to me on yesterday, in accordance with your instructions, and I also have the pleasure to inform you that Col. T. F. Hunt, D. Q. M. Gen., by request of Major Brookes and myself, promptly placed the Transport Steamer Fashion at my disposal.

I am much pleased to find by your communication that the Commanding General has ordered armed vessels to cruise off Lake Borgne. I have been informed that it was probable a sort of rendezvous would be formed there.

I regret that the Commanding General has misunderstood my remarks in relation to the "limited means at my disposal." I alluded of course to the fact that if I had required immediate assistance it was not within my control. The troops placed at my disposal by the Commanding General in April last, could not have been concentrated within 48 to 60 hours: in the mean time I would be without the necessary aid, for I could not depend upon the citizen soldiers of this place. To more fully explain my position, I will cite the case of the Pampero. Had I been aware that she was to have left here on Sunday morning at 2 o'clock, I could not have detained her with only the assistance of the U. S. Marshal—desperate men like those engaged in this enterprise would have carried off the Marshal's force.

I hope these explanations will satisfy the Commanding General of the meaning of my remarks in connection with this subject.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, with much Respect,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

Col. W. W. S. Bliss,

Assistant Adj. Gen., U. S. A—East Pascagoula.

No. 11.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, AUGUST 30, 1851.

SIR:—

I have the honor to enclose copies of letters from and to Col. Hunt, and also one from Capt R. E. Clary, A. Q. M.

I am really at a loss to understand why, at this late hour, the steamer Fashion has been withdrawn from my disposal. I had calculated on the use of her, and on yesterday I informed the officer in command of the Company, of my arrangements.

My intention was, as soon as satisfied the Alabama was about

to start, to place the Company of United States Soldiers on board the Fashion, and send her down the river to the assistance of the Cutter. The Alabama or any other steamer could not be stopped at the wharf—if it was attempted and a Company of men put on board, a most frightful massacre would ensue. Both the officer in command and myself, agreed that it was much better to adopt the former course.

Unless I have a steamer I can do nothing; I cannot depend upon the Balize Telegraph to communicate with the Cutter, and I must keep the officer in command of her informed of my movements.

You now see the situation in which I am placed, and I trust the Commanding General will issue such orders as will enable me to obtain the requisite aid—and here let me repeat, unless the Commanding General furnishes me with more men and also a Steamer, I do not think it possible to defeat the departure of those Steamers. As to obtaining any assistance from the city authorities or the militia, it is out of the question; the City of New-Orleans is with the invaders heart and soul.

In order to insure a speedy reply to this communication, I send it by an officer of the customs, who will await the instructions of the Commanding General.

I have the honor to be,
Sir, with great Respect,
Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,
Collector.

Col. W. W. S. BLISS,
Assistant Adjutant General U. S. A.—East Pascagoula.

Answer.

HEAD QUARTERS, WESTERN DIVISION,
EAST PASCAGOULA, AUGUST 31, 1851.

SIR:—

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 30th inst., with enclosures which was delivered by Mr. Cassard this morning, and immediately submitted to the Commanding General, who has taken the following action thereon.

The Company of the 1st Artillery, quartered near this place, has been ordered to New-Orleans Barracks, and will leave by the Mail Boat this evening. The Commanding officer, Brt. Lt. Col. George Nauman, 1st Artillery, who will have command of all the troops at the Barracks, is ordered to report to you, and employ his force on your requisition.

The assistant Quarter-Master in New-Orleans has been directed to prepare the Steamer Fashion without delay for active service. When so prepared she will drop down to the Barracks, and there come under the order of Lt. Col. Nauman, who will place a battery on board, and be prepared to embark his command at a moment's notice.

I am instructed by the Commanding General, to say that he has now sent all the force under his orders available for this service. He hopes it may prove sufficient to prevent the departure of any expedition, fitting out in violation of law, to invade the Island of Cuba.

I am, Sir, very Respectfully,
Your obedient Servant,
W. W. S. BLISS,
Assistant Adjutant General.

WM. FRERET, Esq.,
Collector of the Port of New-Orleans.

No. 12.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,
COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, AUGUST 28, 1851.

SIR:—

I would thank you to inform me if the Fashion is ready for service, and whether she is now at my disposal.

Circumstances which may render it necessary for me to use her at a moment's notice, is my object in troubling you with this inquiry.

With great Respect,

I have the honor to be,
Sir, your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,
Collector.

Col. T. F. HUNT,
Deputy Quarter Master General U. S. Army—New-Orleans.

Answers.

NEW-ORLEANS, August 29, 1851.

SIR:—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt this morning at about $\frac{1}{4}$ before 12, M., of your communication of the 28th inst., (yesterday) and to say that I am not now on duty at this place, having been relieved by Captain R. E. Clary, A. Q. M., to whom the steamer Fashion was some days since transferred—I have, consequently, no control over her. Your letter has been handed to Captain Clary, who will answer it. It is to be regretted that your letter did not come to hand yesterday or early to-day, as General Twiggs, Commanding General of the Western Division of the Army, came to town this morning, and left again for East Pascagoula, his head quarters, as without his orders nothing with reference to the Fashion can, I presume, be done, and he did not of course see your communication.

When I saw you some weeks ago with Major Brooks, at my office, I was on duty, and the Fashion, as early as practicable, was got ready for immediate service, with the exception of shipping a crew. I have heard nothing from you till now.

I have deemed it proper to make you this statement.

With high respect, I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

T. F. HUNT,

Deputy Quarter Master General.

WM. FRERET, Esq.,

Collector of the Customs—New-Orleans.

ASSISTANT QUARTER MASTER'S OFFICE,

NEW-ORLEANS, AUGUST 29, 1851.

SIR:—

Your letter of the 28th (yesterday), addressed to Col. Hunt, Deputy Quarter Master General, was received by him at $\frac{1}{4}$ before 12 M., to-day, and not being at present on duty, he has referred it to me. I regret it had not been received fifteen minutes earlier, as it could then have been submitted to Gen. Twiggs, who was in this city—as from instructions previously received, I am deprived of the power of acting definitely in the matter.

I will transmit your communication to him for his action at the earliest opportunity.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. E. CLARY,

Assistant Quarter Master.

WM. FRERET, Esq.,

Collector—New-Orleans.

No. 13.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, AUGUST 30, 1851.

SIR:—

I am instructed by the War Department to correspond with you in relation to the difficulties with the Cuban Invaders.

I now have the honor to inform you that it is more than probable that within the next two or three days they will despatch one and perhaps two or three Steamers with men to be landed on the Island.

There should be armed Steamers at the Balize to intercept them. I am fearful that I have not a sufficient force here to stop them—the whole of it consisting of 34 men at the Barracks, and the Cutter with one gun at the head of the passes. If you have any vessels that you could send here they would prove of great service.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

Commanding Officer United States Navy—Pensacola.

Answer.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE,

NAVY YARD, PENSACOLA, SEPTEMBER 21, 1851.

SIR:—

I have received your letter of the 30th ultimo, informing me of the probability of steamers being about to leave the Balize with men for Cuba, and requesting that armed steamers may be sent to intercept them.

We have at present no vessel here that can be despatched on that service. A copy of your letter will be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary of the Navy.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBT. D. THORBURN,

Commandant, pro. tem.

WM. FRERET, Esq.,

Collector of the Port—New-Orleans.

No. 14.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE,

NAVY YARD, PENSACOLA, SEPTEMBER 3, 1851.

SIR:—

In compliance with the request contained in your letter of August 30th, received yesterday, the United States Steamer Vixen, Lt. Com. William Smith, left here this day for the Passes of the Mississippi, in order to assist in intercepting all vessels bound for Cuba for the purpose of invasion.

When I wrote you yesterday, it was considered of no avail to despatch the Vixen, one of her boilers being rendered almost useless, in consequence of a leak which could not be got at.

Notwithstanding her crippled situation, it is deemed proper, however, to send her, in order that the views of the Government may be carried out to the extent of our ability.

I am, Sir, very Respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBT D. THORBURN,

Commandant, pro. tem.

WM. FRERET, Esq.,

Collector of Customs—New-Orleans.

No. 15.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE,

NAVY YARD, PENSACOLA, SEPTEMBER 5, 1851.

SIR:—

On the 3d instant, I informed you of the sailing of the United States Steamer "Vixen," for the Passes of the Mississippi, to

co-operate in intercepting the departure of vessels bound for Cuba for the purpose of invasion.

After proceeding a short distance, her boilers failed and she was obliged to return to this port.

I am, very Respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBT D. THORBURN,

Commandant, pro. tem.

WM. FRERET, Esq.,

Collector of the Port—New-Orleans.

No. 16.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, SEPTEMBER 3, 1851.

SIR:—

Having been informed by a communication from Adjutant General Bliss, under date of the 31st ult., that the Steamer Fashion and all the troops at the Barracks are placed under your command to be used at my requisition, I now have to request that you will, as soon after the receipt of this letter as practicable, proceed with the Fashion and your command to such a position near the Cutter at the head of the Passes as you may select.

I desire that you will use all the force under your orders to prevent the departure of any Steamer or Vessel with men, arms and amunition on board, destined for Cuba. I will enumerate such Steamers as are suspected of being engaged, viz., the Alabama, Fanny, J. P. Whitney, Mary Kingsland, and Anglo Saxon or Norman.

It may not be improper for me to state that I have adopted this plan, from the fact that one or more of these Steamers might possibly give us all the slip during the night, and a proper position selected by you at the head of the Passes, in conjunction with the Cutter, will enable you to defeat their movements.

I would suggest that you keep up steam to a moderate extent all the time, in order to be fully prepared.

I shall address a letter to Capt. Sands of the Cutter, which you will please cause to be delivered, requesting him to act with you,

and under your instructions, as far as it may be necessary in carrying out your wishes in stopping vessels.

I have the honor to be,
Sir, your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

Lieut. Col. GEO. NAUMAN, 1st. Art. U. S. A.,
Commanding U. S. Barracks—Near New-Orleans.

No. 17.

CUSTOMHOUSE NEW-ORLEANS,

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, SEPTEMBER 3, 1851.

SIR:—

This communication will be handed or forwarded to you by Lt. Col. George Nauman, of the 1st Reg. Artillery.

Col. Nauman has command of the U. S. Transport Fashion, and the troops on board of her, and at my request will take a position near your vessel for the purpose of preventing the departure of any Steamer on an illegal expedition against a friendly power.

I desire that you will act under such instructions as may be given you by Col. Nauman, to enable him to carry out the orders and wishes of the Government in connection with this matter.

I am Sir, very Respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

THOS. SANDS, Esq.,

Commanding U. S. Rev. Cutter Duane,

Head of the Passes, Mississippi River.

Answer.

NEW-ORLEANS BARRACKS, LA.

SEPTEMBER 3, 1851.

SIR:—

Your communication of to-day, has just been received, and I shall immediately proceed to comply with the requisition contained therein.

Very Respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

GEO. NAUMAN,

Brev. Lieut. Col. Com. Post.

WM. FRERET, Esq.,

Collector of the Port—New-Orleans.

No. 18.

U. S. STEAMER FASHION,

HEAD OF THE PASSES OF THE MISS., SEPT. 5, 1851.

[Received Sept. 8.]

SIR:—

As it appears by the latest news from Cuba, that the Lopez expedition has proved an entire failure, and as the ardor of the public in fitting out expeditions to invade that Island has probably entirely abated, I have the honor to request that I may be informed whether the services of myself and command are any longer desired in this position, and if so, how long, to enable me to make the necessary arrangements for supplies, &c., required of me.

It is of course desirable that the troops should return to their appropriate positions as early as practicable, both on account of their health and comfort.

Very Respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

GEO. NAUMAN,

Brev. Lieut. Colonel.

WM. FRERET, Esq.,—Collector.

No. 19.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,

AUGUST 12, 1851.

SIR:—

On receipt of this letter you will place your vessel in such a position as will enable you to command as much as possible the outlets to sea, and you will board any and all vessels of suspicious character, and examine their papers.

You will also please keep a good look out for the return of the Pampero, and board her for the purpose of examining her papers, and report to this office.

Of course any vessel you find out without papers, you will not permit to pass, but order them back.

I am, Sir,

Very Respectfully,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

THOS. SANDS, Esq.,

Commanding Cutter Duane—S. W. Pass.

No. 20.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, AUGUST 13, 1851.

SIR:—

The Steamship Alabama will leave here probably to night, if not certainly some time this week, with men destined for Cuba.

If you have not already done so, you will place yourself in such a position in the River as to command every outlet. You will then send an officer on board the Alabama. If she has no papers from the Custom-House, you will under no circumstances permit her to pass out. If on the other hand she has a clearance for Galveston or any other port, if after strict search and examination you find men, arms and ammunition, giving just grounds for suspicion that she is violating the Act of 1818, you will use all the means in your power to detain her.

In the event of either contingency, as stated above, she should attempt to evade the authority of the Cutter, you must not hesitate to make use of your gun.

The delicate execution of this order could not I am sure be entrusted to better hands than yourself and the worthy officers under your command, and I sincerely trust it will be so executed as to render satisfaction to the Department, under whose instructions I am now acting.

I have sent this by a special messenger who is not aware of its contents; any communication you have for me, please to deliver to him in the same manner.

With much Respect,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

P. S.—Of course these instructions are intended not only for the "Alabama," but any other vessel.

THOS. SANDS, Esq.,

Commanding U. S. Revenue Cutter Duane—S. W. Pass.

No. 21.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, AUGUST 15, 1851.

SIR:—

In order that the Department may be fully advised of the steps taken to prevent the departure of any expedition from this District, I have the honor to enclose copies of letters addressed to the Assistant Adjutant General of this Division of the Army, and also to the Commanding officer of the Cutter.

I will also state for the information of the Department, that for the last ten days I have had inspectors on special duty watching the movements of vessels.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, with great Respect,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

Hon. THOS. CORWIN,

Secretary of the Treasury—Washington.

No. 22.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, AUGUST 16, 1851.

SIR:—

It is rumored that the Steamship Fanny will leave to night for Cuba with 700 men.

I have at my disposal a Company of Artillery, placed under my orders by General Twiggs, and also expect to have the aid of the Transport Steamer Fashion.

With the above mentioned assistance I trust to be able to prevent the departure of this or any other Steamer.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, with much respect,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

P. S.—I have the honor to enclose a slip just issued from the Courier office.

Hon. THOS. CORWIN,

Secretary of the Treasury—Washington.

No. 23.
CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,
COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, AUGUST 16, 1851.

SIR:—

Since I had the pleasure of addressing you this morning, I am informed of the probable departure this evening of the Steamer Fanny with 700 men.

I trust I will be able to detain this Steamer should she make the attempt to depart.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, with much Respect,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

Col. W. W. S. Bliss,
Assistant Adjutant General—East Pascagoula.

No. 24.

NEW-ORLEANS, August 21, 1851.

[By Telegraph]

Hon. THOS. CORWIN:

Accounts by the Empire City, report the taking of fifty men of the Lopez party, and their being shot at Havana. Crittenden and all his party from here shot. No United States vessels at Havana when the Empire City left.

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

No. 25.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,
COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, AUGUST 30, 1851.

SIR:—

I have the honor to enclose copies as follows:—

Letter to Col. Hunt, Deputy Quarter Master General.

" from do. do.

" " Capt. R. A. Clary, Assistant Quarter Master.

" to Col. W. W. S. Bliss.

The steamer Fashion was placed at my disposal about 2 weeks

ago by Col. Hunt. You will now perceive she is withdrawn by Capt. Clary.

It is almost certain that an attempt will be made to send off the Alabama, and perhaps another steamer within the next forty-eight hours. It is impossible for me, under the present state of excitement in the city, to stop these vessels unless I have a strong and efficient force. The Commanding General is aware of the fact, and yet I have but one small Company of thirty-four men, to enforce the law against perhaps one thousand desperate and reckless individuals, who regard neither law or officers.

I must have a Government steamer, and I so informed Gen. Twiggs ten or twelve days ago—if my own and the Marshal's authority is resisted at the wharf, as I know it will be, I must immediately despatch a steamer to the assistance of the Cutter, and with a sufficient number of United States Soldiers on board—as to obtaining any aid from the citizens, it is out of the question.

I shall do all in my power to carry out the wishes of the Department: if I fail it will not be my fault. I have had frequent consultations with the acting District Attorney, and in any move I may make, I shall act under his advice.

I have deemed it my duty to lay these communications before you, in order that you may be kept fully advised of the true condition of affairs here.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, with great respect,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

Hon. W. L. HODGE,

Acting Secretary of the Treasury—Washington.

No. 26.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, AUGUST 30, 1851.

SIR:—

You will proceed with the enclosed letter to East Pascagoula, and deliver it as addressed to Col. W. W. S. Bliss. You will await

the instructions of either Col. Bliss or Gen. Twiggs, and return then without delay to this office.

I am Sir,
Yours, Respectfully,
WILLIAM FRERET,
Collector.

Mr. J. CASSARD—New-Orleans.

No. 27.
NEW-ORLEANS, August 29, 1851.

[By Telegraph.]

Hon. W. L. HODGE:—

Did Telegraph on the 21st—news of riot correct—Spanish Consul went to Havana, 28th—large numbers of Spaniards closed their business and left for Havana yesterday. Invaders will attempt to despatch a Steamer in a few days. At least 2000 men awaiting for transportation—they cannot raise means.

WILLIAM FRERET,
Collector.

No. 28.

NEW-ORLEANS, SEPTEMBER 2, 1851.

[By Telegraph.]

Hon. W. L. HODGE:—

News from Havana to 25th.—Accounts very conflicting.—Lopez still holds out, but very much reduced—he does not appear to have received any aid from the Creoles. No departures from here since the Pampero.

WILLIAM FRERET,
Collector.

No. 29.

WASHINGTON, 11 o'clock 14, P. M., SEPT. 1, 1851.

[By Telegraph.]

FOR COLLECTOR:—

The Alabama must be stopped at every hazard.

THOS. CORWIN.

Answer.

[By Telegraph.]

NEW-ORLEANS, SEPTEMBER 2, 1851.

Hon. THOS. CORWIN:—

Have received your despatch of the 1st. I shall use all the

means at my command to stop the Alabama or any other vessel that may attempt to depart.

WILLIAM FRERET,
Collector.

No. 30.

[By Telegraph.] WASHINGTON, 2 o'clock 58, P. M., SEPT. 2, 1851.

FOR COLLECTOR:—

Recent news from Cuba render increased vigilance necessary on your part to prevent the sailing of illegal expeditions. Send copy to Collector of Key West.

THOS. CORWIN.

Answer.

[By Telegraph.]

NEW-ORLEANS, SEPTEMBER 3, 1851.

Hon. THOS. CORWIN:—

Despatch of 2d received.—Have sent a copy to Collector of Key West. I have satisfactory information that no Steamer has yet been chartered or purchased for the invaders. They cannot raise the money. Nothing will be done until the Cherokee arrives, which will be about the 5th. I now have the U. S. Transport Fashion, and about 60 men.

WILLIAM FRERET,
Collector.

No. 31.

[By Telegraph.]

NEW-ORLEANS, SEPTEMBER 4, 1851.

Hon. THOS. CORWIN:—

The Cherokee has arrived—Lopez has been hung—155 prisoners of his command, mostly Americans, are in the hands of Government. The insurgents are still in possession of the mountains near Principe. Further particulars as soon as the vessel comes to the city.

WILLIAM FRERET.

No. 32.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, SEPTEMBER 4, 1851.

SIR:—

I have the honor to enclose copies of letters to and from the Commandant of the Navy at Pensacola; also, copies of instructions to Col. Nauman and Capt. Sands.

At the same time I have the honor to inform the Department, that on my application to Gen. Twiggs, under date of 30th ultimo, he sent me an additional force of twenty-five men, stating at the same time, that I now have all the force at his disposal. He also placed the United States Transport Fashion, under the orders of Col. Nauman, to be used on my requisition.

The Department will perceive by my instructions to Colonel Nauman, the disposition I have made of this command.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

Hon. THOS. CORWIN,

Secretary of the Treasury—Washington.

No. 33.

[By Telegraph.]

NEW-ORLEANS, SEPTEMBER 5, 1851.

Hon. THOMAS CORWIN:—

Notwithstanding the bad news from Cuba, the Committee here have determined to continue their efforts to raise money to send off men. The entire force of Lopez has been either killed or are in prison. Seventy of them sentenced to 10 years in the chain gang in Africa. The excitement here among the friends of Cuba is very great.

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

No. 34.

NEW-ORLEANS CUSTOMHOUSE, SEPT. 6, 1851.

SIR:—

Satisfactory information having been received by me that the Cuba expedition from this place is abandoned, you are relieved from duty at this point, as far as I am concerned in giving you instructions.

I take this occasion to thank you and the officers of your command for the prompt manner in which you acted on my requisition, and wish you a pleasant return to your several posts.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, with much respect,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

Lt. Col. GEO. NAUMAN, 1st Regt. U. S. Artillery,

Comd'g U. S. Troops, Head of the Pass.

No. 35.

[By Telegraph.]

NEW-ORLEANS, SEPTEMBER 6, 1851.

Hon. THOMAS CORWIN:

The Cuban expedition from New-Orleans is abandoned, and the men now here will be sent home. I have relieved from duty under my orders the Military.

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

No. 36.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, September 6, 1851.

SIR:—

I have the honor to inform the Department that the Committee charged with the Cuban affairs in this city, determined last evening to disband the men here, and raise money to send them home.

Such being the case I have this day relieved Col. Nauman from any further duty under my instructions.

I was informed yesterday by a letter from the Commanding Officer at Pensacola, that he had despatched the "Vixen" to this point, although in very bad order. On his arrival I shall direct the officer to return to Pensacola.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, with much Respect,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

HON. THOMAS CORWIN,

Secretary of the Treasury—Washington.

No. 37.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, September 6, 1851.

SIR :—

I am in receipt of your communication of the 3d inst., in which you inform me you have despatched the U. S. Steamer "Vixen" to cruise off this coast.

I thank you for the assistance, and now have the pleasure to inform you that the services of the Steamer will not be required, and I shall so inform the Commanding Officer as soon as he reports to me.

I am, sir, very Respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

ROBT D. THORBURN, Esq.,

Comd'g U. S. Navy—Pensacola.

No. 38.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, September 6, 1851.

SIR :—

On the receipt of this you will repair with the "Duane" to

your usual position, and please have your vessel in readiness to start with me during the coming week to the different Light-houses.

I am, sir, very Respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

THOMAS SANDS, Esq.,

Comd'g Cutter Duane—Head of the Pass.

No. 39.

[By Telegraph.]

NEW-ORLEANS, SEPTEMBER 7, 1851.

SIR :—

2 o'clock.—Considerable excitement in the city.—The Fillibusters are demanding money from the Committee to send them home.—300 left for Mobile to-day.—Will despatch again if any thing occurs.

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

No. 40.

[By Telegraph.]

NEW-ORLEANS, SEPTEMBER 7, 1851.

HON. THOMAS CORWIN :—

Have received your letter of 30th August. I could not Telegraph what did not transpire. The despatches sent forward that the Steamers had left was false. The excitement of yesterday is all over. Arrangements are being made to send all the men home.

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

No. 41.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, September 11, 1851.

SIR :—

I had the honor to inform you on the 30th ult., I applied to

the Commanding Officer at the Naval Station Pensacola, for an armed vessel to be stationed off the Balize, I now have the pleasure to enclose you copies of two letters received in reply.

By the communication of the 5th inst., received a day or two ago, you will perceive that I was deprived of any assistance from that quarter, but fortunately the breaking up of the expedition did not render it necessary.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, with much Respect,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

Hon. THOMAS CORWIN,

Secretary of the Treasury—Washington.

No. 42.

NEW-ORLEANS, September 12, 1851.

[By Telegraph.]

Hon. THOMAS CORWIN:—

By an arrival from Havana with dates to the 5th, every thing was quiet. The Government had released three of the prisoners, Capts. Kelly, Haines and Van Vechten, and sent them to New-York. The balance of the prisoners are to be sent to Spain. The Saranac arrived at Havana on the 5th.

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

No. 43.

CUSTOMHOUSE, NEW-ORLEANS,

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, September 12, 1851.

SIR:—

I had the honor to transmit by telegraph this day, the following despatch:

NEW-ORLEANS, SEPTEMBER 12, 1851.

Hon. THOMAS CORWIN:—

By an arrival from Havana with dates to the 5th, every thing was quiet. The Government had released three of the prisoners—

Capt. Kelly, Haines and Van Vechten, and sent them to New York. The balance of the prisoners are to be sent to Spain. The Saranac arrived at Havana on the 5th.

W. F.

It appears by the correspondence brought by this vessel, that the Captain General had determined upon releasing all the American prisoners, but had altered his mind upon hearing of the riots in this city, and intended sending them to Spain. Capt. Platt of the Albany, had seen and conversed with some of thirty-five of the prisoners, all of whom denounced Lopez and were gratified at his death. The letters also state that Capt. Platt was making every exertion in his power to induce the Captain General to delay the departure of the balance of the prisoners.

The Government of Cuba had paid the passages of the three officers released, and also furnished them with clothing, &c.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, with much Respect,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM FRERET,

Collector.

Hon. THOMAS CORWIN,

Secretary of the Treasury—Washington.

No. 44.

NEW-ORLEANS, SEPTEMBER 13, 1851.

[By Telegraph.]

Hon. THOMAS CORWIN—Washington:

Another arrival from Havana, with dates to the 6th. Mr. Somers, the fourth prisoner released, arrived on this vessel. The Albany had started to intercept the steamers reported to have sailed from Key West with 800 men. *The Captain General has closed the office of the Faro Industrial, a newspaper owned and edited by an American.* Several persons have gone from here to-day on the steamer, to intercede with the Captain General.

There were 192 American prisoners in the Prisons to be sent to Spain on the 8th instant.

WILLIAM FRERET,
Collector.

[From the National Intelligencer of September.]

NEW-ORLEANS, SEPTEMBER 13, 1851.

Another arrival from Havana, with dates to the 6th instant. Mr. Somers, the fourth prisoner released, has come in this vessel.

The United States steam frigate Saranac arrived at Havana on the 5th from Norfolk. The United States sloop-of-war Albany sailed on the 6th for the purpose of intercepting the steamer which it was reported had sailed from Key-West with men and arms to reinforce Lopez.

There were one hundred and ninety-two prisoners at Havana who were to sail for Spain on the 8th instant. Several persons had left here in the steamer to-day to intercede with the Captain General in favor of the prisoners.

[NOTE.—It will be seen that the Department in furnishing the National Intelligencer with a copy of my despatch of the 13th, left out the important fact that I telegraphed, viz: the closing of the office of Mr. J. S. Thrasher.
W. F.]

No. 45.

NEW-ORLEANS, September 15, 1851.

[By Telegraph.]

Hon. THOMAS CORWIN:—

By an arrival from Havana yesterday, the report of the two steamers starting from Key West, proves to be unfounded.

WILLIAM FRERET,
Collector.

The following Certificate is published for the purpose of sustaining me in the fact that the Pampero departed very suddenly, and that she was not in a condition to leave at the time she did; which facts were known to the Department at Washington.

W. F.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That the steamship PAMPERO arrived at the mouth of the River from Galveston on or about the 28th July, (our letters by her from Galveston being dated 26th July.) In coming over she exhausted her supply of coal, she therefore landed at the mouth for the purpose of taking in more. Having landed at the wrong wharf, the engineer was directed to give the engine a turn ahead, in doing which she collapsed her 15 inch exhaust pipe. From the coal-yard she was towed up to the steamship landing at Lafayette, where I boarded her. I had the pipe sent to our store to make a new copper one. In the meantime the parties to whom she belonged made an arrangement with Mr. Beatty, of Algiers, to make a wrought iron one. The second day after Mr. Beatty commenced this pipe, Mr. Brooks, copper-smith, waited on some of the parties owning the steamer and agreed to have a new copper one made before Mr. Beatty could get the iron one ready. This was agreed to, and an order was sent to us to deliver the old one—this was done although we knew it could not be finished in time. On Saturday night, near dark, this pipe was taken on board, but could not be got ready for use, in consequence of which the steamer was towed down the river. On the passage down steam was raised, but the pipe being so badly made, as well as being made out of material that was too light, caused the engineer to take it off and put on the one made by Mr. Beatty, which had been brought on board by

the steamboat Ben Adams, then alongside. The Pampero did not get off until Tuesday evening, the engineers being engaged night and day working, and had been from the time she left the wharf.

TWIBILL & EDWARDS,

G. H. BEATTY,

ISAIAH EVANS.

NEW-ORLEANS, DECEMBER 1, 1851.