

Appleton Oaksmith Papers, Duke University Library

Mr. Cole to Mr. Oaksmith

New York Oct. 10th 1856

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The Honorable Appleton Oaksmith
Minister of Nicaragua

Dear Sir,

Having received private advices from that country relative to sending merchandise for the use of said Government (and knowing the high position you now occupy) I trust you will pardon the liberty I now take in addressing you on the subject.

Will you have the kindness to inform me (to the best of your knowledge) the kind of articles most wanted, and the probability of my being indemnified for the same, in the event of my shipping.

Any other information you can give will be duly acknowledged by
Your most

Respectfully

Signed } Lyman Cole

289 Broadway
Room 37 N.Y.

P.S.

will call at 347 Broadway
for the answer }

Mr. Oaksmith to Mr. Cole
Legation of Nicaragua
Near the United States
New York Oct. 14 1856

Lyman Cole Esq.
289 Broadway N.Y.

Dear Sir.

Your communication
of 10th inst. was duly received; and although
it may be hardly in keeping with
my diplomatic position to discuss the
state of the Nicaragua market, still,
as a part of your letter relates to mat-
ters in which my Government may

have an interest, and as its contents relate generally to affairs connected with the progress of the country which I have the honor to represent, I take great pleasure in replying and giving you such information as I possess.

You inquire "what articles offer the best inducements at the present moment to ship to Nicaragua - and what the Government stands most in need of?"

The first part of your enquiry may be best answered by informing you that the importation into Nicaragua for the past year are less than one half their usual average, and that all staple articles of dry goods and provisions adapted to that market are much in demand, and present a very wide margin.

Annexed I hand you a list of articles needed by the Government of Nicaragua at the present moment. - Should you be disposed to ship them down upon a venture, I think you will be able to make a very

satisfactory arrangement with the Quartermaster General for their disposition to the Government and if not, you will observe they are most all staple goods, you cannot help finding a good market with the local merchants.

I shall be happy to render you any facilities in my power in opening a trade with Nicaragua, and remain, dear sir, very truly

Your Obedient Servant
sgds. } Appleton C. Smith
Minister of Nicaragua

Messrs. Devore and Harris to Mr. C. Smith

Hon. Appleton C. Smith
Minister of Nicaragua

Sir,

In accordance with the understanding had at our interview on Thursday of last week, respecting the fulfilment of the contract entered into on the 23rd June last, between the Republic of Nicaragua, by their agent

S. A. Laine, and Mr Benjamin W. Perkins
of Worcester, Mass. for furnishing 5000
Merrill Rifled Muskets - Mr Deane
and Mr. Brintmade proceeded on that
day to Worcester for the purpose of in-
vestigating fully the position of
affairs relative to the contract above
referred to, and ascertain positively from
Messrs. Hitchcock, Muzzey & Co. who were
engaged in the work of alteration, what
progress had been made, the means
and force employed and whether or not
they would be able to complete the
work within the time specified in
the contract - and if not, the earliest
periods when the muskets could be
finished and delivered in the city
of New York.

Having made the inquiry
necessary, and in view of all the cir-
cumstances of our connection as the
managing agents of Mr Perkins un-
der his contract, we deem it to be a duty
we owe to the representatives of the Crila-
ragua Government as well as to the
Contractor we represent, to communicate
to you frankly & fully the result of
our investigation in order that you

may take into consideration the expediency of granting an extension of the existing contract to Mr. Perkins, or make such other arrangements as the exigency of the case shall require.

We regret to say, that we find it to be impossible for the contractor (Mr. Perkins) to make deliveries under his contract within the time herein specified. It appears that the arms referred to in the contract cannot be furnished sooner than is indicated in the enclosed copy of a letter from Messrs Hitchcock, & Muzzey & Co. dated 10th instant which is furnished for your information.

An early reply will much oblige

Yours very respectfully
Sgd. J. B. Devoe

Sam. L. Harris
Managing agents for Genl. W. Perkins