

## MESSAGE

FROM

# THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING,

*In compliance with a resolution of the Senate, information in relation to the transactions between Captain Hollins, of the United States ship Cyane, and the authorities at San Juan de Nicaragua.*

DECEMBER 20, 1853.

Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, and ordered to be printed.

*To the Senate of the United States :*

I transmit certain documents in answer to the resolution of the Senate of the 6th of April, ultimo, requesting information in regard to transactions between Captain Hollins, of the "Cyane," and the authorities at San Juan de Nicaragua.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

WASHINGTON, *December 19, 1853.*

GREYTOWN, OR SAN JUAN DEL NORTE,  
*March 3, 1853.*

SIR: Enclosed I have the honor to hand to you a communication from the city council of this place, which they have directed me, as the executive officer of this government, to forward to your department.

Events having lately transpired here which I have no doubt will be represented to the United States government by the parties interested in a manner calculated to excite the public mind improperly, I therefore say, on behalf of the inhabitants of this city and its government, there has been nothing done except that which the city government were legally and fully entitled to do.

The public lands belonging to the city, and within its jurisdiction, were trespassed upon by an illegal and unauthorized occupation by the Accessory Transit Company, a company which, I believe, has no legal existence; but if they are entitled to any rights, they can only obtain them within the State of Nicaragua, from whom they hold their charter.

The company have never fulfilled their contract with Nicaragua ; and the State of Nicaragua will, on the 1st day of April, so I am credibly informed, annul their charter.

As far as regards the rights of American citizens, I assure you that the city government has, for the last two years, been almost exclusive in the hands of Americans, and that the present city government is composed of Americans only.

The Americans have built the best part of the city, and have always held the controlling interest. There are many more American citizens in this city than in the employ of the Transit Company, and I hope, if protection is afforded to any one, it will be to those who most justly are entitled to it, and those I believe to be the city and its inhabitants.

The facts are not to be disputed, the city and its government have always been right and the company and its agents always been wrong.

I also enclose a copy of a letter received by the city government yesterday, in which you will see how the company treat American citizens and how they fulfil their contracts.

The city government will, at all times, be happy to communicate to the United States government every and all the circumstances and facts connected with its government and its acts should it be required of them so to do.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

T. J. MARTIN, *Mayor*.

HON. SECRETARY OF STATE, *for the United States*.

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COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
*Greytown, or San Juan del Norte, Feb. 19, 1853.*

The legislative council of the city of Greytown, or San Juan del Norte, respectfully beg leave to represent to you, and through you to the President of the United States, the following statement in relation to the condition of affairs as they now exist in this city.

In March last, the Mosquito authorities, then governing at this place, called on the people by a proclamation, issued by James Green, esq., her Britannic Majesty's acting agent and consul general to Mosquito, to form a constitution, elect officers, and enact such laws as they might deem necessary for the future welfare of the city and its inhabitants.

In accordance with this proclamation, the people met in convention on the 29th day of March, 1852, and appointed a committee to draft a constitution ; the result was the present constitution, which was adopted unanimously at a general meeting of the citizens, held in the said city of Greytown, or San Juan del Norte, on the 5th day of April, A. D. 1852.

A copy of the constitution, together with a copy of the proclamation of James Green, esq., her Britannic Majesty's agent, &c., was

transmitted to the office of the Secretary of State of the United States by Commander Green, of the United States vessel-of-war Decatur, then lying in this harbor.

In compliance with the constitution, an election was held on the 15th day of April last, and resulted in the choice of a mayor, five members for a legislative council, three supreme judges, and subordinate officers.

The new government came into power on the first day of May, A. D. 1852, and on that day the Mosquito authorities surrendered their power and authority to the officers elected under the new constitution, and retired from office.

Since that period, the government thus chosen by the people has been in power, have enacted such laws as they deemed necessary for the welfare of the city, and exercised all the rights and privileges usually exercised by a free and independent State, and have thus far been successful in preserving order and affording protection to person and property.

They beg leave to further state, that they consider this government fully able to maintain its present position; all that is necessary being the approval of the respective governments of the United States and of Great Britain.

Every facility and encouragement in the power of this government is offered to the commerce of all nations; Greytown, or San Juan del Norte, being declared a free port forever, subject only to light harbor dues and pilotage.

The present inhabitants, residing here, found this place a small collection of huts; by enterprise and industry they have transformed it into a flourishing city.

The authorities have been formally acknowledged by the government of Great Britain; and the letter of Vice Admiral Sir George Seymour (a copy of which is herewith transmitted) will show that his government deems it no longer necessary to maintain ships of war on this station, thereby virtually confirming in the hands of, and acknowledging the ability of this government to maintain its laws, and all the powers heretofore possessed by the Mosquito authorities in full sovereignty.

The people of this city look with confidence for a similar recognition on the part of the United States, and would view with deep concern any treaty, in relation to the territory which they now occupy, to which they are not made a party, or their interests fully considered.

A copy of the answer of the council to the letter from Admiral Seymour is also herewith transmitted.

Respectfully submitted.

By order of the council :

SAMUEL S. WOOD,  
*President of the Council.*  
ROBERT D. LEES,  
*Secretary of the Council.*

HON. SECRETARY OF STATE, *of the United States.*

*Copy of communication from Vice Admiral and Commander in Chief, Sir G. H. Seymour, addressed to J. Green, esq., her Majesty's consul general at Greytown, and read at a meeting of the City Council on the 14th February, 1853, by H. G. Foote, esq., her Majesty's vice consul.*

CUMBERLAND AT JAMAICA,  
January 12, 1853.

SIR: I beg to acquaint you that I have received no information of the proposed arrangement for the future position of Graytown being likely to be concluded, and being much impressed with the losses the ships under my command have suffered from their detention at Greytown, I request you will give the mayor and council to understand that I do not consider the chance of an attack from the Nicaraguans on the town (which if their government is well advised will not occur) furnishes a sufficient reason for now keeping British ships of war at Greytown to the prejudice of the health of their officers and crews, when a municipality has been formed and acknowledged which is able to protect the place and property of the inhabitants.

It is the more advisable that they themselves should be prepared to resist any sudden attack, as it would be the duty of the naval officer commanding in the West Indies to send a force to dispossess any persons who might obtain possession of the place, before a definitive arrangement has been made for its future position, and any contests for the possession of the town would be injurious to its welfare and the property of the inhabitants.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

G. H. SEYMOUR,

*Vice Admiral and Commander in Chief.*

J. GREEN, Esq., *H. M. Consul General at Greytown.*

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COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
*Greytown, or San Juan del Norte, February 16, 1853.*

At a meeting of the legislative council of the city of Greytown, or San Juan del Norte, held at the council chamber, on Monday, February 14, 1853, your letter to James Green, esq., her Majesty's consul general, dated Cumberland at Jamaica, 12th January, 1853, was read to the council by Henry Grant Foote, esq., her Majesty's vice consul for this port.

This council takes pleasure in acknowledging and appreciating the interest manifested in your letter towards the citizens and government of this city, and in reply to your remark, that "a municipality has been formed and acknowledged which is able to protect the place and property of the inhabitants," would state that, notwithstanding the anomalous position in which this government is placed, it has been enabled thus far to maintain the supremacy of its laws, and afford ample protection to person and property, nor has it any doubt of being able successfully to resist any attack from the quarters

mentioned in your letter, and more especially as this government is acknowledged and protected by the governments of Great Britain and that of the United States.

This council regrets to add that some embarrassments have lately arisen in relation to the jurisdiction of the territory, especially in regard to the Nicaragua Accessory Transit Company, which now occupies a portion of land on the north side of the harbor known as Punta Arenas, to the serious detriment of the city, and which said company has refused on several occasions to obey and acknowledge the jurisdiction of the laws of the city over it.

The authorities of this city, anxious to maintain friendly relations with all parties, have submitted to this illegal occupancy of lands on the part of the company, under the impression that the question was on the point of being settled definitely by the respective governments of England and the United States; but, after a period of nearly a year, the matter appears to be as far from a final arrangement as ever. They have therefore taken steps to effectually maintain their rights, and cause their laws to be acknowledged and respected by all parties within their jurisdiction, and trust that, proceeding strictly in accordance with law, to merit and receive the approbation of the protecting governments.

The council sought an interview, private and unofficial, with the commander of her Majesty's vessel of war, now in port, at which interview it took occasion to state fully its present position.

Respectfully submitted.

By order of the Council:

S. S. WOOD,  
*President of the Council.*  
ROBERT D. LEES,  
*Secretary of Council.*

His Excellency Vice Admiral Sir GEORGE SEYMOUR,  
*Commander-in-Chief of H. B. M. squadron in the West Indies.*

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SAN JUAN, March 2, 1853.

GENTLEMEN: The undersigned, passengers in the steamer "Prometheus," beg leave to represent to your honorable body, that they have been refused passage to the interior in the steamers of the Nicaragua Transit Company, under the plea that there was no room for any except persons holding through tickets to California. But the undersigned have reason to believe that a considerable number of persons, not holding through tickets, were allowed a passage in said steamers, and that the exclusion of the undersigned was an act of personal malice on the part of the aforesaid Nicaragua Transit Company. Regarding this company as commercial carriers, pursuing their business in part within the jurisdiction of the corporation of San Juan, the undersigned deem it their duty to complain to your honorable body of this violation of the common law and of the plain duties of

companies thus organized, especially as this act of exclusion operates greatly to the detriment of both their public and private interests, and with the view of calling your attention to the arbitrary, oppressive, and illegal conduct of the aforesaid Nicaragua Transit Company, in order to its future prevention and punishment.

We have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servants,

E. GEO. SQUIER,  
 WM. A. JEFFERY, *U. S. Navy.*  
 S. W. WOODHOUSE, *U. S. Army.*  
 D. C. HITCHCOCK,  
 C. R. FOLLEN.

To the Hon. the MAYOR, and Municipality of San Juan.

This is a true copy :

ROBERT D. LEES,  
*Secretary of City Council.*

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U. S. NAVY DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, April 4, 1853.*

SIR: YOUR despatches of the 18th ultimo have been received. As the steamer leaves at so early a day after their receipt, it is impracticable to communicate to you at length the views of the administration in relation to the complicated questions touching the present affairs in Central America. By the next steamer, which leaves on the 15th instant, you may expect further despatches.

The United States will be represented in Central America immediately by a Minister Plenipotentiary. In the meantime you will consider it as the desire of the government that you should remain in the vicinity of San Juan, or Greytown, so long as your presence may be deemed necessary to protect the property and persons of American citizens.

Your prompt and prudent action, thus far, is approved. It is of course very important, in order to avoid collision, that your course should be marked with caution; but, at the same time, the impression should be very distinctly made, that the United States are both able and determined to protect the property and rights of American citizens. Of course you will confine yourself to that one duty, carefully avoiding any act committing your Government in any of the contested questions of jurisdiction at present disturbing that country.

The department is gratified to learn of the good conduct of those under your command.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. DOBBIN.

Commander GEORGE N. HOLLINS,  
*Com'g U. S. S. Cyane, San Juan de Nicaragua.*

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *April 13, 1853.*

SIR: Your letters written at San Juan del Sud, 9th of February last, and at Panama, 21st ultimo, were duly received.

The department approves your proceedings as indicated therein, and has but to remark that your course should be marked with caution, but at the same time the impression should be very distinctly made that the United States are both able and determined to protect the property and rights of American citizens.

You will continue, whilst separated from the commander-in-chief of the U. S. squadron in the Pacific, to communicate all matters of importance direct to the department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. DOBBIN.

Commander THOS. A. DORNIN,

*Com'g U. S. Ship Portsmouth, San Juan del Sud.*

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U. S. NAVY DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, April 14, 1853.*

SIR: Your communication from San Juan de Nicaragua, bearing date March 30, 1853, covering a correspondence with the commander of her majesty's war steamer, the Geysler, has been received.

I apprehend you have, ere this, received a communication from this department approving your conduct as reported in your despatches bearing date United States ship Cyane, harbor of San Juan de Nicaragua, March 18, 1853. While, however, your prompt interposition to protect the property of American citizens interested in the Accessory Transit Company meets with the entire approbation of the government, it is deemed proper to put you in full possession of the grounds on which that approval is based, and the views and policy of the government in relation to certain questions bearing on the subject matter more immediately under consideration.

You seem to entertain the opinion that it was the duty of the commander of the British war steamer, the Geysler, to interpose also for the protection of the property of the Accessory Transit Company, and express surprise that he should have sailed from the port on the evening before the destruction of the buildings, although "he was informed by the agent of the intended destruction." Your opinion seems to be based on the supposition that, by the convention between Great Britain and the United States of the 19th of April, 1850, it became the duty of those two powers to afford that protection. It is proper to suggest to you, that the convention of the 19th of April, 1850, stipulates that any company formed to promote a communication "by *ship canal*, which may be constructed between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, shall receive the protection of Great Britain and the United States." It is true, therefore, that there is nothing in that treaty, *expressly in so many words*, guaranteeing their joint protection to the "Accessory Transit Company," formed since "the Ameri-

can Atlantic and Pacific Ship Canal Company," whose proposed mode of inter-oceanic communication is *not* by "ship canal."

It is *further true*, however, that in the 8th article of said treaty, the two governments do "agree to extend their protection by *treaty stipulations* to any *other* practicable communications, whether by canal or railway;" but whether, under the spirit and true meaning of that convention, it is the duty of the two governments to protect the "Accessory Transit Company" as a company, is a question in regard to which you need not embarrass yourself, as the propriety of your action is justified on principles entirely distinct. If any of the subjects of her Britannic Majesty were interested as stockholders in said company, and the commander of the British war steamer declined interposition to save their property from destruction, it is a position in regard to which the United States have no desire, perhaps no disposition, to complain.

Your conduct in affording protection, and saving from destruction the property of that company, is commended not because of any *supposed stipulation* for that purpose, by convention between Great Britain and the United States, *but because American citizens* are largely and chiefly *interested* in said company, the charter of which was granted and guaranteed by the State of Nicaragua, within the limits of which State the town of San Juan is situated, and which charter was granted even long before any attempt was made to convert Greytown into what is now alleged to be an independent city. The authorities of Greytown have no right to interfere with rights and privileges thus granted by the State of Nicaragua. When they, therefore, attempted to destroy the property of the company, your interference is justified and approved, *solely*, because it is regarded as an unauthorized attempt to *disturb the rights of American citizens*, and the United States desire that the American citizen "shall realize that, upon every sea and on every soil where our enterprise may rightfully seek the protection of our flag, American citizenship is an inviolable panoply for the security of American rights."

These suggestions are probably sufficient to inform you of the proper grounds on which the approval of your conduct is based, and on which it is desired that you should place your justification. But as it is not possible to foresee what state of events may arise near that country, it is perhaps proper to give you somewhat more fully the views of the government touching some of the more prominent questions that may possibly engage your attention.

San Juan de Nicaragua, or Greytown, is regarded by the United States as within the limits of the State of Nicaragua. It has never been recognized by the United States as an independent government; no consul has been sent there, but on the contrary merely a commercial agent recognized, in whose commission San Juan de Nicaragua is expressly stated to be within the limits of the State of Nicaragua. It is understood that this town claims its independence under a charter from a personage at the head of a tribe of Indians, called the Mosquito King. The United States have never recognized the government of this Mosquito King; and does not recognize the validity of



his charter to the few settlers in Greytown; but, at the same time, you are expressly instructed to respect the police regulations of any temporary organization there, and not to molest them in the slightest degree, except under the contingencies previously mentioned.

It is not understood by the United States that Great Britain has any greater interests or rights in that or any other portion of Central America than the United States, but on the contrary it is understood that by the convention of the 19th of April she retired from the Mosquito Protectorate, and agreed "not to assume or exercise any dominion over Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the Mosquito coast, or any part of Central America." It is, therefore, to be assumed that the interest manifested by Commander Thomas Wilson, of Her Majesty's ship Geyser, in his communication to you of the 28th of March last, was not with a view to interfere with your interposition in behalf of American citizens, nor to exercise any peculiar guardianship over the authorities of Greytown, but merely with a view to the single point of inquiry as to the duty of both Great Britain and the United States, under the convention of April, 1850, to protect the Accessory Transit Company. Until the contrary appears you will, therefore, in any further communications with Commander Wilson, assume that to be the position of her Majesty's government.

A portion of the property attempted to be destroyed is on Point Arenas. Now Point Arenas is either a part of Costa Rica, or Nicaragua. If it be within the limits of Costa Rica, it is manifest that the authorities of Greytown, in the State of Nicaragua, have no right to molest persons or property there. If it be within the limits of Nicaragua, then the authorities of Greytown have no right to interfere, because of the privilege granted by the State government of Nicaragua prior even to any *attempted separate* organization at that town. It is not apprehended, however, that any further difficulty will occur with the authorities of Greytown, nor is it supposed that her Majesty's government will improperly interfere.

So soon as there is no apparent necessity for your remaining at San Juan, the health of your crew would, perhaps, be promoted by cruising from that station to Pensacola.

Commodore Newton will be instructed as to the future movements of the home squadron.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,  
J. C. DOBBIN.

Commodore GEORGE N. HOLLINS,  
*Commanding U. S. Ship Cyane, San Juan de Nicaragua.*

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NAVY DEPARTMENT,  
*April 15, 1853.*

SIR: For your information and guide you will receive, herewith enclosed, copy of a letter addressed to Commander George N. Hollins, of the U. S. ship Cyane, at San Juan de Nicaragua, touching his duties and the state of events at that port.

The department has deemed it proper in approving the conduct of Commander Hollins, as indicated in his despatches from San Juan de Nicaragua, to state to him the views and policy of the Government in relation to certain questions bearing on the subject matter, and the grounds on which that approval is based. Further instructions to the Commander-in-chief of the home squadron are not considered necessary at this time, but your attention is again invited to the orders of the department requiring occasional visits, by the vessels of the home squadron to the port of San Juan de Nicaragua, for the purpose of affording full protection to the rights and interests of all our citizens engaged in lawful trade between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the United States.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. DOBBIN.

Commodore J. S. NEWTON,  
*Commanding U. S. Home Squadron,  
 U. S. Frigate Columbia, Pensacola, Florida.*

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UNITED STATES SHIP "CYANE,"  
*Harbor of San Juan de Nicaragua, March 18, 1853.*

SIR: I have the honor to report my arrival at this port from Pensacola, on the 10th ultimo, after a passage of fourteen days.

Upon coming to anchor, a boat was despatched to Henry L. Stevenson, esq., the commercial agent of the United States at San Juan, with "orders" to place the same at his disposal. No attention was paid to the offer, and I have not had the pleasure, thus far, of a visit from him.

At the same time I was served with a "copy of a protest," before the commercial agent of the United States, from Thomas Baldwin, esq., as agent of the Accessory Transit Company, of Nicaragua, against the proceedings of the "council" of San Juan de Nicaragua, as set forth in the accompanying document, marked A, accompanied with a demand through his attorney, F. A. Nenninger, esq., (Mr. Baldwin being absent,) for protection of the persons and property of the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua, located upon Punta Arenas, opposite the town of San Juan de Nicaragua, as set forth in the accompanying document, marked B. And also a "request" and "protest" of H. W. Wagner, as attorney for G. W. McCerren, esq., before the commercial agent of the United States, addressed to the "council" of San Juan de Nicaragua, for a "stay of proceedings" upon their part in reference to a "resolution" passed by the council, on February 8, 1853, said McCerren having an interest in a portion of the property located on Punta Arenas, included in said "resolution," as found on the third page of the accompanying document, marked C.

No attention was paid to the "request" and "protest" of McCerren, and the property was destroyed by tearing down the buildings, as set forth in the accompanying document, from Thomas Baldwin, esq.,

agent of the Accessory Transit Company, marked D. The "copy of correspondence," referred to in document D, will be found attached, marked E.

I was also informed that the writ of ejectment against the persons of the Accessory Transit Company would be enforced on the morrow at eleven o'clock, A. M., and that the balance of the property would be destroyed in accordance with a "city ordinance," passed at a meeting of the "council," on the evening of February 7, 1853, a copy of which will be found on the 2d and 3d pages of the accompanying, marked E.

Agreeable to my "orders" I promised the required protection, and despatched Mr. Theodore P. Green, the first lieutenant of this ship, to the mayor of San Juan de Nicaragua, with "orders" to state that information had been lodged with me, that on the succeeding day (March 11) a writ of ejectment would be served upon the Accessory Transit Company, and in case of their refusal to remove the property, force would be used to compel them.

He found the council assembled, the mayor presiding, made the statement, and requested their answer. He was desired to inform me the process was a legal one, and that they should carry the same into effect on the succeeding day, at 11 o'clock, A. M., unless prevented by a stronger force.

On the morning of the eleventh, at nine o'clock, I proceeded ashore to pay my respects to the mayor, and was received in the "council chamber," the "council" being assembled, when the mayor stated I had, on the previous afternoon, sent Mr. Green, the first lieutenant of the ship under my command, with a statement as recorded in the foregoing; I replied, I had so done, and that in accordance with my "orders" I should be compelled to put a stop to any depredations upon the property of the Accessory Transit Company. The mayor replied "no depredations would be committed, they only intended to pull the buildings down." He then requested a statement in writing of my intentions to prevent the execution of the "process," which I acceded to, and withdrew to the ship.

The accompanying letter dated harbor of San Juan del Norte, or Greytown, United States ship "Cyane," March 11, 1853, was despatched at once, the reply it received is also attached.

Purser Charles C. Upham and acting Lieutenant William H. Parker of this ship, shortly afterwards returned from a visit to the town, bringing information that the troops were under arms and preparations making to proceed against Point Arenas and its occupants appertaining to the Accessory Transit Company, and that threats were being made of destruction of the property by fire.

"Orders" were then given to land a marine guard on Point Arenas, under the command of Lieutenant William Decatur Hurst, with instructions to inform the "marshal" that the property could not be molested, and to warn off all suspected persons, to prevent the execution of any threats as stated above. The "marshal" landed, and upon being asked his business by Lieutenant Hurst, he replied, "to tear down the buildings." Lieutenant Hurst then informed the "marshal"

of his "orders" to protect the property of the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua, and that he intended to obey and carry out the same; upon the receipt of this information the "marshal" mustered his "posse of carpenters," and left for San Juan de Nicaragua.

On the 13th ult., I had the honor of a visit from her Britannic Majesty's Vice Consul, Henry Grant Foot, esq., who had just returned from a visit to Bluefields, having been absent some days: he brought with him "despatches" from Vice Admiral Seymour, and Commodore McQuhae of her Britannic Majesty's naval forces in the West Indies, directed to F. A. Parker, commander in chief of the naval forces of the United States in the West Indies, with directions to place them in the hands of the senior officer in command, should Commodore Parker be absent. Copies are herewith enclosed, marked F. He also informed me that the previously existing government of San Juan de Nicaragua had become dissolved by their own act, in consequence of their inability to carry out their intended course with the occupants and property of Point Arenas.

From the many threats and manifest excitement among the citizens of San Juan de Nicaragua, I deem it necessary to continue the guard upon Point Arenas, about the property of the Accessory Transit Company, particularly at night, and shall continue so to do until the necessity appears no longer to exist. I have also thought proper to warn the citizens of San Juan de Nicaragua of my intentions as to the persons and property of citizens of the United States who might be molested, as in the accompanying complaint from one already assaulted, marked G. Accordingly I dispatched Lieut. Hurst to the town with the accompanying communication, addressed to the citizens of San Juan de Nicaragua, marked H, with "orders to advise with her Britannic Majesty's vice consul as to its effect;" the accompanying letter marked I, is his reply, and in accordance it was so modified as to include all, as set forth in the accompanying document, marked J.

Owing to the unsettled condition of affairs at this port, I do not deem it prudent to absent myself from the ship to communicate with Mr. Kerr, the chargé of the United States to Nicaragua, and have therefore ordered Dr. George Peck, the assistant surgeon of this ship, to represent me on this occasion. The officers and crew thus far continue in good health, but I am informed by the surgeon of the ship, (Dr. W. A. Spotswood,) from the prevalence of fever around us, we cannot expect to remain so for any length of time. I deem it necessary, however, to remain here until further "orders" from your honored self.

Copies of this correspondence have been sent to Commodore Newton, at Pensacola.

In closing my communication, permit me to refer to the correct deportment of all under my command; the officers having been in consultation of the greatest service, and the crew under such perfect discipline, and so well exercised with "small arms," through the efficiency of Mr. Green, the 1st lieutenant, as to render themselves uniformly obedient and quick in their movements. Hoping my conduct

may have been such as to meet your unqualified approval, I anxiously await your pleasure.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

GEO. N. HOLLINS,  
*Com'g U. S. Ship Cyane.*

HON. SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,  
*Washington, D. C.*

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A.

COMMERCIAL AGENCY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
*Port of San Juan de Nicaragua.*

I, Henry L. Stevenson, vice commercial agent of the United States of America, do hereby certify that this day personally appeared before me Thomas Baldwin, agent of the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua, and did present to me an ordinance emanating from the city council of San Juan del Norte, or Greytown, of which the following is a true copy :

"FEBRUARY 8, 1853.

"*Resolved*, That the Mayor be directed to notify the Accessory Transit Company to remove within five days the buildings lately erected by the said company on the city lands, and also within thirty days to remove their entire establishment, as said lands are required for the use of the city; and in case of the said company not complying within the specified time, that summary measures be taken for their ejection.

"R. D. LEES, *Sec. C. C.*"

And the said Thomas Baldwin did state that the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua hold the lands now occupied by them, by virtue of a charter or title from the State of Nicaragua, and are guaranteed in the possession and occupation of said lands by a treaty between the governments of the United States and Great Britain, and that the government of this port and town have no control over the same, and have no power beyond municipal authority.

Therefore, the said Thomas Baldwin, for and in behalf of the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua, does hereby solemnly *protest* against the enactment, enforcement, or execution of the above ordinance; against any measures that may be taken by the city council of San Juan del Norte, or Greytown, or the citizens thereof, tending in any manner to obstruct the navigation of the river San Juan, or in any manner tending to deprive the said Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua of their just rights and privileges; that all such proceedings are and will be illegal and unjust.

And the said Thomas Baldwin does appeal to the government of the United States of America for protection against the foregoing ordinance.

THOMAS BALDWIN,  
*Agent A. T. Company.*

Thus protested in due form of law before me, the undersigned, vice commercial agent of the United States of America.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and affixed the seal of my office, this ninth day of February, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and fifty-three.

HENRY L. STEVENSON,  
*U. S. Vice Commercial Agent.*

I, the undersigned, United States vice commercial agent, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy as it stands recorded in the book of records of this agency.

In testimony whereof I hereunto set my hand, and affix the seal of [L. S.] my office, this 14th day of February, 1853.

HENRY L. STEVENSON,  
*U. S. Vice Commercial Agent.*

B.

PUNTA ARENAS, *March 10, 1853.*

SIR: I beg to hand you the enclosed copy of a protest, made before the United States commercial agent, against the proceedings of the authorities and citizens of Greytown; at the same time I crave your kind protection of the property of the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua, situated at this place, as well as your protection for myself and other American citizens, employees of said company under my charge.

With the highest considerations, I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

THOMAS BALDWIN,  
*Agent Accessory Transit Company.*  
 F. A. NENNINGER.

Captain HOLLINS,  
*U. S. sloop of war Cyane, San Juan del Norte.*

C.

PUNTA ARENAS, *February 14, 1853.*

*To the honorable the City Council of Greytown, or San Juan del Norte:*

GENTLEMEN: Having arrived last evening from Virgin bay, I was informed by Captain Thomas Baldwin, agent of the Accessory Transit Company at this point, that a notice was served upon him by the proper officer of the corporation of Greytown, or San Juan del Norte, being resolutions of your honorable body, to compel the said Accessory Transit Company to remove within five days the houses recently erected, &c., &c., &c., I therefore feel it now my duty to notify your

honorable body that the said buildings referred to are not the sole property of the said Accessory Transit Company, but that Captain George W. McCerren (who is now in New Orleans, and will not be back but by the beginning of March,) is a part owner of the houses, &c., referred to, and that no notice has been served upon him.

And I therefore, as his present temporary representative, humbly request your honorable body to grant me such time as will be necessary to make the arrangements needed; that is to say, grant a stay of proceedings or to rescind or stay the resolutions until the return of the said Captain McCerren, or to afford and grant such other relief in the cause as your honorable body may deem meet.

I beg, also, leave to notify your honorable body that I have applied to Henry E. Stevenson, esq., vice consul of the United States of America, to serve your honorable body with a protest in regard to the resolutions and actions of your honorable body in the matter.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, &c., &c.,

H. W. WAGNER,  
*Attorney for G. W. McCerren.*

A true copy.

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COMMERCIAL AGENCY OF THE U. S. OF AMERICA,  
*Port of San Juan de Nicaragua.*

By this public instrument of *protest*, be it known and made manifest unto all whom it may concern, that on this fourteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and fifty-three, personally appeared before me Henry L. Stevenson, vice commercial agent of the United States of America for this port and its dependencies, Henry W. Wagner, who did state that he is the attorney for George W. McCerren, and that the said George W. McCerren is part owner of certain buildings to which the ordinance (of which here follows a true copy) recently passed by the city council of San Juan del Norte, or Greytown, is directed and refers.

“FEBRUARY 8, 1853.

“*Resolved*, That the mayor be directed to notify the Accessory Transit Company to remove within five days certain buildings recently erected on the city lands, and within thirty days to remove their entire establishment, as said lands are required for city uses; and in case of the said company not complying within the specified time, that summary measures be taken for their ejection.

“R. D. LEES,  
“*Secretary City Council.*”

That the part of the above ordinance commencing with the word “that,” on the first line, and ending with the word “buildings,” on the third line, refers to the property partly owned by the said George W. McCerren, and the said part owner is absent from the port, viz: is at New Orleans; and the said Henry W. Wagner, for and in be-

half of the said Geo. W. McCerren, does solemnly "protest" against the enactment, enforcement, or execution of said "ordinance;" that it is illegal and unjust, and that the city council of San Juan del Norte, or Greytown, have no right nor control over the same; and that if said ordinance is executed that the said George W. McCerren will sustain great injury and loss therefrom.

Therefore the said Henry W. Wagner, for and in behalf of the said George W. McCerren, does make this protest before Henry L. Stevenson, vice commercial agent of the United States of America, and does declare his intention of appealing to the government of the United States of America for relief in case the above ordinance is executed; he, the said Henry W. Wagner, and the said George W. McCerren, both being citizens of the United States of America.

H. W. WAGNER,  
*Attorney for George N. McCerren.*

Thus done and protested in due form of law before me the undersigned vice commercial agent of the United States of America for the port of San Juan de Nicaragua and its dependencies.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of my office this fourteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and fifty-three.

HENRY L. STEVENSON,  
*United States Vice Commercial Agent.*

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy as it stands recorded on the book of records of the "commercial agency."

In testimony whereof, I hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of my office on this seventeenth day of February, eighteen hundred and fifty-three.

HENRY L. STEVENSON,  
*United States Vice Commercial Agent.*

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UNITED STATES SHIP CYANE,  
*Harbor of San Juan del Norte, or Greytown,*  
March 11, 1853.

SIR: After the interview I had with your honor this morning, before your honorable council assembled, I have to state, most respectfully, that I cannot permit any depredations on the property of the Accessory Transit Company, whose depot is located upon Punta Arenas, at the entrance of this harbor.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
GEO. N. HOLLINS,  
*Commander United States ship Cyane.*

To his honor the MAYOR,  
*Of San Juan del Norte, or Greytown, Nicaragua.*



SAN JUAN DEL NORTE, OR GREYTOWN,  
*March 11, 1853.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date, and in reply have to state that no "depredations" have been or will be made upon the "property of the Accessory Transit Company, whose depot is located upon Point Arenas, at the entrance of this harbor;" and that I shall proceed to eject the said company according to law, unless illegally prevented by a superior force.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,  
T. J. MARTIN, *Mayor.*

To GEO. N. HOLLINS, Esq.,  
*Commander United States ship Cyane.*

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D.

SAN JUAN, *March 14, 1853.*

SIR: Having reference to the copy of the correspondence lately carried on between the authorities of Greytown, the United States Vice Commercial Agent, her Britannic Majesty's Vice Consul, and myself, with which I have furnished you, I now beg leave to wait upon you with the following statement of the manner in which the writ of ejectment was carried into effect upon the property of the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua, as well as how the property of Captain George W. McCerren (an American citizen) was destroyed without having been included in the writ of ejectment, or being in any way connected with the property of the Accessory Transit Company.

On Monday, the twenty-first day of February, at about half-past eleven o'clock, a. m., a party of armed men, accompanied by the marshal of Greytown, and jointly under the commands of one certain Benjamin Moony, a member of the city council of Greytown, and that of one James Lyons, a colored man of said town, who is styled "Major Lyons," landed upon Punta Arenas, and proceeded, without furthermore ado, or explanations of any kind, to demolish some buildings belonging to the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua, said buildings being used for boarding and lodging the employees of said company, thus depriving said employees of their comfortable, and, in this climate, most necessary quarters, subjecting them to the disagreeable necessity of quartering themselves, in a crowded and unhealthy manner, on board of one of the smallest river steamers belonging to the company. Those men next proceeded to a newly erected brick oven, the property of Captain George W. McCerren, who had never even been served with a notice that a writ of ejectment would be issued against his property; these buildings were destroyed amidst the cheers and yells of this armed body, horrible to listen to.

I omitted mentioning to you previously, that, according to instructions received by me from the President and Directors of the Accessory Transit Company, at New York, advising me that I could call upon any British vessel of war for protection in case of necessity, I felt it incumbent upon myself, in the absence of such vessel, to call upon Mr. Foote, her Britannic Majesty's *Vice Consul*, requesting his aid and protection; this gentleman replied that it was *out of his power* to grant me any, as *his instructions* from the British government only referred to protecting the interests of the Atlantic Pacific Canal Company, and not those of the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua; he remarked, however, that he expected a British steamer of war to arrive, and, upon her arrival, requested me to call upon him, and he would then lay the matter before the captain and see what could be done in the premises. Upon the arrival of her Britannic Majesty's steamer *Gazer*, I immediately proceeded to Greytown, and whilst awaiting the proposed interview I was arrested, and whilst under arrest Captain Wilson, of her Britannic Majesty's steamer *Gazer*, called upon me and informed me that he could render me no assistance. Some days afterwards, Mr. Foote and Captain Wilson called upon me, and, in the course of conversation, produced some documents purporting to be a copy of the instructions of the late Honorable Daniel Webster, Secretary of State of the United States, to Commodore Parker, of the United States Navy, with regard to the affairs of the city of Greytown; upon my making a request to allow Mr. Nenner, Secretary of the Accessory Transit Company, at this place, to read the same, Mr. Foote replied that he would read them himself, and proceeded to do so, the purport of which did not directly apply or allude to the Accessory Transit Company; whether or not Mr. Foote read everything contained in the documents he was reading, I am unable to say.

In conclusion allow me, sir, in behalf of the Accessory Transit Company, as well as in behalf of the employees of the company, to render you their most sincere and grateful thanks for the very prompt and *efficient manner* you have acted in protecting their interests, and it shall afford me great pleasure to acquaint the government of the United States with the fact.

With the highest consideration, I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

THOMAS BALDWIN,  
*Agent Accessory Transit Co., Nicaragua.*

Captain HOLLINS,  
*U. S. Sloop of War Cyane, San Juan del Norte.*

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E.

GREYTOWN, OR SAN JUAN DEL NORTE,  
*February 8, 1853.*

Enclosed I hand you a copy of a city ordinance, passed last night by the honorable city council. You will please take notice of the

same, as it is my duty to see the same carried into effect, which I shall proceed to do, as soon as the time given to you to remove shall expire.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

T. J. MARTIN,

*Mayor of Greytown, or San Juan del Norte.*

THOMAS BALDWIN, *Accessory Transit Company Agent.*

—  
[Copy.]

“SAN JUAN DEL NORTE,  
“February 9, 1853.

“HONORABLE SIR: At a meeting of the city council, held last evening, I was directed to furnish you with a copy of the following.”

“And remain, honorable sir, your obedient servant,

“ROBERT D. LEES,  
“Secretary City Council.

“To the Hon. T. J. MARTIN,

“Mayor of Greytown, or San Juan del Norte.”

—  
[Copy.]

“FEBRUARY 7, 1853.

“That the Mayor be directed to notify the Accessory Transit Company to remove, within five days, the buildings lately erected by said company on the city land. And as so, within thirty days, to remove their entire establishment, as said lands are required for the use of the city; and in case of the said company not complying within the specified time, that summary proceedings be taken for their ejection.

“ROBERT D. LEES,  
“Secretary City Council.

“To the Hon. JAMES GEDDES,

“Judge of the Supreme Court.”

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SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the Common Council in session,* That should the Accessory Transit Company remove their office, work-shops, &c., to this side of the harbor, they be exempt from all and every description of city tax on all the property they have or may have in the city, and on the river, for the use of said company; and the ocean steamers of the said company arriving in this harbor, be exempt from port dues upon payment of the ordinary pilotage.

SEC. —. Should the said company establish any hotel, mercantile or any other business aside from their transit business, that they shall pay the same tax and license that the citizens pay for pursuing similar business.

That the secretary of this council do furnish the agent of said company with a copy of the foregoing sections.

SAMUEL S. WOOD,  
*President of City Council.*  
 ROBERT D. LEES,  
*Secretary City Council.*

GREYTOWN, OR SAN JUAN DEL NORTE,  
*February 7, 1853.*

A true copy :

H. W. WAGNER.

DEAR SIR: I desire an extension of sixty days in the above case, in order to enable me to show cause why the ejection should not be made; and I ask your honor to grant the same.

THOMAS BALDWIN,  
*Agent A. T. Company.*

A true copy of the original :

H. W. WAGNER.

PUNTA ARENAS, *February 8, 1853.*

SIR: Herewith I hand you a document served upon me this evening, purporting to be a copy of an ordinance passed last night by the city council of Greytown, or San Juan del Norte, requiring of me to vacate the land owned and now occupied by the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua, also to remove the buildings erected thereupon.

Without wishing to dwell upon the injustice of such a proceeding, I beg to call your attention to the fact, that the land now occupied by the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua, and that the right of holding the same, and enjoying all the privileges exercised by said company, have been guaranteed to them by both the governments of the United States of America and that of Great Britain, and to which governments the city council and citizens of Greytown will be amenable for any illegal or unjust measures they may think proper to adopt, or put in execution; under these circumstances, I solemnly protest against any and all such proceedings, and more particularly do I protest against the enforcement of this ordinance, as I am not aware, at this writing, that the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua, or the governments of either the United States of America or that of Great Britain, recognise the power or government of the city of Greytown or San Juan del Norte, other than that of a city government to manage its own municipal affairs, and without the power of violating a treaty guaranteed by two great nations.

I therefore beg that, in your official capacity as acting consul of the United States of America, you will aid me with the assistance in your power to protect the interests of the Accessory Transit Com-

pany of Nicaragua, as well as my rights as an American citizen, and those of the employees of the company under my charge.

In your capacity as notary public, I beg you to have four copies of protests drawn up against these proceedings, and I shall appear before you in the morning to sign the same.

After perusing the copy of the ordinance of the city council, please hand the same to Mr. Harris.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
T. BALDWIN, *Agent A. T. Company.*

H. L. STEVENSON, Esq.,  
*Acting Consul U. S. of America, San Juan del Norte.*

A true copy of the original :

F. T. NENNINGER.

A true copy :

H. W. WAGNER.

---

COMMERCIAL AGENCY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
*Port of San Juan de Nicaragua, February 10, 1853.*

SIR: I have the honor of acknowledging the receipt of your note of 8th instant, enclosing "ordinance" of the city council of San Juan del Norte or Greytown, and requesting my protection of the rights of the "Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua," and of yourself and of the employees under your charge, as American citizens.

The protests which you requested have been prepared.

After a mature consideration of the subject, and on examination of the constitution of this city, I deem it my duty to advise you in my official capacity to make a formal application to the city council of San Juan del Norte or Greytown, for a stay of proceedings sufficiently long to enable you to show cause why a writ of ejection should not be issued, which application I am confident will not be denied.

Assuring you of my disposition to protect the rights of the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua, and of yourself and the employees under your charge, as American citizens, as far as may be in my power,

I am, respectfully, yours,  
HENRY L. STEVENSON,  
*U. S. Vice Commercial Agent.*

THOMAS BALDWIN, Esq.  
*Agent of the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua.*

A true copy of the original :

H. W. WAGNER.

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PUNTA ARENAS, *February 11, 1853.*

*To the Honorable City Council of San Juan del Norte or Greytown :*

GENTLEMEN: I have been served by the Hon. T. J. Martin, Mayor of your city, with a copy of an ordinance, passed by your honorable

body on the night of the 7th instant, requiring of me to vacate the lands now occupied by the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua, and to remove the buildings thereupon erected, within the space of five days; it being almost impossible for me to comply with this ordinance, and against the instructions I have received from the President and Directors of the Accessory Transit Company, I therefore pray your honorable body to grant me sixty days time, in order to show cause, "either before your honorable body or before the supreme court of your city," why this ordinance shall not be carried into effect, and your petitioner will ever pray.

Very respectfully,  
THOMAS BALDWIN,  
*Agent of the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua.*

A true copy :

H. W. WAGNER.

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GREYTOWN, OR SAN JUAN DEL NORTE,  
*February 11, 1853.*

SIR: Your communication of this date, addressed to the city council, was this evening received, and I am directed by the council to say :

The communication mistakes facts in regard to the time allowed for the removal of the buildings; the five days notice referring (as it distinctly states) to the buildings *lately erected*, and the longer term of thirty days to the remainder, and by far the greater portion of the buildings.

The expression "mayor of your city" and Punta Arenas, as the place of date, this council considers discourteous.

Your communication, therefore, is respectfully returned for correction.

I am your obedient servant,  
SAMUEL S. WOOD,  
*President of City Council.*  
ROBERT D. LEES,  
*Secretary of City Council.*

A true copy of the original :

H. W. WAGNER.

---

GREYTOWN, OR SAN JUAN DEL NORTE,  
*February 9, 1853.*

DEAR SIR: With reference to your application made to me as a judge of the supreme court of this city, for an extension of time in carrying out the resolution passed by the common council for the removal of the establishment of the Accessory Transit Company from their present location, I am inclined to think that the supreme court could not interfere in the matter.

The powers of the supreme court are set forth in article IV, section 2, of the constitution, as follows :

“Two of the supreme judges shall be sufficient to constitute a court, and try and determine any and all cases which may be brought before them.”

The cases which may be brought before them are set forth in article IV, section 3, as follows :

“The supreme court shall have power and jurisdiction in all cases of appeal which may arise in the mayor's court, and in special cases, as may be designated by the common council ; but in no case shall their decision apply to matters of fact, but simply to questions of law.”

You will see from the above the authority and power of the supreme court. In your case I should think the remedy is to apply to the common council, from whom the resolution or ordinance emanated, for an extension of time.

As it requires two judges of the supreme court to constitute a court, and the other being absent, I only give you the above as my own private opinion, and

Remain, yours truly,

JAMES GEDDES.

THOMAS BALDWIN, Esq.,

*Agent Accessory Transit Company, present.*

A true copy of the original :

H. W. WAGNER.

---

*To the honorable Supreme Court of Greytown, or San Juan del Norte.*

PUNTA ARENAS, *February 14, 1853.*

The undersigned, agent of the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua, most humbly prays your honorable court to grant a stay of proceedings for the space of sixty days, in order to show cause why a writ of ejectment shall not be issued to enforce the annexed ordinance lately passed by the honorable city council of Greytown, or San Juan del Norte.

Very respectfully,

THOMAS BALDWIN.

Hon. THOMAS CODY,

Hon. JAMES GEDDES,

*Judges of Supreme Court.*

A true copy of the original :

H. W. WAGNER.

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GREYTOWN, OR SAN JUAN DEL NORTE,

*February 14, 1853.*

DEAR SIR : Your communication of this day, enclosing an application to the supreme court of the city of Greytown, or San Juan del Norte, asking a stay of proceedings for the space of sixty days on the

late order of the city council in relation to lands belonging to said city, and now occupied by said company, or its agents, together with a copy of the ordinance passed by the council of the city of Greytown, or San Juan del Norte, has been received and duly considered.

In the reply of Judge Geddes, one of the judges of the supreme court of said city of Greytown, or San Juan del Norte, to a former communication from yourself, he referred you to the clauses in the constitution of this city defining the jurisdiction and powers of said court; and as the judges of said court cannot find any title or right in the archives or records of this city by which said company hold possession of said lands, nor any papers or documents in relation thereto laid before them, they respectfully state that they deem that the staying of proceedings on the order of the city council, as now presented before them, is out of their jurisdiction and power. They would further add, that the name of "Punta Arenas" is not known to the authorities of this city, save as a local name for a portion of the city and within its jurisdiction.

We have the honor to be, respectfully, your obedient servants,  
THOMAS CODY, *Chief Justice.*  
JAMES GEDDES, *Associate Justice.*

To THOMAS BALDWIN, Esq.,  
*Agent Accessory Transit Company.*

A true copy of the original :

H. W. WAGNER.

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PUNTA ARENAS, *February 12, 1853.*

SIR: Your communication bearing date of yesterday has just been received, "now half past one o'clock, P. M." In reply, I am not aware of having misrepresented any facts in my communication to the honorable city council.

The buildings referred to by the ordinance passed by the city council necessary to be removed within five days, are the dwelling-house and kitchen; both of these buildings stood upon the property now occupied by the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua, and were only taken down and removed to their present location for fear of having them washed away by the sea; the dwelling-house has been erected out of the same old material of which it was composed, with the exception of a few new boards. Why these particular buildings should be removed previous to the other buildings on the point, I am ignorant of.

The words, "your mayor and Punta Arenas," can certainly not be construed into any thing like meaning discourtesy. In the first place, I am not a citizen of San Juan del Norte, either by birth or adoption. In the next place, Punta Arenas is the name of the place where I reside, and is so laid down in all charts I have seen. It is far from my wish to be discourteous to your honorable body; and now beg to renew my application to your honorable body for a sufficient length of time in order to show cause why a writ of ejectment should not



be issued, inasmuch as the supreme court of the city of San Juan del Norte, or Greytown, claim to have no jurisdiction in this matter.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
THOMAS BALDWIN,  
*Agent A. T. Company.*  
S. S. WOOD, Esq., *President of the City Council*  
*of Greytown, or San Juan del Norte.*

True copy of the original :

F. F. NENNINGER.

A true copy :

H. W. WAGNER.

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GREYTOWN, OR SAN JUAN DEL NORTE,  
*February 14, 1853,*

SIR: At a special meeting of the city council held on Saturday evening last, your communication was received, and I am directed respectfully to inform you that the city council refuse to grant a longer time as prayed in your communication.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,  
SAMUEL S. WOOD,  
*President of City Council.*

TO THOMAS BALDWIN, Esq.,  
*Agent of the Accessory Transit Company.*

ROBERT D. LEES,  
*Secretary City Council.*  
H. W. WAGNER.

A true copy of the original :

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PUNTA ARENAS, *February 13, 1853.*

SIR: I am in receipt of your letter of 12th instant, and in reply have to inform you, that I have made a formal application to the city council of San Juan del Norte, or Greytown, for a stay of proceedings in the enforcement of the ordinance lately passed by that body, for ejecting the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua from the land they now occupy.

As the supreme court has refused all interference in this matter, and the city council appear determined not to grant me any time to show cause why a writ of ejectment should not be issued, I beg most respectfully to ask what steps you intend to take in your official capacity as United States vice consul, in the affair with the authorities of Greytown, and what your assurance of protecting the interests of the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua, as well as those of my own, as an American citizen, and those of the employees under my charge, consists of, and what sort of protection and aid I may expect from you, *as it may* become necessary for me to repel force, if used, by force; and in this case I should like to know from you how far my course would be justified by the government of the United States,

as the authorities of the city of San Juan del Norte appear to set at defiance your official acts in this matter, and are perfectly indifferent as to how the government of the United States will view their acts.

It is far from my wish to dictate to you, sir, but I most respectfully and urgently suggest that you will use the most stringent and efficacious measures in your power, and by virtue of your office, to see that the interests of the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua do not suffer by this unjust, illegal, and unheard of proceeding on the part of the city council of San Juan del Norte, or Greytown.

With the highest considerations, I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. BALDWIN,

*Agent of the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua.*

H. L. STEVENSON, Esq.,

*U. S. Vice Consul, San Juan del Norte.*

True copy of the original:

F. F. NENNINGER.

A true copy:

H. W. WAGNER.

COMMERCIAL AGENCY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

*Port of San Juan de Nicaragua, February 13, 1853.*

DEAR SIR: Your note of 12th instant, in reply to mine of the 11th, informing me that in compliance with my recommendation you had made a formal application to the city council of San Juan del Norte, or Greytown, for a stay of proceedings, has been received.

You request to know what course I intend to pursue in the matter, "as it may become necessary to repel force by force, and how far such a course will be justified by the Government of the United States of America."

In reply I have to say, that I will be governed by such circumstances as may arise in the course of the controversy—that as Vice Commercial Agent of the United States of America, my power and duties are of an advisory character, and that I shall seek to avert a collision between the local authorities and the Accessory Transit Company.

I have moreover to inform you that, inasmuch as the government of the United States of America have recognized the "local government" of this port, as the legal government thereof, either ad interim or otherwise, both through the commanders of their vessels of war, which have visited the port, and by accrediting a "commercial agent" to the posts, that the question at issue between the local authorities and Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua, is in my opinion, "at present" a local question, and that the government of the United States of America will not justify you in a forcible resistance (involving the sacrifice of life) to these authorities.

But if the city council of San Juan del Norte, or Greytown, exceed their authority, and violate the rights of the "Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua," either under cover of their laws or otherwise,

that they are amenable to you for all damages or injury which you may sustain at their hands.

I have also to assure you that the government which I represent shall be promptly and fully advised of all the proceedings in this matter, in order to enable them to pursue such a course as to them may seem right and just.

I had an interview with two members of the "city council" last evening, and I expected that your application for a stay of proceedings would have been granted.

Respectfully yours,  
HENRY L. STEVENSON,  
*U. S. Vice Commercial Agent.*

THOMAS BALDWIN, Esq.,

*Agent Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua.*

A true copy of the original:

H. W. WAGNER.

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BRITISH CONSULATE,  
*Greytown, February 9, 1853.*

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, enclosing the copy of a protest entered by you at the office of the United States Commercial Agency, against the carrying into effect of an ordinance passed by the city council of Greytown, or San Juan del Norte.

You also request my friendly offices in assisting you to protect the interests of the company you represent.

Situated as we are at present, I can but advise you to appeal to the supreme court of the municipality, so that judgment might be delayed, and that an opportunity might be given you to explain to the de facto authorities the nature of the title, or by what authority you occupy the position in dispute.

I remain, sir, with the highest consideration,

Yours, very respectfully,  
HENRY GRANT FOOT,  
*British Vice Consul.*

THOMAS BALDWIN, Esq.,

*Agent Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua.*

A true copy of the original:

H. W. WAGNER.

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PUNTA ARENAS, *February 14, 1853.*

SIR: I beg to hand you enclosed a copy of an ordinance passed by the honorable city council of San Juan del Norte, or Greytown, requiring of the Accessory Transit Company of Nicaragua to vacate the land now occupied by them, and remove the buildings thereupon erected. I have already applied to your honorable associate, Judge Geddes, to grant a stay of proceedings for sixty days in the matter,

in order to afford me time to show cause why a writ of ejection should not be issued; but his honor declined giving the opinion of the supreme court during your absence, and referred me back to the city council. I have twice humbly petitioned this honorable body, but they have declined taking action on my petition. At the instance of the Hon. T. J. Martin, mayor of the city of Greytown, or San Juan del Norte, and that of his excellency, H. G. Foote, esq., her Britannic Majesty's vice consul, S. S. Wood, president of the city council, H. L. Stevenson, vice consul of the United States of America, I renew my application to your honorable supreme court, to grant the stay of proceedings asked for, upon the grounds that the legality of this ordinance is purely a question of law, and I trust your honor will so view it.

With the highest consideration, I remain, very respectfully, your honor's most obedient servant,

THOMAS BALDWIN,  
*Agent Accessory Transit Company.*

HON. THOMAS CODY,  
*Judge of the Supreme Court of San Juan del Norte, or Greytown.*

A true copy of the original: H. W. WAGNER.

CITY OF GREYTOWN, OR SAN JUAN DEL NORTE,  
*February 15, 1853.*

You are hereby commanded to be and appear on Friday, the 18th day of February, 1853, at 3 o'clock, P. M., at the mayor's court, to answer the city aforesaid in a plea of trespass, not having removed the buildings lately erected by the Accessory Transit Company, of which you are agent, on certain public lands, conformably to due notice given by said city unto the said company, or their agent, to quit the aforesaid lands.

EDW'D BRIGFORD, *Marshal.*

To THOMAS BALDWIN, Esq., *Agent Transit Company.*

A true copy of the original: H. W. WAGNER.

F.

HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S SHIP CUMBERLAND,  
*At Bermuda, May 6, 1852.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that I have received the directions of her Majesty's government to place myself either personally, or through some judicious officer of the squadron under my orders, in communication with the commander-in-chief of the United States naval forces off Greytown, and to concert and conclude with him such arrangement as shall appear to both, conjointly, best suited

to carry out the views of the two governments for the recognition of the *de facto* governing authorities of the port, until some permanent arrangement shall have been concluded for the general and final settlement of the Mosquito and Central American question now pending between Great Britain, the United States, and certain of the Central American States.

I beg, in consequence, to acquaint you that, as circumstances prevent my proceeding at present to the West Indies, I have delegated the execution of the above order to Commodore McQuhae, commanding the Jamaica division of the naval forces under my orders, in whose judgment and temper I have the utmost confidence.

The Commodore has my directions to lose no time in placing himself in communication with yourself, and I have every confidence that you will, conjointly, cause such regulations to be firmly maintained as will answer the objects of our governments, and prevent any interruption to the order and peace of the city and port, pending the settlement of the question in course of negotiation.

I have the honor to be, sir, with high respect and consideration, your most obedient servant,

G. F. SEYMOUR,

*Vice Admiral and Commander-in-chief of her Britannic Majesty's  
Naval Forces on the North American and West India Station.*

Commodore F. A. PARKER,

*Commander-in-chief of the U. S. naval forces in the West Indies.*

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HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S STEAM TENDER ALBAN,  
*At Greytown, June 9, 1852.*

SIR: Having been instructed by Vice Admiral Sir Geo. F. Seymour, K. C. B., commander-in-chief, to repair to this place and to enter into communication with you for the purpose of conjointly agreeing upon such arrangement as may seem to us to be requisite in consequence of the provisional recognition, by the United States government, of the authorities now *de facto* existing at Greytown, I conceive that the duty that has been delegated to us may be easily disposed of; there appearing to me, after a careful examination of the revised constitution and port regulations, and of the municipal laws established by the city council, elected under the same, little upon which a difference of opinion can exist, particularly as we are only called upon to recommend such alterations and modifications of these laws and regulations as may appear to us, conjointly, to act partially or unreasonably.

I greatly regret that I have not had the honor of meeting you here, as I believe the service entrusted to us would have been executed with perfect cordiality and speedily brought to a conclusion.

Referring to the several points of the instructions addressed to you by the United States Secretary of State, Mr. Webster:

1st. I am of opinion that the municipal laws and regulations are reasonable and well adapted to the rapidly changing social condition of the district, and that they have not been improperly enforced.

2d. There are no tonnage duties imposed.

3d. The port charges are probably as moderate as the present circumstances of the settlement will admit of, and are I believe strictly appropriated to the purposes for which they are indiscriminately levied.

4th. The assumed boundaries of the settlement I consider absolutely required, to authorise the council of Greytown to extend provisionally their jurisdiction and the power of law, for the protection of life and property along the great thoroughfare of the San Juan up to the undisputed boundary of the Republic of Nicaragua at the head of the Machuca rapid.

Should you coincide with me in these opinions, the service entrusted to us becomes limited to the duty of framing and agreeing upon the instructions to be issued conjointly to the captains and commanders of the vessels of war of our respective nations which may be stationed here, so that in accordance with the friendly spirit existing between the United States government and that of her Britannic Majesty those officers may, on all occasions, act in unison and with cordiality, in giving such aid and assistance to the authorities de facto as the circumstances and emergencies of the case might urgently demand, for the preservation of the peace and tranquility of the city and district.

I have drawn up the directions for the guidance of the senior officer of her Majesty's ships stationed here for the present, under the impression that you may concur with *the opinions* as above stated, but should you take different views on any points to which our respective instructions have reference, I shall be most ready to take into my immediate and respectful consideration any alteration or modification of the same which you may think it your duty to suggest.

Commander Campbell, who is left in charge of this part of the station, will forward to me, or bring to Port Royal, any despatches you may think proper to commit to his care.

You will perceive that my instructions are formed in a great measure upon the principle of non-interference with the management of the body corporate, in matters purely local, and of granting aid only when there might be real danger to life and property from serious riotery or tumultuous proceedings in the conduct of the numerous passers through Greytown, almost constantly in transit between the Atlantic and Pacific; in short generally to leave the *authorities de facto* to carry out their laws and regulations, and only to help them when a chance might exist of the force at their disposal being inadequate to the imminence of a temporary danger.

I again express my great regret at not meeting you here, and I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

P. McQUHAE,

*Commander in command of the Jamaica Division  
of the North American and West India Station.*

To Commodore F. A. PARKER,  
*Commander-in-chief of the United States Naval Forces  
in the West Indies.*

G.

SAN JUAN DEL NORTE,  
March 14, 1852.

SIR: I deeply regret that I am compelled by circumstances to request your protection in behalf of myself, as an American citizen, and to lay before you my grievances.

Whilst at San Juan de Nicaragua, this afternoon, I was assaulted in the most gross and indecent manner by three individuals, appertaining to the militia of said town, alleging, as an excuse, that I had made false statements with regard to the authorities having destroyed property (in their late sortie at Punta Arenas) belonging to Captain McCerren, an American citizen.

The names of these individuals are, first, P. F. Mancosos, who, after using the most violent, indecorous, and ungentlemanly language, threatening the lives of any persons (living at Punta Arenas) who were caught in San Juan de Nicaragua, was assisted by Mr. George Airey, who followed in a similar strain; and thirdly by Major James Lyons, a gentleman of color, who, not content with using the same language uttered by Mancosos and Airey, followed it up by striking me violently with his fists in the face; as this was a most unjustifiable, unprovoked, and unwarrantable assault, and considering my life in danger when compelled to visit San Juan de Nicaragua on business, I most respectfully claim and request your protection in my behalf, at the same time asking your valuable advice as to how I shall proceed in the matter.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

H. W. WAGNER, M. D.

Captain HOLLINS, *U. S. sloop of war Cyane, present.*

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H.

UNITED STATES SHIP CYANE,

*Harbor of San Juan de Nicaragua, March 14, 1853.*

Information having been lodged with me that an assault was committed upon the person of a citizen of the United States, by some person or persons in the town of San Juan de Nicaragua, I hereby warn all persons, in said town, that in case of any future molestation of any citizen of the United States, or property belonging to the same, I shall take such steps as to bring the offender to punishment.

And further, that all boats passing to and from Point Arenas and San Juan de Nicaragua, will pass within hail of the ship under my command.

GEO. N. HOLLINS,  
*Commanding United States ship Cyane.*

## I.

BRITISH CONSULATE, *March 15, 1853.*

MY DEAR SIR: I see no necessity for any alteration in the programme of the notice you have sent for my perusal, further than an allusion which might be made to the resignation of the municipal authorities, and the consequent absence of any court whereby an American citizen or any other might obtain redress.

A notice to this effect might be posted at any public place, at this consulate, and also the commercial agency of the United States, also at the old Station House.

I have endeavored to induce a few of the inhabitants to act as magistrates for a short time, but without effect. They seem to have organized a party for their own protection, *Martin* having been elected, what they denominate, a chief. I shall look further into this matter, however, and see what can be done. In the meantime your proclamation, I think, will be of infinite service.

I remain, sir, yours, most respectfully,

HENRY GRANT FOOTE.

Commander GEO. N. HOLLINS,

*Commanding United States ship Cyane, &c., &c., &c.*

## J.

*To the Citizens of San Juan de Nicaragua.*

Inasmuch as no competent authority is in existence in the town of San Juan del Nicaragua, to protect the property or persons of American or other citizens, and information having been lodged with me that an assault was committed upon the person of an American citizen by some person or persons in said town, I hereby warn *all persons* in said town that, in case of any future molestation of any citizen or property, I shall take such steps as to bring the offender to punishment.

And, further, that *all boats* to and from Point Arenas and San Juan de Nicaragua, will pass within hail of the ship under my command.

GEO. N. HOLLINS,

*Commanding U. S. S. Cyane.*

U. S. SHIP CYANE, *March 14, 1853,*

*Harbor of San Juan de Nicaragua.*

UNITED STATES SHIP CYANE,

*San Juan de Nicaragua, March 30, 1853.*

SIR: Since my last communication of the 18th instant, her Britannic Majesty's war steamer Geyser arrived here under orders from Commodore McQuhae, who, I understand, has received a despatch from Mr. Martin, the late mayor and governor of this place, informing him



that I had landed the marines of this ship, hauled down the Mosquito flag, taken charge of the town, and blockaded the harbor.

Under this false report the commodore has sent the commander of the Geyser to inquire into the facts of the case, to whom I have given all the particulars; and as he desired my views in writing, I gave them to him—a copy of which you will find marked (a,) and his reply to same marked (b,) from which it appears plainly that he is acting under instructions from his commodore, who has assumed to himself the right to district the limits of this city, as will appear from his letter to Commodore Parker, enclosed in my former communication to the department, and which was never received by him.

On my arrival here, not having any authority by which I could be guided, I obeyed strictly the orders from the Navy Department to protect the property of the Accessory Transit Company, and also took for my guide the instructions of the late honorable Daniel Webster, which prescribes no special limits to this town, nor recognizes any jurisdiction of its court other than for its own police purposes, but at the same time gives to commanders of both American and English vessels of war full power to correct abuses and settle all difficulties.

I deem it my duty to communicate to the department that the commander of the Geyser was at anchor in this port on the evening previous to which a posse was sent from Greytown to Point Arenas, for the purpose of tearing down one of the buildings, and was informed by the agent of the Accessory Transit Company of the intended destruction of said property; but, instead of interposing his protection, sailed from the port, leaving the employees and property of the company to the mercy of a reckless and lawless band of men, who acted in a most outrageous manner, not even permitting the clerks of the company to save the property in the house, and actually imprisoned and fined one of them for attempting to rescue some valuable articles from destruction.

If, according to the instructions of the late honorable Daniel Webster, referred to in this letter, the commanders of English men-of-war have orders similar to those given to our naval commanders, it would seem from the course adopted by the present commander of the Geyser, that he must be acting under orders from Commodore McQuhae, entirely at variance with those by which I have deemed it my duty to be guided.

In conclusion, I will call the attention of the department to the fact, that Commodore McQuhae has given very extensive boundaries to a place that is only recognized pro tempore by the governments of the United States and Great Britain; and includes Point Arenas within the jurisdiction of the city of San Juan de Nicaragua, giving the right to said city to execute any decree of their court, let it be ever so unjust to either persons or property. And I am fully convinced from what I have seen and heard, that the whole cause of this hostility towards the company proceeds from their refusing to move their depôt and steamers to the city of San Juan de Nicaragua, which would be injurious to all their best interests.

The United States commercial agent, Mr. Stevenson, has not honored me with a visit up to the time I write.

I am also happy to inform you that the officers and men enjoy good health,

While I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect, sir, your obedient servant.

GEORGE N. HOLLINS, *Commander.*

*To the honorable* SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

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a.

U. S. SHIP CYANE,

*San Juan de Nicaragua, March 27, 1853.*

SIR: After the conversation I had with you yesterday, I have thought it would be better to inform you in writing how I have construed the instructions of the late honorable Daniel Webster, Secretary of State of the United States.

Viewing those instructions as explicit in reference to all difficulties that might occur at San Juan de Nicaragua, I will now state plainly that all property belonging to either English or American citizens, lying in or out of said city limits, is to be protected from any injury attempted on the same by the inhabitants of that town, "peacably if we can, forcibly if we must;" and so long as they conduct themselves properly, it is our duty to assist them in sustaining such municipal laws as they may deem it necessary to make for their better government. Beyond this I will not recognize any right on the part of their court, to exercise jurisdiction over the persons and property of the Accessory Transit Company at Point Arenas.

These are my *views*, and I shall wait for further instructions from my government.

By giving me yours on the same subject, you will oblige your obedient servant,

GEORGE N. HOLLINS,  
*Commanding U. S. Ship Cyane.*

Captain WILSON,  
*Commanding H. B. M. Steamer Geyser.*

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b.

HER MAJESTY'S SHIP GEYSER,  
*Greytown, March 28, 1853.*

SIR: In reply to your communication of yesterday's date, I beg to state that, as the existing authorities of Greytown have been recognized pro tempore by the governments of Great Britain and the United States, and as I understand Point Arenas to be within the limits of their jurisdiction, any means taken by me to put a stop to their pro-

ceedings against the Accessory Transit Company's establishment on that point, would be an unnecessary interference in their affairs, which I have express instructions to avoid.

I conceive those proceedings to be legal, and the persons and property of the Accessory Transit Company to be as amenable to the laws of the Greytown government as the humblest individual in the community.

During my late service here in the month of February, when the proceedings against the company were first instituted, I acted in accordance with these views.

As, however, you consider your instructions to enjoin a different line of conduct, and as you have thought it your duty to arrest the proceedings of the municipality, until the arrival of further instructions from Washington, I beg to state that, in the meantime, until I receive further instructions from Commodore McQuhae, I will coöperate with you heartily in endeavoring to preserve the peace of the town, and affording protection to life and property.

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

THOMAS WILSON,

*Commander.*

Captain HOLLINS,

*Commanding the United States Frigate Cyane.*

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U. S. SHIP CYANE,  
*San Juan de Nicaragua, April 16, 1853.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the 4th instant.

Enclosed, I send you a communication from our commercial agent, marked A, and my reply marked B.

His never having called upon, or written to, me during all these difficulties, under the pretence of sickness, and as I am well informed did not use any means to stop the depredations upon the Accessory Transit Company, furthermore, having been one of those who, on a previous occasion, signed a petition for an English man-of-war to fire into the Prometheus, and his conduct altogether being so notorious, I decline having anything to do with him in his official capacity.

The document marked C is a correct copy of the resolutions passed by the people of Greytown, or San Juan del Norte, on the evening of the 31st ultimo; the one marked D is the Mayor's letter, enclosing the resolutions and my answer to the same, marked E.

At present all is quiet, but I have heard they threaten the destruction of the property as soon as I leave the harbor. Under such a threat, I do not deem it advisable to leave the harbor before being relieved, or some positive arrangement can be made with the authorities, by which the property of the company will be respected.

The English commanders in this region have received orders from their minister at Washington, not to permit the property of the company to be molested, but at the same time their orders from the com-

modore of the station are for them not to remain in port over forty-eight hours, on account of preserving the health of their crew.

There are men in San Juan so determined on the removal or destruction of the company's property, for their own personal interests, that little or no faith can be put in any promises they may make, so long as there is not some force to keep them in check.

It is with great regret I have to inform you that several of the crew have been sick, but under the kind and constant attention of the surgeon, Dr. Spotswood, who has thus far kept the disease under his control, it has not proved fatal; but persons suffering from sickness in this climate require a long time to recover their usual strength.

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

GEORGE N. HOLLINS,  
*Commanding United States Ship Cyane.*

The Hon. J. C. DOBBIN,  
*Secretary of Navy, Washington, D. C.*

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A.

UNITED STATES COMMERCIAL AGENCY,  
*Port of San Juan de Nicaragua, April 1, 1853.*

DEAR SIR: Accompanying this, I have the honor to hand you my official information of the organization of a provisional government at this port.

I am requested to ask your recognition of said organization, for which the government will wait before assuming office.

I am, respectfully, yours,

H. L. STEVENSON,  
*United States Commercial Agent.*

To GEORGE N. HOLLINS, Esq.,  
*Commanding United States ship Cyane.*

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B.

UNITED STATES SHIP CYANE,  
*Off Point Arenas, April 1, 1853.*

SIR: I acknowledge the receipt of your note of this date, with two documents enclosed, said to be from the citizens of San Juan del Norte.

I see no proof that the provisional authorities therein mentioned intended them for my perusal, and I would respectfully request to know by what authority you send me these communications.

As I do not nor will not recognise you as having anything to do with my duty, you will oblige me by making known to the gentlemen who have sent them through you, that I will attend with pleasure to any communication they may make to me direct.

Enclosed I return you the copy of resolutions and Mr. Martin's letter to you.

I am, sir, respectfully, &c.,

GEO. N. HOLLINS,

*Commanding United States ship Cyane.*

HENRY L. STEVENSON, Esq.,

*U. S. Commercial Agent, San Juan del Norte.*

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UNITED STATES COMMERCIAL AGENCY,  
*San Juan de Nicaragua, April 2, 1858.*

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your note of yesterday's date, in reply to mine of same date, accompanying return of resolutions, &c., of the citizens of San Juan del Norte, or Greytown.

You request to know by what authority I forwarded to you those communications. In reply I refer you to my note of yesterday, in which I say that "I am requested to ask your recognition of said organization." I was so requested by T. J. Martin, esq., late the executive officer of the local government, and now appointed to the executive office of the provisional government.

You add in your note of yesterday that "you do not and will not recognise me as having anything to do with yourself or your duty." I beg to be permitted to say that I am not aware of having attempted any interference with your duty; and in this connexion I take leave to add that it has been a source of much regret to me since my convalescence, that I have not had the honor of making my respects to you personally, for which, however, I take no censure to myself, having a sufficient apology in my illness at the time of your arrival, and since, upon becoming at all able, having advised you by note under date of the 15th ultimo, of my desire to visit you, to which I have received no reply.

Respectfully, yours,

HENRY L. STEVENSON,  
*United States Commercial Agent.*

GEORGE N. HOLLINS, Esq.,

*Commanding United States ship Cyane.*

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. C.

GREYTOWN, OR SAN JUAN DEL NORTE.

DEAR SIR: The following are true copies of the resolutions passed by the people of Greytown, or San Juan del Norte, on the evening of the 31st March, instant.

Respectfully, yours, &c.,

T. J. MARTIN, *Mayor elect.*

TO GEO. N. HOLLINS, Esq.,

*Commander United States ship Cyane.*

[Copy.]

"Whereas, we, the citizens of San Juan del Norte in convention assembled, consider our present unsettled condition and want of gov-

ernment as injurious to our interest, daily subjecting us to great inconvenience and to future evils, and in view of the necessity which may shortly arise for a government of this city, do

“*Resolve*, That the citizens of San Juan del Norte, or Greytown, do hereby authorize and ratify the organization of a provisional government; and that the former members of the government who resigned be hereby appointed by the people to resume their functions, and that the said provisional government be governed by the constitution.

“*Resolved*, That the vacancies occasioned by the resignation of Mr. J. V. Perrez, and the departure of S. S. Wood from this territory, be filled by Messrs. F. Mancho and A. Sigaud.

“The preamble and resolutions were accordingly put to vote and carried by universal acclamation.

“*Resolved*, That the provisional authorities commence their government to-morrow morning.

“Messrs. Sigaud and Mancho signified their willingness to act.

“On motion, the meeting adjourned.

“W. H. DE FORREST, *Chairman*.

“F. S. SALTER, *Secretary*.

“GEO. M. USHER, *Interpreter*.

“SAN JUAN DEL NORTE, OR GREYTOWN.”

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D.

GREYTOWN, OR SAN JUAN DEL NORTE,  
*April 1, 1853.*

SIR: Having received notice from H. L. Stevenson, esq., United States commercial agent, that you are ready to receive communications direct, I have the honor to enclose you a copy of resolutions passed by the citizens of Greytown, or San Juan del Norte, last evening, March 31, 1853, also a list of officers of the provisional government, and I am desirous of knowing if the same meets your approval. I have already communicated the above to her Britannic Majesty's consul and the commander of her Britannic Majesty's ship Geysler.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

T. J. MARTIN, *Mayor elect.*

TO GEORGE N. HOLLINS, Esq.,  
*Commander of United States ship Cyane.*

LIST OF OFFICERS ELECT:

*Mayor*.—T. J. Martin.

*City Council*.—W. Geering, B. Mooney, W. P. Kirkland, A. Sigaud, and F. Mancho.

*Judges of Supreme Court*.—F. Cody, J. Reddy, and P. Castillan.

*Health Officer*.—H. A. Richards.

E.

U. S. SHIP CYANE,  
*Off Point Arenas, April 1, 1853.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, enclosing the resolutions passed by the citizens of San Juan on the evening of the 31st of March, 1853.

I will acknowledge your authority and the officers named in your letter, as elected by the citizens of San Juan, so far as my instructions will allow, and no further.

That there may be no misunderstanding between us, I send you the words of the late Daniel Webster, by which I am guided: "meanwhile a temporary recognition of the existing authorities of the place, sufficient to countenance any well intended endeavors on its part to preserve the public peace and punish wrong doers, would not be inconsistent with the policy and honor of the United States."

I am pleased to hear you have again formed a government. The persons selected to fill the various offices are their own choice, of course I make no objection to them.

I am, sir, very respectfully, &c.,  
GEORGE N. HOLLINS,  
*Commanding U. S. Ship Cyane.*

T. J. MARTIN, Esq.,  
*Mayor elect of San Juan del Norte.*