



Texas Navy Association

Historical Article



[From Com. John G. Tod, Texas Navy.]
BALTIMORE, Md., October 25th, 1843.
Hon. ANSON JONES:

MY Dear SIR,—Our friend Miller's letter will have informed you of the time and object of my visiting this country. I was taken quite sick here shortly after my arrival, from a violent cold settling on my bowels; and as soon as I was able to move with safety I went over to Washington, where I found every thing connected with Texas of vital interest to the present Administration. I conversed freely with Mr. Van Zandt about affairs, and called upon the President and Secretary of State; with the latter I had as many as three interviews, in which Texas, Annexation, English and Mexican affairs, so far as related to us, were the sole object of our conversation. I left there earlier than I would have done if my finances had been in a more flourishing condition. I was to have seen the President again, but I did not; and when I left Mr. Upshur requested me to write to him at any time, and all that I could pick up in my intercourse with the people here, or from home, would be thankfully received.

Many persons thought I was on some public business relating to Texas from the company I kept. But as Commodores Warrington and Crane are both in Washington, and I am so well known to them; and indeed the former is as friendly and intimate with me as the difference of age will allow,—and as Mr. Tyler and Mr. Upshur are old and intimate friends of his, I have no doubt that that circumstance at once admitted me into matters which I might otherwise have remained a stranger to.

All who know me have, in conversation, made many inquiries about our affairs; I find very wrong impressions here about Gen. Houston. I have invariably done all I can to place matters in their true light, and have generally given them to understand that I am one of the last men in Texas that ought to say any thing in justification of him and his. policy, unless I believed he was in the right, and that I felt a duty in disabusing the public mind on all proper occasions. I have done so, and expect to carry it out; not that I believe Old Sam has any claim upon my friendship, but rather the contrary, for at a time when I had been badly treated by

those who found it more desirable for their own delinquencies to try and sacrifice me, he joined hands in their wickedness, and added one link more to the chain of my difficulties, all of which, thank God, I am clear of; and if I can get some of my pay from Congress to pay off my debts, I will thank Providence and take courage for the future.

In talking about our next President for Texas I have always mentioned Anson Jones; and wherever he is known, I have been gratified to find that the event would be received with joy, and hailed as an omen of prosperous days for Texas.

I was very sorry to find the subject of annexation suspended by us. Mr. Upshur is a great advocate for this measure, and as he is the first one occupying the position he does that has had the boldness to make it a leading measure of his policy, I consider our prospects at present more flattering for accomplishing the object than they have ever been, or probably may be again.

The wires are working, gradually manufacturing public opinion, getting every

thing prepared to putt up the subject in a popular and captivating address. Some say Sam. Houston would be made one of these days President of the United States by the Democrats; that he would be elected Senator from Texas, and his military fame and name would gradually combine the scattered elements of that party; and as he has reformed from old habits, many who are not of the party would support him. Well, “we shall see what we shall see.”

I was in hopes, on my arrival, to make a sale of some of my land, as I was very desirous to be back in Texas to attend to my claim before Congress for my pay. It is abominable that I should be made to bear the sins of others; not one cent have I been able to get, whilst others have received from time to time a portion, and a home furnished them. I want you to see Dr. Miller and Major Bache, and do what you can with such of the members as may get me my claim, for I am truly in want. If it was not for my few debts I would not care so much; but as it is, I am wretchedly situated, although I am not to blame, for I lived as prudent and economical as I possibly could; and though I arrived here in rags, I felt some

consolation that it was honest poverty, and all old friends took me by the hand and were pressingly urgent in administering to my wants. I thought if the bill was worded so as to include such as were discharged from the navy previously to June, 1841, that it would pass without trouble and receive the approval of the President, for I am sure he will not make me suffer for what has turned up in the navy since I left it, and I have waited patiently until I thought we were able to pay. I think the Government can do so now, as it is not much. So I fully calculate upon my friends doing something for me, for I see no chance of my arriving there in time to attend to it myself.

We have had no intelligence from Texas since the 7th September. I discover the steam packet “ Sarah Barnes “ has been lost, but no particulars given. If we get our independence recognized by Mexico, and settle our difficulties with the Indians, I do not know that annexation would be considered of so much importance; but it would relieve us from great trouble and responsibility, for to a small nation as we are, government will

always be burthensome, without any settled policy, subject to be led away or influenced by temporary expedients. * * *

Compliments to all old friends, and accept of the esteem of your friend, JOHN G. TOD.
MEMORANDA AND OFFICIAL
CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE
REPUBLIC OF TEXAS, ITS HISTORY AND
ANNEXATION

By Anson Jones
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