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**Transcription (Spanish, from transcript in Austin papers) and Translation (English)**

**Documented by Chris Kneupper, 6-May-2020**

* *italics added by transcriber*

**Letter from Terán (at Anahuac) to Stephen F. Austin (at San Felipe de Austin) , 20-Nov-1831**

S. D. Esteban Austin

Anahuac Noviembre 20 1831

Amigo y Señor de todo mi aprecio y estimación: He venido á visitar este puesto y si mis asuntos cada vez mas urgentes me lo permitieran pasarían á San Felipe: para no tendré esa satisfacción hasta – el mes de Marzo por el camino de la Bahía por el Padre Muldoon y el Coronel Bradburn me he impuesto de los quebrantos de su salud, y el peligro en que se ha visto: últimamente nos han dicho que ya estaba en convalecencia. Me es muy sensible que Usted se enferme: á más del afecto y amistad que profeso á su persona, estoy entendido en que hace suma falta para la dirección de su establecimiento en punto á buen orden y seguridad en sus interesantes operaciones: no miro, quizá porque tengo poco conocimiento de las personas que habitan en su colonia quien podría remplazar el influjo de Usted y que condujese los asuntos con la moderación y prudencia que ellos exigen: así mis deseos más vivos son porque Usted se restablezca.

Uno de los asuntos á que he venido es el de establecer por orden del Gobierno Federal la aduana marítima de Galveston, creada por una ley del congreso general: sobre este punto veo muchas dificultades por los muchos fondeaderos que se encuentran en la Bahía de este parte, y en la costa. Como los habitantes de Tejas no están acostumbrados á tales establecimientos, temo que tengan falsas ideas y aprensiones que originen disgustos. El punto principal es el de víveres, cuya introducción es libre de todo derecho por la ley de 6 de Abril, y cuya prorroga tengo empeño en solicitar: los demás artículos son de poca necesidad para Tejas, y aun no merecían el establecimiento de una aduana; sino fuera necesario resguardar las costas para impedir las introducciones en otros estados: la prohibición del tabaco o la han soportado ya, o la han eludido lo mejor que yo veo es que lo cultivaran en sus terrenos y no lo tomaran del extranjero, pues se aprovecharían de las utilidades. Las ocurrencias anteriores con el administrador Fisher ponen también algún tropiezo. Como entre las desavenencias no se le imputo causa alguna por la que debiese perder el empleo, y el ayuntamiento se limitó á un procedimiento arbitrario sin acusarlo legalmente de ningún delito, el Gobierno no tiene arbitrario para quitarlo; para el tiempo de ocuparlo yo por la comisión que se medió para el estab….

//p. 2 (p. 709)

…lecimiento de la aduana le he exigido promesa formal de olvidar dar cuanto ha ocurrido, y así lo hecho hasta ahora: le he recomendado mucho que se ciña á los deberes de su empleo, sin mezclarse en ningún otro asunto del país, y de esta suerte creo que no habrá embarazo ninguno por este lado; y al efecto espero que Usted interpongo su influjo en esa villa para que todo se olvide calmando los resentimientos; en el concepto que de cualquiera falta que se advierta en Fisher en orden al comportamiento que debe tener en esa colonia, dará Usted o el Señor Williams y el ayuntamiento aviso al Coronel Bradburn para que con su conocida prudencia ocurra prontamente al remedio y me de conocimiento para tomar la providencia que sea conveniente.

He tenido esperanza de ver á Usted en este punto; para al imponerme del mal estado de su salud la he perdido; y como es preciso volarme prontamente para Matamoros, y de allí para la Bahía y Bejar, creo que nos veremos cuando Usted vaya para el Saltillo. Entretanto reciba Usted las exps sinceras de mi afecto y con el mas vivo deseo de que se recobre me ofrezco por su muy atento Amo. y Srvr. q. b. s. m.

Manuel de Mier y Terán

Noviembre 20

Detenida esta carta en espera de conductor ha habido lugar de que vea lo que escribe Usted al Padre Muldoon; y puedo asegurar á Usted que ni Fisher ni ningún otro me ha podido sugerir ideas poco favorables á Usted y sus designios, porque los hechos me ministran conocimientos mas seguros que los que pueden darme los informes de los hombres. Así debe Usted deponer todo recelo en esta parte. Vale ----

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*Translation is copied from Eugene C. Barker translation found in his papers at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History*

Among the objects for which I have come is that of establishing by order of the Federal Government the maritime custom house at Galveston created by a law of the general Congress. On this point, I see many difficulties, on account of the numerous anchoring places that are found in the Bay in this part and on the coast. As the inhabitants of Texas are not accustomed to such establishments, I fear they have false ideas and apprehensions, which originate bad feelings. The principal point is that of supplies, whose introduction is free of all duty by the law of April 6, the continuation of which arrangement I have an ardent desire to solicit. The other articles are of little necessity for Texas, and even would not demand the establishment of a custom house; were it not necessary to guard the coasts and hinder the introduction into other states. Already they have either suffered, or have evaded, the prohibition of tobacco. The best I see is for them to cultivate it on their own lands, and not take it from abroad, for they would profit from their opportunities.

I have come to visit this place, and if my affairs, more and more urgent, permitted it, I would go on to San Felipe; but I shall not have this satisfaction till the month of March on the way from Bahia. Through Padre Muldoon and Colonel Bradburn I have been informed of the breaking down of your health, and the danger in which you have been. Recently, they have told us that you were already convalescent. It is very painful to me that you are ill; besides the affection and friendship which I profess for your person, I am aware of the fact that it takes away the chief agent for the direction of your settlement in point of good order and security in its interesting operations. I do not see, possibly for the reason that I have little knowledge of the persons who live in your colony, who could supply your influence, and how he could manage the affairs with the moderation and prudence they demand. So my desires for your recovery are the more lively.

I have had the hope of seeing you in this place, but on being informed of your bad state of health I have lost it; and as it is necessary for me to return promptly to Matamoros, and from there to La Bahia and Bejar, I believe that we will see each other when you go to Saltillo.

The previous differences with the administrator Fisher have, moreover, put in the way an obstacle. As among the disagreements there was imputed to him nothing that should cause him to lose his office, and the ayuntamiento confused itself to an arbitrary proceeding without bringing any accusations against him legally, the Government cannot undertake to dismiss him; but at the time of putting him in charge in virtue of the commission which was given me for the establishment of the custom-house I have required of him a formal promise to forget whatever has happened, and this, so far, he has done. I have strongly recommended that he confine himself to his duties without being mixed in any other affair of the county; and in this manner I believe there will be no trouble from this quarter. And to this end I hope that you will interpose your influence in this city that all may be forgotten, calming the resentments; presuming that, whatever fault may appear in Fisher, in regard to his proper behavior in that colony, you or Mr. Williams and the ayuntamiento will give information to Colonel Bradburn in order that with his known prudence he may provide a prompt remedy, and to notify me what to take what precautions may be fit.

Keeping this letter in hope that a carrier has given me the chance to see what you write to Padre Muldoon; and I can assure you that neither Fisher nor anyone else has been able to suggest to me ideas little favorable to you and your designs, because the facts furnish me more reliable information than the reports of the men can give me. So, you should lay aside all suspicion on this point.

***Google Translation (with minor adjustments):***

Sir Don Stephen Austin

Anahuac November 20, 1831

Friend and Sir of all my appreciation and esteem: I have come to visit this post and if my increasingly urgent matters would allow me to go to San Felipe: I will not have that satisfaction until - the month of March on the way to La B by Father Muldoon and Colonel Bradburn have imposed on me your health problems, and the danger he (*you*) has been in: lately we have been told that he (*you*) was already in convalescence. It is very sensitive to me that you become ill: in addition to the affection and friendship that I profess for your person, I understand that it is extremely necessary for the management of your establishment to be in good order and safety in its interesting operations: I am not looking, perhaps Because I have little knowledge of the people who live in your neighborhood who could replace the influence of You and who conduct matters with the moderation and prudence that they demand: thus my most vivid wishes are for You to be restored.

One of the matters to which I have come is to establish by order of the Federal Government the Galveston maritime customs, created by a law of the General Congress: on this point I see many difficulties due to the many anchorages that are in the Bay of this part, and on the coast. Since the inhabitants of Texas are not accustomed to such establishments, I am afraid that they have false ideas and apprehensions that cause displeasure. The main point is groceries, whose introduction is free of all duties by the law of April 6, and whose extension I am determined to request: the other articles are of little need for Texas, and still did not deserve the establishment of a customs office. ; if it were not necessary to protect the coasts to prevent introductions in other states: the tobacco ban or they have already supported it, or they have eluded it, the best that I see is that they cultivated it on their land and did not take it from abroad, because they would take advantage of profits. The previous occurrences with Administrator Fisher are also a stumbling block. As among the disagreements, no cause was imputed for which he should lose his job, and the city council limited himself to an arbitrary procedure without legally accusing him of any crime, the Government has no arbitrary procedure to remove him; for the time of occupying it I by the commission that was measured for the establishment of customs, I have demanded a formal promise to forget to give what has happened, and thus what I have done so far: I have strongly recommended that you stick to the duties of your job, without mixing in any other matter in the country, and in this way Luckily I think there will be no pregnancy on this side; and to the effect I hope that You interpose your influence in that town so that everything is forgotten calming resentments; in the concept that of any lack that is noticed in Fisher in order to the behavior that he must have in that colony, you or Mr. Williams and the city council will notify Colonel Bradburn so that with his well-known prudence promptly the remedy and give me knowledge to take the providence that is convenient.

I have hoped to see you at this point; for imposing me of the bad state of his health I have lost it; and as it is necessary to travel quickly to Matamoros, and from there to La Bahia and Béxar, I think we will see each other when you go to Saltillo. In the meantime you receive the sincere expressions of my affection and with the most sincere wish that you recover, I offer myself for your very attentive Master. and Srvr. q. b. s. m.

Manuel de Mier y Terán

November 20

Once this letter has been detained while waiting for the carrier, there has been room for you to see what you write to Father Muldoon; and I can assure you that neither Fisher nor anyone else has been able to suggest ideas unfavorable to you and your designs, because the facts provide me with more certain knowledge than the reports of men can give me. So you must put all suspicion in this part. Voucher ----