**Samuel May Williams Collection, Manuscript 23-0372**

**Transcription (Spanish) and Translation (English)**

**by Chris Kneupper, Gregg Dimmick, begun 21-Mar-2020**

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*-italics added by transcribers*

**Letter from George Fisher to Antonio Elosúa, 2-Jun-1830**

*Letterhead:* Comand. Gral. e Insp. de los

Estados Internas de Oriente

Aduana Marítima de Galveston = N. 1 – Hayer (*Ayer*) á diez de la noche ha sido embargada la Goleta Cañon , procedente de Orleans, p.r (*por*) habes introducido una cantidad de Tabaco en rama p.a (para) el comercio contrabando, y careciendo esta administracion en este Puerto de la fuerza armada de la nacion p.a (*para*) haces respectar la leyes y custodias los contrabandistas, y sus embarcaciones en semefantes casos, y p.r (*por*) no contar con otro apoyo q. (*que*) con la noticia civica del Batallon de Austin cuyos Yndibiduos (*Individuos*) en la presente estacion sumamente ocupados en los trabajos de sus campos y p.r (*por*) divertas estas razones ser una fuerza q. (*que*) p.r (*por*) esta elas de servicio no se puede emplear sin ...

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... un gran perjuicio á sus propios internases y á la manutención des sus familias. Por tanto suplica á V. E. (*vuestra merced = Usted*) se sirva mandar una corta guarnición compueste Infantería y Caballería p.a (*para*) q. (*que*) asi erige el mayor servicio de la nación y la seguridad publica sobre esta costa tan erpuesta á las instrucciones de los contrabandistas é importares estranjeros cuyas defraudaciones se cometen descaradamente en violencia de la leyes de la nacion y en el ultraje de su suberanias. La guarnición de este Puerto debía constan á los menos de 20 Ynfantes (*Infantes*) y lo de Caballeria con la correspondiente detacion de cabos y ...

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Sargentos y mandada p.a (*para*) un aq.l (*aquel*) subalterno sufesa á las ornēs (*ordenes*) del administrador de esta Aduana quien ves ponetra de la fuerza segun las circunstancias lo erigiesen, ha detenen tambien dos pzãs. (*piezas*) de artilleriá á q. (que) los pertsulias necesarias y colocada la una á barra de este rio y la otro sobre la isla de S. (*San*) Luis, Galveston I. = toda la estación de la costa de este departamento desde la Bahia de Sabinas – haste el paso de Caballo en la baya de Matagorda carece de vigilante alguno y es trecuentada mas ó menos p.r (*por*) los contrabandistas en toda la estación p.a (*para*) la bahía de Sabinas se introducen efectos de contra ....

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... bando p.a (*para*) ambos paises colindar tu y ha sido la practica de introducir desde la Habana (*Havana*) los enslaves negros q. (*que*) los comerciantes de esta especie humana introducen á aquel puerto desde la Africa. Por el paso de Galveston entra la isla de S. (*San*) Luis y el punto llamado Bolivar se introducen el Tabaco y otros efectos p.a (*para*) el mismo trafico fraudulento los q. (*que*) pasan p.r (*por*) el rio Trinidad y S. (*San*) Jacinto y sus tributaries hasta topas el camino de esa ciudad p.a (*para*) desde se conduce en lo interior, y enter las tribues de Indios barbaros, p.r (*por*) este rio incede otro tanto y toda esta costa esta trabenado p.a (*para*) benedas de contra ...

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... bandistas cuyos efectos introducidos llegan hasta las garitas de la misma capital de este estado y sus colindantes. = Jare lo q. (*que*) comunica a V. E. (*vuestra merced = Usted*) p.a (*para*) su alto conocimiento y fines correspondientes en la inteligencia q. (*que*) esta administración no responde p.a (*para*) la seguridad de la indicada Goleta Cañon p.a (*para*) carecan de la fuerza propia p.a (*para*) custodiarla y p.a (*para*) ser su Cap.n (*Capitan*) es 2.0 y su tripulacion escondida en estas casnareas de cuya conspiracion temo un ataque p.a (*para*) apodenarre del buque, y salir á la mar y allí burlanidese de las leyes y de las autoridades de esta nación. =

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Dios y Libertad á bordo de la Goleta Cañon en el de las Brazos del ante Brazoria Junio 20 de 1830 = Jorge Fisher = E. S. Comand.te grãl. (*Comandante General*) de Coahuiltejas.

Es copia Matamoros Ag.to (*Agosto*) 21 del 1830

Guerra

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Galveston Maritime Customs = No. 1 - Yesterday at ten o'clock at night the schooner **Cañon**, coming from (*New*) Orleans, was seized for having introduced a quantity of raw tobacco for the contraband trade. This administration of this port, lacking the armed force of the nation to enforce the laws and guard against the smugglers, and their boats in similar cases. We have no other support than the civic militia of the (*San Felipe de*) Austin battalion, whose Individuals in the present season are extremely busy working in their fields. For various other reasons this is a force that cannot be used for this type of service without a great preference to their own interest and supporting their families. Therefore, I beg Your Excellency to see fit to send a small garrison composed by Infantry and Cavalry so that it may establish the best service of the nation and public security on this coast so exposed to the incursions of the smugglers and foreign imposters whose frauds are blatantly committed in an outrage to the laws of the nation and insulting its sovereignty. The garrison of this Port should consist of at least 20 Infantry and 10 Cavalry with the corresponding staff of Corporals and Sergeants and commanded by a subaltern subject to the orders of the administrator of this Customs Office who will see to the placement of the force according to the circumstances that exist. Two pieces of artillery have been detained along with their necessary equipment. One was placed at the bar of this river and the other on the island of San Luis, Galveston Island.

All of the positions of the coast of this department from the Sabine River - to the Paso Caballo at Matagorda Bay, lack any vigilance and are more or less frequented by smugglers. Throughout the locations of the Sabine Bay, smuggled goods are introduced for both neighboring countries. It has been the practice of introducing from Havana the black slaves that the merchants of this human species introduce to that port from Africa. Through Galveston pass, between the island of San Luis and the point called Bolivar, Tobacco and other effects are introduced by the same fraudulent traffic. These goods pass through the Trinity and San Jacinto rivers and their tributaries until they hit the road to that city from where they are conducted inland. Between the tribes of Barbarian Indians, along this river the same thing happens, and this entire coast is locked for the benefit of smugglers whose introduced effects reach the sentry boxes of the same capital of this state and its neighbors.

Everything is communicated to Your Lordship for your high knowledge and corresponding purposes in the knowledge that this administration does not respond for the security of the indicated Schooner **Cañon** due to lack of its own force to guard it and to be its Captain is 2nd and its crew hidden in these casnareas of whose conspiracy I fear an attack to seize the ship, and go out to sea and mock the laws and authorities of this nation.

God and Liberty, aboard the schooner **Cañon** in the Brazos River in front of Brazoria June 2nd, 1830

*From:* George Fisher

*To:* His Lordship Commanding General of Coahuiltejas.

It is a copy Matamoros August 21, 1830

                                                         Guerra

***Note:*** *This letter is indexed in the book “Samuel May Williams, 1795-1858” on page 38 with a date of 20-Jun-1830, apparently since the handwritten date near the bottom of the letter appears to be “20” (with the 0 filled in, and written as a superscript – really meaning the 2nd). Thus, the original date of this letter is believed to actually be 2-Jun-1830, since it is labeled as Galveston Maritime Customs No. 1, and refers to the seizure of the* ***Cañon****. Since Fisher wrote others on the 5th and 7th of that month (as Letter No. 2 and No. 4) about its seizure, it could hardly refer to a capture on the 19th and a letter of the 20th. The stamped letterhead is believed to be due to the fact that this document is a copy of the original, made at the headquarters in Matamoros using available paper there, and was done by a man named Guerra (perhaps José Mariano Guerra, known to have commanded the Matamoros garrison in 1832).*

***Note:*** *It is not perfectly clear who was the intended recipient of this letter. At this point in time, Manuel de Mier y Terán was the Commander General of the Eastern Interior Provinces (at Matamoros), and Antonio Elosúa was the Principal Commander of Coahuila and Texas (at San Antonio de Béxar). The addressee appears to be Antonio Elosúa, but the letter ended up (for the copy to be made) in Matamoros. So, it might appear that Elosúa had forwarded the letter on to Terán, where a copy was made that was sent back to Samuel May Williams.*

***Note:*** *If readers have suggestions for improvement of the transcription or translation, please feel free to contact the first-listed transcriber above.*