**Samuel May Williams Collection, Manuscript 23-0667**

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

**by Chris Kneupper, begun 15-Mar-2020**

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* *italics added by transcribers*

**Copy made by Fisher for Samuel May Williams on unknown date (probably 26-Apr-1831 or just after) of ....**

**Letter from George Fisher to Manuel Mier y Terán, 26-Apr-1831**

*Letterhead:* COMANDANCIA GRAL. INSPECCION DE LOS

ESTADOS INTERNAS DE ORIENTE

El C.o (*Ciudadano*) Jorge Fisher en of.o (*oficio*) de 26. del pop.o (*próximo pasado*) me dice lo q.e (*que*) sigue. –

“Aduana Marítima de Galvezton = N.o 49 = E. Sr. = Por mi of.o (*oficio*) n.o (*numero*) 3 del 27. de Julio del año pop.o (*próximo pasado*) tuve el honor de poner en el conocimiento de V. E. (*Vuestra Merced*) q.e (*que*) en cumplimiento de su superior orden fha. (*fecha*) 24 de Mayo del mismo año, en q.e (*que*) me previene no establezca la Aduana de Galvezton, á q.e (*que*) fue nombrada Admõr. (*Administrador*), la Goleta Cañon q.e (*que*) ha sido previamente embargador por esta Admõr. (*Administrador*) por haber introducido á esta Republica cantidad de Tabaco en rama p.a (*para)* el comercio de contrabando, se entregó á la ...

*//p. 2*

... autoridad política local de la Villa de Brazoria y q.e (*que*) habiendo sabido su Capitán lo ocurrido se presentó, y se le dío posesión de ella, y q.e (*que*) después de unos días salió p.a (*para*) la Bahía de Matagorda p.a (*para*) cargar maíz y otros productos del país a los Puertos de Tampico y Veracruz, y q.e (*que*) hace termino este negocia = y ahora tengo el honor de participar á V. E. (*Vuestra Merced*) q.e (*que*) el art.o (*articulo*) 9. de la ley expedida por el hon.le (*honorable*) Congreso de Coahuila y Tejas en 2. de Nov.e (*Noviembre*) del año 1827. y Circulada á esta Admõn (*Administración*) p.a (*para*) su Gob.no (*Gobierno*) y cumplim.to (*cumplimiento*) en este negocio, por el Sõr. Admõr (*Señor Administrador*) de Tabacos en Austin con fha. (*fecha*) 10. de Junio del año pop.o (*próximo pasado*) de la cual acompaño a V. E. (*Vuestra Merced*) copia Certificada, en cuyo Cumplim.to (*Cumplimiento*) se embargo ...

*// p. 3*

... la referida Goleta p.a (*para*) asegurar en parte la solvencia de la multa q.e (*que*) se debía ecrigir al contrabandista en Cumplim.to (*Cumplimiento*) del citado art.o (articulo) 2., el q.e (*que*) era su Capitán, según el manifiesto original espedido (*expedido*) por la Aduana de Nueva Orleans con fha. (*fecha*) 26. de Mayo del propio año, ecsistente (*existente*) original en el archive de esta Aduana, y por haber sido sus dueño de la citada Goleta, como lo de nuestra la Certif.on (*Certificación*) del Sr. Vice-Consul de la República Mejicana en aquel Puerto, en fha. (*fecha*) 25. del propio mes y año, de lo cual también acompaño á V. E. (*Vuestra Merced*) copia certificada, quedó ilusorio por haber las autoridades de aquella jurisdicción disimu ...

*// p. 4*

... lado en la estricta observancia de la citada ley de 2. de Nov.e (*Noviembre*) del 1827. dejando impune la infracción de las leyes el de la nación y del Estado, por los contrabandistas. = La superior orden de V. E. (*Vuestra Merced*) comunicado en of.o (*oficio*) fha. (*fecha*) 21 de Ag.to (*Agusto*) propio por la cual me faculta de poder obrar en el asunto del Contrabando hallando en la Goleta Cañon, conforme á la ley de comisos, recibe el día 16. del Set.e (*Setiembre*) pop.o (*próximo pasado*) , y el of.o (*oficio*) del Sr. (*Señor*) Comisario Gen.l (*General*) de San Luis Potosí de 12. de Julio, en q.e (*que*) me acusa recibo de mi oficio de 14 de Junio propio que habla sobre esta contrabando; diciéndome q.e (*que*) esperaba q.e (*que*) todo sea agitado en bien del mejor servicio de la nación, recibí el día 23. ...

*//p. 5*

... de Ag.to (*Agusto*), á cuya fecha la citada Goleta, ya había dejado aquel puerto, por lo cual era imposible de mi parte poner en ejecución el referido art.o (*articulo*) 2. de la precitada ley, que previene la exacción de la multa de los contrabandistas, de todo lo cual he dado cuenta al Sr. (*Señor*) Comisario Gen.l (*General*) de San Luis de Potosí en of.o (*oficio*) n.o (*numero*) 12. de 27. de Julio último. = Con estos pasos creía, que este negocio quedaba concluido y terminado, pero no contento el Capitán de la referida Goleta D. (*Don*) Eduardo L. Petitt de haber por un disimulo de las autoridades de aquella jurisdicción eludido la satisfacción de la multa q.e (*que*) previene la ley, se ha pre- ...

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... viene la ley, se ha presentado contra mi, en el juzgado segundo de esta jurisdicción, reclamando de mi la indemnización de los gastos y perjuicios, q.e (*que*) razón de la detención de su citado buque desde el día 19. de Junio hta. (hasta) el día 1.0 de Julio de 1830. sufrió, de cuyos pormenores hablo en mi of.o (*oficio*) n.o (*numero*) 50. q.e (*que*) con esta misma fha. (*fecha*) tengo el honor de remitir á V. E. (*Vuestra Merced*) = Habiéndose sus citado la cuestión sobre el contrabando q.e (*que*) luzos dicho Capitán en sus citado Goleta, y de los pa\_\_\_\_\_ se hace practicado en \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Comiso, de cuyos por sus \_\_\_\_ nores he dado cuenta a V. E. (Vuestra Merced) en mi of.o (*oficio*) n.o (*numero*) 31. de 6. de Nov.e (*Noviembre*) 1830. á q.e (*que*) remitió, y hallándome por disposición del Sup.mo Gob.no (*Supremo Gobierno*) ...

*// p. 7*

.... bajo las inmediatas ordenes de V. E. (*Vuestra Merced*) con la prevención de entenderme en todo, tocante al servicio de la nación en esta parte, tengo el honor de hacer presente á V. E. (*Vuestra Merced*) q.e (*que*) el art.o (*articulo*) 5.0 de la precitada ley de 2. de Nov.e (*Noviembre*) 1827. vigente en el Est.o (*Estado*) de Coahuila y Tejas exige la responsabilidad de los jueces y empleados q.e (*que*) disimulen en el cumplim.to (*cumplimiento*) de dicha ley, y habiendo sido por las circunstancias imposibilitado á exigir la multa q.e (*que*) prescribe el art.o (*articulo*) 2. de esta ley, del referido Capitán Petitt y estando en la actualidad el referido Capitán su dicho Buque en este Puerto, suplico á V. E. (*Vuestra Merced*) se sirva tener presente mi responsabilidad p.a (*para*) con el Gob.no (*Gobierno*) del ...

*// p. 8*

... Est.o (*Estado*) de Coahuila y Tejas, y dictar las providencias q.e (*que*) estime necesarias para salvarla, p.a (*para*) q.e (*que*) en ningún tiempo me pueda seguir perjuicio, á q.e (*que*) al contrario podía haber lugar, mucho más cuando por el puntual y exacto cumplimiento de la superior orden de V. E. (*Vuestra Merced*) de 24. de Mayo pp.oo (*próximo pasado*) en el acto de ejecutar la ley, quedé impedido á llevarla á su debido cumplim.to (*cumplimiento*). Todo lo q.e (*que*) tengo el honor de participar á V. E. (*Vuestra Merced*) p.a (*para*) su conocim.to (*conocimiento*) y en cumplim.to (*cumplimiento*) de mi deber para salvar me responsabilidad. Dios y Libertad Matamoros á 26. de Abril de 1831. Jorge Fisher = Exmo (*Excelentísimo*) Sr. Comand.te Gen.l (*Señor Comandante General*) é Ynsp.on (*Inspección*) de los Est.s (*Estados*) int.s (*Internas*) de Oriente” = Insértalo á V. (*Usted*) incluyens …..

(*it might appear that the document was to continue on to another page, but such is not present in the digital copy of 23-0667*)

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The Citizen George Fisher in an official letter of the 26th last tells me what follows. -

“Galveston Maritime Customs = No. 49

Excellent Sir,

By my official letter number 3 of July 27th of last year (*1830*), I had the honor to inform Your Excellency that in compliance with your superior order dated May 24th of the same year (*1830*), in which you warned me not to establish the Galveston Customs , to which I was appointed as the Administrator, the schooner **Cañon**, which had previously been seized by this Administrator for having introduced into this Republic a quantity of raw tobacco for the contraband trade, was delivered to the local political authority of the town of Brazoria and her Captain having once knew what had happened, he presented himself, and was given possession of it, and that after a few days he left for Matagorda Bay to load corn and other products of the country for the ports of Tampico and Veracruz, and that this negotiation has ended.

And now I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that article 9 of the law issued by the honorable Congress of Coahuila y Tejas on November 2, 1827, and circulated to this Administration for its Governance and compliance in this business, by the Tobacco Administrator in (*San Felipe de*) Austin (*i.e., Samuel May Williams*) dated June 10th of last year (*1830*), of which I am enclosing Your Excellency with a Certified copy, in compliance with which the aforementioned Schooner was seized to ensure in part the solvency of the fine that should be issued to the smuggler in compliance with the aforementioned article 2, who was its Captain, according to the original manifest issued by the New Orleans Customs dated May 26th of last year (*1830*), existing original in the file of this Customs, and for having been the owner of the aforementioned Schooner, as well as ours, the Certification of Sir Vice-Consul of the Mexican Republic in that Port, on the 25th of the same month and year, which I also attach a certified copy for Your Excellency, was illusory for having the authorities of that jurisdiction dissimulated in the strict observance of the aforementioned law of November 2, 1827, leaving unpunished the infraction of the laws of the nation and of the State, by the smugglers.

The superior order of Your Excellency communicated in an official letter dated August 21th by which you authorize me to be able to act in the matter of Smuggling, finding in the schooner **Cañon**, in accordance with the confiscation law, received on the 16th day of September last (*1830*), and the official communication of the General Commissioner of San Luis Potosí of July 12th, in which he acknowledges receipt of my own communication of June 14th that speaks about this contraband; telling me that he hoped that everything would be agitated for the good of the best service of the nation, I received the 23rd day of August, on which date the aforementioned schooner had already left that port, for which it was impossible for me to execute the aforementioned Article 2 of the aforementioned law, which prevents the exaction of fines from smugglers, of all of which I have reported to the Commissioner General of San Luis de Potosí in official letter number 12 of July 27th last (*1830*).

With these steps, I believed that this business was concluded and finished, but the Captain of the aforementioned Schooner, Don Eduardo L. Petitt, was not happy that, due to a dissimulation of the authorities of that jurisdiction, he avoided paying the fine provided by law, The law has been prevented, it has been presented against me, in the second court of this jurisdiction, claiming from me compensation for expenses and damages suffered, which is the reason for the detention of the aforementioned ship from June 19th to the day of July 1, 1830, of whose details I speak in my letter number 50, which on this same date I have the honor to send to Your Excellency.

Having cited the question about the smuggling that said Captain wears in his aforementioned schooner, and of the pa\_\_\_\_\_ it is practiced in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Seizure, of whose \_\_\_\_ nobles (*this portion of document is partially torn and missing*) I have informed Your Excellency in my letter number 31 of November 6, 1830, to which he sent, and finding myself by disposition of the Supreme Government under the immediate orders of Your Excellency with the precaution of understanding me in everything, regarding the service of the nation in this part, I have the honor to present to Your Excellency that Article 5 of the aforementioned law of November 2, 1827, in force in the State of Coahuila and Texas, requires the responsibility of judges and employees who dissemble in compliance with said law, and having been unable to demand the fine due to circumstances, that article 2 of this law prescribes, of the aforementioned Captain Petitt and the aforementioned Captain being currently his said Vessel in this Port, I beg Your Excellency to please bear in mind my responsibility towards the Government of the State of Coahuila and Texas, and dictate the measures it deems necessary to save it, so that at no time can harm continue to me, to the contrary, there could be a place, much more so when due to the punctual and exact fulfillment of the superior order of Your Excellency of May 24th last in the act of executing the law, I was prevented from bringing it to its due fulfillment. All that I have the honor to report to Your Excellency for your knowledge and in compliance with my duty to save my responsibility.

God and Liberty, Matamoros on April 26, 1831

George Fisher

*To:* His Excellency Commander General and Inspector of the Eastern Internal Provinces”

I insert these to You including …

***Note****: this document appears to be a copy made by George Fisher for Samuel May Williams (since it was found in his papers) of his own letter for Manuel Mier y Terán. The letterhead is Terán’s office (not Fisher’s, who had no office at the time of this letter), so this letter appears to have been composed at Terán’s headquarters so that George Fisher could explain his history with the schooner* ***Cañon****. Thus, it appears to have been one final step in Fisher’s attempt to rehabilitate himself in Terán’s eyes. Although the inserted letter appears written on 26-Apr-1831, the last page may be missing so the final comments and date of Fisher’s copy to Williams are missing.*

*One needs no better example than this letter, to see the officious nature of George Fisher!*

*Documents cited by Fisher:*

*His own letters, usually numbered and dated*

*Letters by others cited by Fisher*

*Laws cited by Fisher*

*Further, the letter to Terán appears to also be a “cover letter” for enclosures now found in Williams Manuscripts 23-0368 and 23-0681, with a copy date also on 26-Apr-1831. Thus, all three of these are really one document, copied and then sent on to Samuel May Williams so Fisher could justify his actions to Williams and even Stephen F. Austin.*

*At the bottom of 23-0681, there is a signature as “Guerra”, in a hand similar to other letters copied by José Mariano Guerra, so (in this case) it seems that Guerra was not the copier but simply witnessed/certified that Fisher’s copies were accurate.*

*The date of 27-Jul-1830 refers to a known letter sent by George Fisher to Terán – found at Archivo General de Mexico Collection, Box 2Q171, Volume 327, pp. 144-149*

*Letter of 24-May-1830 is known (as enclosure) from Williams Manuscript 23-0374*

*Letter of 21-Aug-1830 is known (as enclosure) from Williams Manuscript 23-0417*

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