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The chairman of the committee appointed three of the committee to examine the accounts and vouchers exhibited by Gen. Nichols, and they have reported them correct. By the report it will also be seen that about \$3000 yet remains to be audited, making the whole cost of the Rio Grande expedition about \$61,000, less \$8,000 otherwise expended, for the payment of which Gen. Nichols, by authority of the Convention, pledged the faith of the State. The committee submits this report, the report of Gen. Nichols and his accounts, as an appendix to the report made of the Rio Grande expedition on yesterday, and asks that the same be printed as a part thereof.

I have the honor to be very respectfully,

John C. Robertson,
Chrm'n of Com. on Public Safety.

REPORT NO. 4.

Report of Gen. E. B. Nichols.

To Hon. J. C. Robertson,

Chairman of Committee on Public Safety.

The undersigned, a commissioner and financial agent on the part of the Convention of the State of Texas duly appointed, having discharged all the duties assigned him, asks leave to make the following report:

On the reception of my instructions I proceeded forthwith to New Orleans, and procured on the faith of the State the sum of \$24,070; \$10,000 of which I received of the Citizens' Bank of that city. The State as well as myself have been placed under great obligations to Mr. J. D. Denege, the president of the bank, for the gentlemanly and lively interest manifested in our behalf. I have given a certificate of indebtedness in substance as follows:

“By virtue of the authority vested in me, by the people of the State of Texas in Convention assembled, at Austin, on the 28th day of **Jan**y, 1861, I hereby acknowledge to have received for the use of the State of Texas, from———, the sum of———dollars, which amount I pledged the faith of the State of Texas to repay, with ten per cent. interest from date; payable out of the first moneys appropriated for the use of the army.”

E. B. Nichols,
Commissioner and financial agent for the State of Texas.

I contracted with Mr. J. C. Harris, manager of the Southern Steam Ship Company, for the use of the steamship *Gen. Rusk* to transport our troops to Brazos Santiago. I submit charter party, marked A. I also purchased the commissary stores and ammunition as directed, which will more fully appear by reference to my accounts and vouchers hereinafter submitted.

I also procured of Gov. Moore of Louisiana, through Col. Herbert and Adj't Gen. M. Grevot, of the military board of Louisiana, 250 stands of percussion muskets, 5000 rounds of ammunition—cartridge boxes, belts, etc., for which I gave a receipt in behalf of Texas, to be paid for or returned to the State of Louisiana. These and other munitions I forwarded to Galveston by McKeever's Express Company. Mr. McKeever attended to the forwarding in person and without charge. To Col. Herbert and Gen. Grevot the State as well as myself have been placed under great obligations for the interest manifested in our behalf. The commissary stores were shipped on the steamship *Texas* to Galveston. I returned to Galveston on the 17th, and the day following, after a conference with Col. Ford, finding that the *Rusk* had not the capacity to carry all our troops, we chartered the steam boat *Union* and the schooner *Shark*, which with the latter in tow of the *Gen. Rusk* comprised the transport of the expedition.

In accordance with the authority which I held and your instructions, on the 19th ult. I appointed H. B. Waller, Esq., secretary of the commissioner to the Rio Grande. We embarked for Brazos Santiago, with the troops under the command of Col. Ford and Lieut. Col. McLeod, on the morning of the 20th, where we arrived on the 21st, and took possession of that point as reported by Col. Ford.

On the 22nd, Col. Ford, Lieut. Col. McLeod, Mr. Waller and myself proceeded to Brownsville on the Rio Grande, Col. F. W. Latham furnishing all necessary transportation and contributing every way in his power to our comfort and assistance. We reached Brownsville at noon of the same day, and as had been previously agreed Col. Ford called on some of the officers of the U. S. army, stationed at that post, to ascertain if possible what course the commanding officer would pursue. Col. Ford having effected nothing or gained any important information reported to me at 4 P. M. I sent a communication to Capt. B. H. Hill, the commanding officer of the troops stationed at Fort Brown, in substance as follows:

To Capt. B. H. Hill, U. S. A.,
Commanding Fort Brown.
Sir:

As commissioner of the State of Texas, I am delegated to have an interview with you, relative to matters between the sovereign State

of Texas and your government, the United States. I should be pleased to have such interview at your earliest convenience, when I will make known to you my mission.

Hoping to hear from you soon and that you will appoint a time and place for our meeting, I am, very respectfully, your obd't servant,

E. B. Nichols,
Commissioner for Texas.

To this communication I received by Mr. Waller a verbal reply that I could see Capt. Hill by calling at his quarters that evening or the next day, as my wishes or convenience dictated. Not waiving a written reply to my communication, I declined to accept a verbal one. That same evening I visited Matamoras, accompanied by Col. Latham and Mr. Waller, where Col. Latham explained to some of the most prominent citizens of that city the object of our mission and the expedition.

On the night of the 22nd, at a late hour, I learned that Capt. Hill meditated an attack upon the troops quartered at Brazos Santiago. I immediately addressed him the following communication :

Brownsville, 12 P. M.

To Capt. B. H. Hill, U. S. A.,
Commanding Fort Brown.

Sir:

I had the honor to transmit to you by the hands of my secretary, Mr. Waller, a written communication requesting a conference, touching matters existing between our respective governments, to which I only received an indefinite verbal reply. While I am waiting your formal reply thereto, a rumor has reached me that an attack is contemplated by you upon the Texas troops now encamped on Brazos Island. I will not allude to the consequences of such an act against the sovereignty of my State. The fate of individuals on either side is a matter of little consequence compared with national results affecting the whole country. Civil war with all its horrors, of which we may not see the end, would inevitably ensue. As my own immediate course of action depends upon the nature of your reply, I respectfully ask it at once and in writing.

Very respectfully,

E. B. Nichols,
Commissioner for Texas.

Col. Ford, Lieut. Col. McLeod and Mr. Waller then proceeded to get what information they could respecting the rumored attack. Two trusty men were placed in a position where they could watch the movements of the Federal troops. In the morning they reported that noth-

ing had occurred in the barracks to justify the opinion that any number of the U. S. troops would march soon. Early, however, on the morning of the 23rd, Lieut. Col. McLeod left for Brazos Santiago to fortify that place. I received about noon of the 23rd the following communication in reply to my last.

Head Quarters, Fort Brown,
Feb'y 23d, 1861.

Sir:

I have received your two letters, dated Feb'y 22, 1861. The former announcing yourself "as commissioner of the State of Texas, delegated to have an interview with you (me) in relation to matters of business between the government of the United States and Texas." The latter stating that "a rumor had reached me (you) that an attack is contemplated by your (my) authority upon the Texas troops encamped on Brazos Island," that "civil war with all its horrors, which we may not see the end of, would inevitably ensue," and that your immediate course depends upon the nature of your (my) reply. I know of no "matters of business" between the Federal government and Texas which you on the one hand and myself on the other have power to transact. However, as no detriment to the public service can result from a conference, you are hereby informed that I shall be found at my quarters in the garrison at any hour to-day, when it may suit your pleasure to appear for the transaction of all business appertaining to my official duties.

Respectfully, your obd't serv't,

B. H. Hill,
Captain Commanding.

To E. B. Nichols,
Commissioner.

Immediately after the reception of the above letter I proceeded to call upon Capt. Hill at his quarters, accompanied by Mr. Waller. I was courteously but formally received, and at once explained the object of my visit and mission. I was promptly informed by Capt. Hill that he would not recognize my authority as commissioner for the State of Texas or the power of the Convention to delegate such authority, that he only knew the governor as the head of the State government and could hold no official communication with me, that the commission had been guilty of an act of war against the government of the United States in taking possession of Brazos Santiago in the manner it was done, that he had issued an order, (or contemplated doing so,) the night before for the arrest of Col. Ford, Lieut. Col. McLeod, Mr. Waller and your commissioner, but, upon consultation with his officers, in

whose judgment he expressed great confidence, he had determined not to execute the order. He also stated that the day previous to the taking of Brazos Island he had issued an order for the destruction of all the public property at that post, that the command sent to execute the order met Lieut. Thompson, who was in command at Brazos Santiago at the time it was taken by the State troops, on the road to Brownsville with his command to report what had occurred. From all the circumstances, I am induced to believe we would have lost all the valuable property which fell into our hands at that place, had we been delayed a few hours. In connection with the subject of his order, regarding the destruction of this property at Brazos Santiago, he remarked that we could infer what he would do with the Federal property at Fort Brown if forced to evacuate his post, that the U. S. troops in Texas were about 2800 strong, embracing all the arms in the service in their greatest perfection, well equipped and furnished in every particular, could go wherever they pleased, meaning, I suppose, they could march out of Texas, and Texans could not prevent them, and he expressed great confidence in the ability of the troops under his command to whip volunteers *three to one*. I told him I was not sent to banter or fight him, however much we differed in opinion on this subject. He made another allusion to the taking of Brazos Santiago and then was understood to say: "Gen. Nichols, I could have you arrested by civil authority for treason," to which I replied emphatically and in such a manner that Capt. Hill did not again allude to the subject.

He, however, remarked that although he could not recognize your commissioner officially yet he desired that he should address him a written communication relative to his mission to which he would reply in the same manner.

He desired to know if our demand of the command for the public property included his light battery and small arms, and was informed that whenever he recognized your commissioner and was ready to negotiate these matters would be considered.

He repeatedly stated to your commissioner that he regarded the taking of Brazos Santiago by the troops under Col. Ford as an act of war against the United States, and should he receive orders to leave the State without instructions as to what disposition he should make of the government property in his charge he would destroy it.

Your commissioner suggested to him that as there was no law contemplating such a contingency as now exists, he surely might exercise a wise discretion; but he expressed a determination to obey the orders of his government, whatever they were.

This closed out interview, and as requested I addressed him in substance the following communication on the 23rd Feby, 1861:

Capt. B. H. Hill, U. S. A.,
 Commanding Fort Brown.

In compliance with your desire, expressed in our interview this morning, I now address you upon the subject of my mission.

The people of Texas, in Convention assembled, have delegated me to provide for the protection of the frontier, to receive all ordnance and munitions of war placed here and elsewhere on the frontier for such protection, to accomplish which a portion of the necessary force is here, believing that the Federal troops placed on this frontier would immediately be withdrawn upon the secession of Texas from the United States.

I am prepared to receive and receipt for all the property in your charge, placed here for the protection of this frontier by the Federal government. The Texas troops, under the command of Col. J. S. Ford, now here, came on a mission of peace, and I trust that no act of theirs or their officers will justify a hostile collision between them and the Federal troops. It is, however, necessary that our troops be stationed at once at the different posts on the frontier in order to give such protection to our citizens as may be required. Hence, the great necessity to be placed in immediate possession of all government property now here for that purpose.

Texas is virtually out of the Union. Her destiny has been fixed. Her people have spoken their sovereign will through the ballot box, and who will doubt for a moment that they are determined to maintain their free and independent nationality.

The troops placed here by the United States are now upon foreign soil; hence, the necessity of their speedy removal, and the surrender of all the Federal property under your charge. Business calls me back at an early period in order to receive and forward the balance of the troops destined for the protection of this frontier.

I will be pleased to receive an early answer from you, that I may carry back with me the gratifying intelligence to my people that there will be no collision between the authorities of the United States and those of Texas.

Very respectfully,

E. B. Nichols,
 Commissioner.

To which the following reply was received:

Head Quar's, Fort Brown,
 Texas, Feby 23, 1861.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date.

It will be impossible without instructions from my government to accede to your request to deliver into your possession the public property or any portion thereof at this place. In assuming that this property, "placed here," as you say, for the use of the State of Texas, becomes the property of the Republic of Texas upon the separation from the Federal government, you have raised a question, (upon which my government will doubtless take action in due season) but which in the mean while cannot effect [*sic*] my military duties or responsibilities. I take pleasure in reciprocating, personally, the courtesy and good will implied in your assurance that no act of the Texas troops in this vicinity "shall justify a hostile collision with the Federal troops;" further than this that assurance has no official weight or application, inasmuch as the said Texas troops, numbering several hundred, have already committed an act of hostility against the United States in seizing the public property at Brazos Santiago, dispossessing therefrom a guard of twelve U. S. soldiers, placed there for its protection.

I am sir, respectfully, your obd't serv't,

B. H. Hill,
Capt. and Act'g Com.

To Gen. E. B. Nichols, Com'r.

In view of the position assumed by Capt. Hill, Col Ford and myself held a conference to decide upon the course to be pursued, so as to prevent a collision before we could be reinforced, and considering the large number of U. S. troops on the Rio Grande, including both batteries of light artillery, with Brazos Santiago for their natural outlet, and being ignorant of the acts of our commissioners at San Antonio, we determined to dispatch an express to Corpus Christi to hurry forward the mounted men then on the way, and that I should return to Galveston with the *Gen. Rusk* and get as many more troops as she could bring to reinforce Lieut. Col. McLeod at Brazos Santiago.

Col. Ford, remaining at Brownsville, was indefatigable in his exertions to bring about an arrangement that should lead to a peaceable settlement of matters. If Capt. Hill contemplated an attack upon our troops, Col. Ford would have the earliest intelligence of it and proceed at once to Brazos Santiago to take command.

I found at Brazos Santiago the government property in charge of John L. Greer, an ordnance sergeant of the U. S. army, from whom I received the same and receipted for it on behalf of the State of Texas. I appointed J. L. Greer, (who had left the service of the United States,) an ordnance sergeant, and required of him a bond for the faithful performance of his duties as custodian of the public

property, which bond is hereby submitted and marked exhibit B, also a report of the ordnance stores, shot, shell, fixed ammunition and other materials of war in his charge, marked exhibit C.

Lieut. Col. McLeod, at my request, ordered sergeant Greer to ship to Galveston such portion of these stores as were not needed for the defence of that point, which were consigned to Gen. Sidney Sherman, who will report the same to you.

On the 24th of Feby, after my return to Brownsville, I requested Lieut. Col. McLeod to detail Lieut. W. W. Reynolds, of the Lone Star Rifles, as regimental quartermaster. His fine business capacity, intelligence and promptness in details, highly recommended him to me, and his subsequent activity in the performance of his onerous duties has fully verified this opinion. I submit herewith his bond, marked exhibit D.

I left Lieut. Col. McLeod with his whole force actively engaged in fortifying his position. The men are in good spirits, with full rations, plenty of work, and contented to serve the cause by any means in their power.

I left Brazos Santiago in company with my secretary on the 25th for Galveston. I took four men from the command who were sick. We reached Galveston on the 26th. The Liberty company under the command of Capt. Williams tendered their services and were at once accepted and ordered to report on the 28th at Galveston. I telegraphed Col. Terry at Fort Bend, who had been selected to command the battalion of reinforcements, to be in readiness with a company from Brazoria and one from Houston, of 75 men each. The services of the Galveston Rifles, under the command of Capt. McKean, were also accepted.

General and battalion orders were issued which will explain the plan of mustering and embarking the 2nd battalion. (See orders herewith transmitted):

General Orders.

Galveston, Feby 28th, 1861.

The reinforcements destined for the Rio Grande Military District, commanded by Col. John S. Ford, will take notice that I have appointed by authority of the "Convention of the people of Texas" the following battalion officers to command, until the reinforcements report to Col. Ford for further orders:

Col. B. F. Terry, Commanding.

Thos. M. Jack, Adjutant,

Charles Thompson, Quartermaster Commissary.

Clark Campbell, Surgeon,
 Marcus Campbell, Assistant Surgeon,
 Rev. J. E. Carnes, Chaplain.

The troops are to obey and respect the above named officers accordingly.

By order of the Convention.

E. B. Nichols,
 Commissioner.

H. B. Waller, Secretary.

Galveston, Feby 28, 1861.

Battalion Order, }
 No. — }
 }

The friends of the troops at Brazos St. Iago, living in Galveston, are notified that Capt. Smith, of the steamship *General Rusk*, will receive packages, letters, etc., until 6 P. M. to-day.

The troops are expected to be on the wharf in readiness to embark at 7 P. M. The steamer will sail at 9 P. M. 75 men from Galveston, 75 from Fort Bend, 75 from Houston, and 75 from Liberty can only be received, and under no circumstances can any more be taken.

B. F. Terry, Commanding,
 T. M. Jack, Adj't.

The following order, issued by Col. Ford, Feby 18th (inst.,) will be strictly enforced:

Head Quarters, Rio Grande Regiment,
 Galveston, Feby 18th, 1861.

Orders }
 No. 2. }
 }

1. Cpts. McLeod, Redwood, Davis and Nichols will place their respective commands in readiness to embark on board the steamer *Rusk* at 7 o'clock P. M., to-day.

2. Any improper and disorderly conduct, disobedience to orders, or drunkenness will be punished and is, therefore, strictly forbidden.

3. Commanders of companies will have this order read to their commands, on parade, previous to embarkation.

(Signed)

John S. Ford,
 Col. Comd'g Rio Grande Mil. Dist.

A special train had been engaged for the transportation of the troops to Galveston, and placed at Col. Terry's disposal at Houston. Col. Terry reached Houston at 6 P. M. with the Brazoria company, under command of Capt. Moseley, and finding there two incomplete

companies, under the command of Capts. E. Waller and Donnelly, these companies were consolidated under the command of Capt. E. Waller, Capt. Donnelly entering the ranks as a private; the entire forces were then united under the command of Col. Terry, who brought them by railroad to Galveston. From there they were promptly embarked on the steamer *Gen. Rusk*, whose energetic commander had everything in readiness for sea, with the Liberty county and Galveston rifles already on board.

On the morning of the 1st of March, we crossed the bar at Galveston, and with a favorable run reached Brazos Santiago on the 2nd at 11 o'clock, A. M., where Col. Terry immediately reported his battalion to Lieut. Col. McLeod, and the whole command was consolidated into a regiment, Col. Terry accepting the Majority.

Your commissioner then found the relations existing between Col. Ford and the officers commanding the U. S. troops at Fort Brown unchanged. No other written correspondence had taken place between Col. Ford and the officers, subsequent to that between Capt. Hill and myself.

Lieut. Col. McLeod had completed the defence of Brazos Santiago, enclosing that post by a parapet for infantry, with bastions or redoubts at the angles for artillery. The fortification was as complete as could be made under the circumstances. A battery was then mounted, under the direction of Capt. Van Buren of the Galveston Artillery; a 24 pounder placed in each redoubt, with light guns and howitzers along the curtains. A picket guard of 30 cavalry was posted at Boco Chico Pass, under the command of Capt. Conner of the Fort Bend rifles. The horses were purchased on the island and adjacent ranches.

The pass was the only approach to the island, except by the harbor.

Such was the order and discipline observed with our troops that I feel confident we could have maintained our position, had Capt. Hill placed himself in a more belligerent attitude, and with double his number; our strength was then not only adequate to the protection of the place, but was competent to take the field. Events which had transpired in our national affairs had nerved every arm and determined every man of this force upon his individual course, in case there should be a conflict between us and the forces of the late United States.

On the 3rd of March, the steamer *Daniel Webster*, which had long been expected and known to have left New York on the 15th of Feby. arrived at the anchorage off the bar. It was doubtful whether her mission was one of peace or hostility. We had a right to infer from the course of the United States officers that it was hostility. Col. Ford had arrived at Brazos Santiago on the night of the 2nd, accom-

panied by an officer of the United States garrison, who desired to communicate with the *Webster*, but he was requested not to do so until we could ascertain her character and purpose. The *Webster* brought Maj. Porter, Ass't Adj't Gen. of the U. S. army, with two other officers, who were invited by your commissioner (he with Maj. Terry and Mr. Waller having boarded the *Webster*) to accompany him ashore. The conversation between Maj. Porter and myself induced me to hope that the purpose of the *Webster* was pacific, and the orders of Gen. Twiggs would be executed. Late in the afternoon Col. Ford, in company with Maj. Porter, passed to Point Isabel without landing at Brazos Santiago, from thence they proceeded to Brownsville that evening.

Leaving Lieut. Col. McLeod in command, your commissioner proceeded to Point Isabel with his secretary and Maj. Terry, where we arrived on the eve of the departure of Col. Ford and his friends.

On the evening of the 4th, I made a formal demand, through my secretary, on Col. F. W. Latham for the Federal property then in his possession, as collector of customs for the U. S. government in the Rio Grande district. This demand was promptly complied with, as will appear by his letter herewith accompanying and marked exhibit E. I then appointed Col. Latham agent of the State, taking his receipt for the property and his bond for the faithful return of the same, which bond is now in charge of Mr. Waller. Col. Latham then resumed charge of the property. His receipt is herewith transmitted and marked exhibit F.

On the same day I addressed a communication to Col. Ford, marked G. His reply thereto is marked H.

Maj. Terry, myself and secretary then returned to Lieut. Col. McLeod's quarters at Brazos Santiago, where we found the troops under great excitement in consequence of the firing of guns in the direction of Brownsville, which was believed to be in celebration of the inauguration of President Lincoln and a defiance of the State of Texas. Lieut. Col. McLeod, after vainly attempting to reason with the command who met him temperately but firmly with arguments he could not deny, called the captains together in his quarters, and in presence of your commissioner and Maj. Terry the subject was discussed and the subjoined letter to Col. Ford read, (an order to the same effect had been published on parade, and was received with cheers by the regiment). The officers approved the letter as a necessity of the situation, and stated they could only restrain their companies by a promise of explanation of the firing or immediate action. Your commissioner remembers the scene with feeling and, notwithstanding his re-

sponsibility, for a moment gave way to a resentment so just and unanimous among officers and men.

On the morning of the 5th, the *Arizona* arrived, and her captain failing to report himself to the commandant of the post, whose martial law prevailed, I felt it my duty to address a letter to the manager of the Southern Steamship company, herewith transmitted, marked exhibit J.

Col. Ford's reply came promptly by express, and the officers and men were called together to hear it. It was a brief statement of the emergency and the unavoidable difficulties of his position. Although he had not received official notification, he was hopeful of the retirement of the garrison. He concluded by ordering the return of the troops to their post, if they had been crossed over to the main land.

I determined to dispatch Maj. Terry and Mr. Waller to Brownsville to ascertain the condition of things, and end the suspense of the troops and myself. Maj. Terry was instructed, first, to make the observance of Genl. Twiggs' orders a *sine qua non*, and to request Col. Ford to so far bring matters to a close, if practicable, as to give a clue to the result of the mission.

On the 6th, sickness prevented me from discharging my official duties. The day following, however, I started to Brownsville, but missed Maj Terry who had taken a different road. I learned at Brownsville that Col. Ford had not communicated in writing with Capt. Hill, until Maj. Terry's arrival. Maj. Terry had urged Col. Ford to make a written demand, who had addressed a communication to Capt. Stoneman.

Maj. Terry, not finding your commissioner at Point Isabel, crossed to Brazos Santiago to communicate the substance of Col. Ford's correspondence with Capt. Stoneman to Lieut. Col. McLeod, and also to quiet the resentment of the troops.

That being effected, both these officers returned at once to Brownsville to aid Col. Ford and your commissioner in the completion of the details, and arrange for the reorganization of the permanent force to remain with Col. Ford and the return of the troops who had gone down for the emergency only.

Your commissioner, on his arrival at Brownsville, found himself too much debilitated by the fatigue of the journey to transact business. Capt. Hill, being at Brownsville and hearing of my arrival and illness, called upon me. He spoke of the difficulty of his position, he being without orders and not authorized to recognize or know anything about secession or any State official not known to the pre-existing government. But now he was under marching orders and was

gratified that matters had taken a pacific turn and that bloodshed would be avoided.

The continued ill health of your commissioner compelled him to abandon the active duties of his mission, and substitute his secretary Mr. Waller.

On the evening of the 10th, Col. Ford arrived and took command in person, Lieut. Col. McLeod and Maj. Terry having reorganized the command as indicated above.

Your commissioner returned with the field officers to the steamer *Rusk*, and on the next day, the 13th, the troops destined for Galveston were marched on board, excepting the Liberty company, which was to be brought by the schooner *Shark*.

At Brazos Santiago I formally appointed Mr. Waller my agent to execute the powers entrusted to me by your committee, so far as the business was unfinished. (See instruction to him marked exhibit K.)

Before sailing from Brazos Santiago, Capt. Smith, of the *Gen. Rusk*, chartered his ship to Maj. Porter, Ass't Adj't Gen. U. S. A., to aid in the removal of the United States troops from the Rio Grande valley.

The steamer *Gen. Rusk* arrived at Galveston on the morning of the 15th. The troops belonging to Harris and Fort Bend counties left on the morning train for their homes, under Maj. Terry's command. Capt. Moseley's company, of Brazoria, left on the Houston steamer the same evening, for their homes.

On the 15th, I wrote to Mr. J. C. Harris, manager of the Southern Steamship company, a letter herewith transmitted, marked L. His reply thereto is also submitted, marked exhibit M.

On the 16th, I dispatched by the steamer *Rusk* to Col. Ford a communication of which the following is a copy :

Galveston, March 16th, 1861.

Col. J. S. Ford,

Comd'g Rio Grande Mil. Dist.

Sir:

As commissioner for the State of Texas, with more ample information of the public necessity in this quarter and of the views of the Convention than when we parted on the 13th inst. at Brazos Santiago, I now write to inform you that all public property, not needed for the active defence of the Rio Grande valley and its outlets, should be immediately removed to points where it is required or may be easily protected. Four 24 pounders, with one mortar and one howitzer, with 100 shot and shell for each gun, and a proper proportion of ammunition will suffice. A proper supply of rifle ammunition for your command will be at your discretion.

The ordnance guns, shot, shell and fixed ammunition will be shipped to Galveston and reported to Gen. Sherman, who is in charge by authority of the Convention. The quartermaster trains and all surplus company wagons and cavalry horses and equipments not required for the use of your command and all surplus movable property will be turned over to Mr. Waller for transportation to San Antonio, where the means of public storage are ample. San Antonio is the proper depot, as it has been heretofore, for the concentration and outfit of troops for the western frontier defence.

The policy to be pursued towards Mexico will be indicated to you through our State Convention, or by the Southern congress at an early day.

I have been too unwell to attend to the buying of corn, but will do so in time for the schooner *Shark* which, I trust, when she returns to you, will be promptly dispatched with a full cargo, and have on board a battery of guns for the use of the Galveston Artillery company.

The enclosed communication from Gen. Sherman will inform you of the preparations that are or will immediately be made for the safe keeping of all the State property shipped here.

For late news I refer you to files of papers.

Very respectfully your obd't serv't,

E. B. Nichols,
Commissioner.

On the 22nd of Feby, while at Brownsville, I sent a dispatch to be forwarded by telegraph from New Orleans, giving information to the Southern congress through our delegation there of the progress of my mission in the valley of the Rio Grande. I also sent dispatches from Galveston on the 25th ult. and the 15th of March, relative to the same subject, and on the 16th wrote at length.

On the 17th March, the schooner *Shark* arrived at Galveston, bringing the Liberty company. By the return of the *Shark* I dispatched to Col. Ford 500 sacks of corn and 500 of oats, he having made a requisition for the same. I also forwarded by the *Shark* the following order to Sergeant Greer:

Jno. L. Greer,

Ord. Serg't, Texas Army.

You will immediately upon the receipt of this, ship upon the schooner *Shark* and also upon the schooner which will carry oil for the lighthouse, both of which vessels are instructed to report to you for that purpose, all the guns of all calibres, including siege guns, mortars, howitzers, field guns and their carriages, as far as they have any there,

travelling forges, battery wagons, caissons, chassis, shot, shell, fixed ammunition and all other military material and property not required for the outfit and active service of Col. Ford's command. The invoice furnished by yourself to me will give you the details of property at Brazos Santiago, and Mr. Waller, who holds my power of attorney as agent of the Convention, will turn over the military stores he receives at Fort Brown.

Having completed the shipment of the property, you will report in person to Capt. W. H. Stephens, Engineer, Texas army, at this place, for duty.

E. B. Nichols,
Commissioner for Texas.

The accounts and vouchers herewith submitted. (see exhibit N,) show that your financial agent borrowed on the faith of the State the sum of \$58,556.81, for which he issued certificates in form as heretofore reported to the order of the parties named in the account as having furnished the money. \$7,741.50 was used by your committee and accounted for. About \$20,000 paid for transportation, ordnance and ordnance stores; \$20,815.31, in quartermaster and commissary stores and cash to the quartermaster's department, including \$3,000 to Mr. Waller to defray the expenses of the transportation train to San Antonio.

There are still some unsettled accounts for the transportation of the troops from Liberty and Brazoria counties, to and from their homes. There is a balance due the steamboat *Union* and schooner *Shark*, amounting in all to about \$2,000.

I would call the attention of the committee to the circumstances of raising money to carry out the views of the Convention. At the time I received the appointment as your commissioner and financial agent, there was a great monetary depression throughout the country and, owing to the unsettled condition of our national affairs, I was in some instances compelled to give my personal security before I could obtain the means necessary to carry out the contemplated objects of my mission. Many considered the undertaking too experimental, however great their patriotism, to give their aid in money.

Your assurances induced me to make strong personal representations in procuring this money that it would be returned immediately upon the reassembling of the State legislature. These circumstances, and the sacredness of this debt, I earnestly hope will be impressed upon the minds of your committee and the legislature of the State.

I cannot conclude without recommending to your kind consideration H. B. Waller, Esq., the secretary of the commission, who not only discharged with fidelity and zeal the duty of the position assigned him, but whose eminent legal ability rendered him indispensable to the commission.

Thanking the Convention for the trust reposed in me, I hope my acts in the discharge of the duties incumbent on me will be satisfactory to you and meet the approbation of my fellow citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

E. B. Nichols,

Commissioner and Financial Agent for the State of Texas.

Exhibits to above Report.

(Exhibit A.)

This article of agreement, between the State of Texas and the Southern Steamship Company of New Orleans, witnesseth:

Firstly, That the said Southern Steamship Company does charter to the State of Texas the steamship *Gen. Rusk* for the purpose of making one trip from Galveston to Brazos St. Iago and back to Galveston; said charter to commence from the time the steamer is reported ready to commence the service, and to terminate when the steamer shall have arrived at Galveston on her return and shall have been delivered back by the State of Texas. The company is to furnish water and fuel for all parties on board, and cabin fare for 40 or 50 officers. The charter is for the term of ten days or less; but, should the State detain or hold the steamer in the service over the ten days specified, then the State of Texas agrees to pay to the Southern Steamship Company \$500 per day for every such day of detention in excess of the specified ten days. The steamer is to be under the charge of her present officers. Should the steamer *Arizona* be detained on her voyage, to accommodate the State of Texas, the State of Texas hereby agrees to pay to the Southern Steamship Company five hundred dollars per day for every such day of detention.

Secondly, That the State of Texas hereby agrees: for and in consideration of the faithful performance of the obligations hereinbefore set forth to pay for the charter of the steamer *Gen. Rusk* the sum of \$5,000 and to deliver the said steamer *Gen. Rusk* back to the said Southern Steamship Company, or its officers, safely and in good order at the port of Galveston, Texas, the usual sea risk while engaged in the voyage excepted.

Thus done and passed, in the city of New Orleans, State of Louisiana, this 13th day of Feby, A. D., 1861.

E. B. Nichols,
 Commissioner and Financial Agent of the State of Texas.
 Southern Steamship Co.
 J. C. Harris, Pres't.

Witnesses:

Maurice Lenihan,
 Jno. B. Heno.

(Exhibit B.)

The State of Texas }
 County of Cameron }

Know all men by these presents that we, John L. Greer, as principal, and F. W. Latham and Dan A. Connor, as sureties, are held and firmly bound unto the State of Texas in the sum of \$1000, for the payment of which well and truly to be made we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents:

Witness our hands, this 21st day of Feby, 1861.

The condition of the above bond is such that whereas the above bounden John L. Greer has been this day appointed sergeant of ordnance at Brazos Santiago,

Now, if the said John L. Greer shall well and truly discharge the duties incumbent on him as such sergeant of ordnance, then this bond to be null and void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

Witness our hands, this the day and date first before written.

John L. Greer.
 Dan. A. Connor.

(Exhibit C.)

Invoice of ordnance and ordnance stores this day turned over by J. Greer, Ordnance Sergeant, U. S. A., to Gen. E. B. Nichols, Texas Army.

3 24 pounders, brass howitzers,	1 Battery wagon,
12 24 pounders, iron siege guns,	4 24 prs. Barbette carriages,
8 8 in. Howitzers, (iron siege,)	4 24 prs. Chassis,
4 10 in. Mortars,	15 24 prs. (or 8 in.) Howitzer
4 12 lbs. Field Limbers.	siege carriages,
1 24 lbs. Howitzer field stock-	3 10 in. Motar beds,
trail,	3 Filling axes,
2 32 lb. Limbers, for 32 lb.	40 Spunge buckets, (wood,)
Howitzers,	34 Tar buckets, (iron,)
4 12 prs. Cassons,	16 Breach sights for cannon,
2 32 Do.	33 Budge barrels,
1 Traveling forge,	45 Cannon locks,

6 Cannon spikes,	1 Scraper,
8 Chocks for Barbette carriages,	2 Do for 24 pounders, guns,
21 Do " " wheels,	3 Do Motars,
12 Drag ropes,	2 Do 8 in. Howitzers,
92 Eye pins or bolts,	6 Shell hooks, (double,)
5 Fuze augurs,	5 Do plug screws,
3 Do extractors,	300 Do splints,
1 Do cutter,	40 Sponge covers, (24 pound-
4 Do gimlets,	ers.)
40 Do mallets,	15 Do (8 in. How-
20 Do plug reamers,	itzers.)
6 Do rasps,	6 Do woolen (12
11 Do saws,	pounders.)
34 Do setters, (brass,)	1 Do and rammer, (24 lbs.,
10 Gimlets, (common,)	Howitzer,)
2 Gunner's callipers,	20 Do Do (8 in.
39 Do gimlets,	Howitzer,)
31 Do haversacks,	1 Do Do (12 lbs.,
1 Do level,	guns,)
1 Do quadrant, (brass,)	45 Sponges and staves, (24 pdrs.,
20 Do Do (wood)	guns,)
2 Grates for hot shot,	3 Ladles and worm,
4 Forks " " "	5 Tangent scales, (12 pdrs.,
18 Grain bags,	guns,)
8 handspikes, trail,	2 Do (24 "
8 Do for 24 lbs. Howitzers,	Howitzers,)
18 Do " " " maneuver-	2 Do (32 "
ing,	Howitzers.)
50 Handspikes, short,	35 Thumb-stalls,
42 Do long,	19 Tompions with straps, (for 8
6 Do shod,	in. Howitzers,)
12 Nose bags,	12 Do for 24 pdrs, guns,
52 Implement stakes,	8 Do " " 12 " "
4 Ladles for hot shot,	2 Tompions for 32 pdrs., how-
6 Do " 24 lbs. guns,	itzers,
7 Lanterns, (dark,)	2 Tongs for hot shot,
9 Do (common,)	15 Tow hooks,
112 Lanyards, (assorted,)	13 Tube pouches,
4 Lead aprons,	13 Vent pouches,
14 Len stocks,	3 Worms and staves for siege
16 Loading tongs,	and garrison,
14 Lock covers, (leather,)	950 24 pounder balls,
30 Mauls,	1200 18 " "
4 Pick axes,	506 12 " "
12 Pairs boxes,	1776 8 in. howitzer shell,
3 Plummets,	814 10 in. Mortar,
16 Pointing stakes,	800 12 pdrs., (for 12 pdrs., guns)
8 Do wires,	fixed shot,
4 Pokers for hot shot,	615 6 pdrs., (for 6 pdrs., guns)
4 Port-firer cases,	fixed shot,
4 Do shears,	200 12 pdrs. sphl. case shot,
17 Do stocks,	106 24 " howitzer sphl. case,
14 Powder funnels, (copper,)	128 12 gun canister,
10 Do measures,	140 6 " "
19 Priming horns,	36 24 pdrs., gun grape,
86 Do wires,	22 12 " " "
6 Priming wires, (field service,)	8 Cavalry sabres,
10 Prolonges,	200 24 pdrs., howitzer cartridges.
48 Rammers and staves for 24	(small charge)
pounders,	50 24 pdrs., howitzer cartridges.
2 Do Do hot shot,	(large charge)
2 Rakes Do,	153 12 pdrs. gun cartridges.
2 Shell hooks,	297 18 Do Do Do
77 Securing stakes,	4960 Musket B. and B. Do

12000 Rifle ball cartridges	2 Garrison Gin Do
11500 Pistol ball percussion cartridge,	12 Gin chocks,
27244 Colt's " " "	2 Single block for F. & G., gin,
500 12 pdrs. cartridge bags, (flannel,)	2 Field and gin hand spikes,
2133 24 Do " " "	4 Garrison " "
400 6 Do " " "	9 Jack screws,
1720 8 in. Howitzers " "	760 Lbs. No. 2 laboratory paper,
720 Fuzes for 10 in. mortars.	6 Long rollers,
2210 " plugs for 8 in. shells,	9 Short Do
80 " wood 24 pdrs., sphr. case shot,	6 Half Do
370 " papers, (assorted,)	1 Hand sling cart, (iron,)
650 " plugs for 8 in. spherical case shot,	38 Sleepers for platform,
22290 Percussion caps for small arms,	3 Shifting planks,
1244 Port-fires,	6 Skids,
1416 lbs. of quick match,	4 Trunnion loops,
323½ " slow " "	6 Slings for cannon,
50 Yards Do	3 Lbs. of cartridge thread,
2 Ammunition chests,	7 Do shoe "
2 Capes, squares,	11 Do twine,
25 Fellies for field carriages,	15 Do white hemp rope,
15 Keys for ammunition chests,	36 Buckles for harness,
25 Linch pins,	2 Lbs. of copper tacks,
16 Leading bars,	250 Do horse shoes,
3 Pad locks,	50 Do " " nails,
123 Nuts, (assorted,)	10-12 Cross wood screws,
8 Nave bands, (developed,)	324 Lbs. cut nails,
10 Lbs. copper nails.	10 " cast steel nails,
4 Spare poles,	10 " steel blister,
1 Pintle hook,	200 " bar iron,
8 Pintle crosses,	5½ " bees wax,
1 Pole prop, locket and ring,	3 Lbs. black wax.
14 Quoins for 8 in. Howitzers,	25 " tallow,
6 Do " 10 " Mortars,	4 Ounces of Bristol, Do,
1 Stock for caissons,	¾ Side of leather, (harness,)
1 Do battery wagon, (ironed,)	2 Do " " (bridle,)
40 Spokes, (filled,)	10 Gals. coal tar,
40 Fire-bolts,	3 Do linseed oil.
4 Do bands,	5 Do neatsfoot,
16 Washers for axletree, linch,	25 Lbs. olive paint.
4 Do " " shoulder,	5 " black "
44 Do nuts and bolts. (heads,)	10 " putty,
6 Spare wheels,	2 Gallons spirits turpentine,
14 12 pdrs. rammer heads,	1½ Quires of envelope paper,
14 Do sponge Do	11 Do letter
12 Halter chains,	11 Do cap
135 Lbs. of pig lead,	60 No. of envelopes,
3 " emery,	7½ Gross steel pens.
48 Blocks,	2 Lead pencils,
1 Gin block, (iron).	11 Pieces of office tape,
1 Treble block,	1¼ Bottles of black ink.
1 Double Do	2 Ordnance manuals, (1850,)
3 Lifting Do	2 Do regulations, (1839,)
18 Half Do	1 Do Do (1852,)
6 Quarter Do	1 Carpenter's adze,
250 Deck plank,	2 Leather aprons,
1 Garrison gin,	1 Smith's anvil,
2 Field and siege gin,	3 Screw augurs.
4 Do Do falls,	2 Brad awls,
	1 Brad awl handle,
	1 Do strap.
	1 Broad axe,
	17 Assorted bits,
	10 Boxes for battery working tools,

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Buttress, | 2 Iron squares, |
| 2 Hob chisels, | 1 Do bevel, |
| 2 Claw nails, | 1 Do trying, |
| 1 Do tools (saddlers) | 1 Saw frame, |
| 1 Compass, (common) | 1 Do fenon, |
| 1 Calliper, | 2 Do setts, |
| 1 Saddler's creasers, | 4 Spotulds, |
| 2 Smith's Do | 6 Spades, |
| 8 Lbs. chalk, | 1 Spoke shave, |
| 5 Chalk lines, | 1 Shoeing knife, (frog) |
| 2 Die stocks, | 1 Saddle's Do (half round) |
| 8 Pairs dies, (assorted) | 5 Smith's tongs, assorted, |
| 12 File handles, | 4 Scythe stones, |
| 4 Wrought files for wood, | 1 Fire cirdle, |
| 1 Fullers, | 9 Taps plugs, |
| 1 Grindstone, | 10 Do (assorted) |
| 7 Smith's hammers, (assorted) | 4 Thimbles, |
| 1 Saddler's Do. | 2 Hand vices, |
| 3 Handles for augurs, | 1 Bevel v'ce, |
| 2 Hardies, | 1 Bench vice, |
| 3 Heading tools, (assorted,) | 6 Wrenches, wreck and screw, |
| 2 Clenching irons, | 6 Do common, |
| 2 Mallets, | 2 Do taps, 4 holes, |
| 100 Saddler's needles, (assorted,) | 2 Boxes for tubes, (black wal- |
| 1 Oil stone, | nut) |
| 2 Putty knives, | 297 Packing boxes, (assorted) |
| 8 Smith's punches, (assorted) | 18 Do baskets, |
| 2 Do pokers, | 30 Powder barrels, |
| 3 Pritchees, | 2 " ½ " |
| 2 Plane irons, | 2 Kegs for tallow, |
| 2 Two foot carpenter's rules, | 9 Tin canisters, (assorted) |
| 2 Smith's shovels, | |
| 1 Do short handle, | |
| 4 Screw drivers, | |

John L. Greer,
Ordnanace Sergeant, U. S. A.

(Exhibit D.)

The State of Texas }
County of Cameron }

Know all men by these presents that we, Wm. W. Reynolds, as principal, and E. B. Nichols and Hugh McLeod, as sureties, are held and firmly bound unto the State of Texas, in the full sum of \$10,000, for the payment of which, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, and each of our heirs and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

Witness our hands, this 24th day of Feby, 1861.

The condition of the above bond is such that whereas the above bounden Wm. W. Reynolds has this day been appointed by Gen. E. B. Nichols, commissioner for the State of Texas, quartermaster to receive and take charge of the government stores and supplies now on Brazos Island, and to enter into the duties of such quartermaster, and to report to Col. John S. Ford, commander of the military department of the Rio-Grande.

Now, if the said Wm. W. Reynolds shall well and truly discharge all the duties incumbent upon him as such quartermaster, and faith-

fully take care of said property placed in his hands as such quartermaster and justly and truly account to the State of Texas, through the properly constituted authorities, for all such property, then this bond to be null and void and of no effect whatever, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

Witness our hands, this the day and date first before written.

W. W. Reynolds,

E. B. Nichols,

H. McLeod.

(Exhibit E.)

Customhouse, Point Isabel, Texas,

Collector's office, March 2nd, 1861

Sir:

Your communication of this date, demanding of me the property belonging to the Federal government in my possession as collector of the customs for the district of Brazos de Santiago, is received. The demand being made in the name of the sovereign people of the State of Texas, supported by an irresistible State military force, and no mode of resisting. I accede to your demand and will deliver to you on a proper receipt therefor all the property in my possession belonging to the Federal government at such time as you may designate. It may not be improper for me to state that I have tendered my resignation to take effect March 4th, 1861.

Respectfully yours,

F. W. Latham.

Gen. E. B. Nichols.

Commissioner for the State of Texas.

(Exhibit F.)

Received, Point Isabel, March 4th, 1861, of E. B. Nichols, Esq., Com'r, etc., for the State of Texas, the following property, located at the port of Point Isabel, Texas, viz:

2 Large walnut desks, (sitting)	11 Bound vols., decisions of Secretary under revenue laws.
1 " " " (standing)	2 Copies tariff, 1846,
1 Large maple table,	1 Light-house regulations,
1 Copying press.	1 Regulations under revenue laws, 1857,
1 Official seal,	1 Coast survey, 1852,
1 Seal press,	Reports of fiscal department,
1 Book case,	Copying bowl and brush,
1 Post office balance.	1 Holy bible,
2 Large iron safes,	2 Tin paper cutters.
1 Clock,	7 Pair scissors.
1 High chair,	1 Tariff, 1857,
1 Letter rack,	3 Pen racks,
3 Calendars,	
1 Spy glass,	

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>10 Paper weights,
 Pen Brush,
 3 ink stands,
 4 Rulers,
 1 Tape measure,
 13 Bound vols., U. S. laws, 1789 to 1858,
 1 Gordon's Digest,
 1 Do compilation of revenue laws,
 1 Mayo's fiscal department,
 2 Sand boxes,
 1 Lot coast charts,
 1 Walnut standing desk, (bond clerk's)
 1 Do Do bench,
 1 Do table,
 2 Book rests,
 2 Paper weights,
 1 Paper cutter,
 1 Ink stand,
 2 Rulers,
 1 Stool,
 1 Foot bench,
 1 Standing poplar desk,
 1 Inkstand,
 1 New stove and pipe,
 1 Walnut table,
 2 Inkstands,
 1 Paper cutter,
 1 Ruler,
 1 Gauge,
 1 Paper case of poplar,
 1 Red cedar case,
 1 Poplar desk and bench,
 1 Foot bench,</p> | <p>1 Walnut table,
 1 Book rest and inkstand,
 1 Pen rack,
 4 Paper weights,
 1 Book-keeper's desk,
 1 Inkstand,
 2 Paper weights,
 1 Sand box,
 2 Book rests,
 2 Rulers,
 1 Thermometer,
 1 Paper case,
 1 Stool,
 1 Foot bench,
 1 Set large scales, (complete)
 6 Walnut and poplar tables,
 12 Chairs,
 1 Small iron life boat, complete, (Francis)
 1 Inkstand, (storekeeper's)
 2 Rulers,
 1 Tin paper cutter,
 1 Measuring stick,
 1 Expeditious calculator,
 2 Common desks,
 2 Paper weights,
 1 Book rest,
 1 Pen rack,
 1 Large building used for warehouses and offices,
 1 Large building used by collector,
 1 Large building used by clerks,
 1 Small building used by messenger,
 4 Cypress cisterns.</p> |
|---|---|

F. W. Latham.

(Exhibit G.)

(Copy.)

Point Isabel, March 4th, 1861.

Col. John S. Ford,
 Com. Rio Grande Mil. Dist.

Sir:

Presuming you had your own good reasons for your hasty departure yesterday evening, I am at a loss to know what course to pursue. From Mr. Kingsbury I learn that the U. S. property will be turned over in due time. You know my wishes respecting the treatment the U. S. officers are to receive at our hands as the representatives of the State of Texas, and my idea is that we should be governed by their wishes and avail ourselves of their experience and judgment in carrying out this important mission.

I feel (and cannot divest myself of it) that we have an interest in the old U. S. A. It is composed of a part and parcel of us, and as we are friends and kin I beg you will continue to exercise your good judgment in the direction you have been doing.

I now take it for granted that we are to have no trouble, and as my mission is about to terminate I would call your attention to the fact that your command as now organized can not be kept together after the fact becomes known that the war is at an end. I brought my company with the express understanding that they would be ordered home the moment you could spare them; several other companies occupy the same position.

I shall return to the island to-day to make arrangements to be with you to-morrow unless you direct otherwise with a view of continuing on the northern boundary of your line, and then on to Austin where I shall settle my accounts with the Convention and make my final report.

Yours respectfully,

E. B. Nichols,
Commissioner.

(Exhibit H.)

Brownsville, March 5th, 1861.

General,

All parties have been expecting you here. I came by your request. I have taken no steps with regard to the property because that would be trenching on your powers. The officers say they will go off on the *Webster*. I understand they will move five companies.

Maj. Porter said late yesterday evening that he would be obliged if the Texas forces, or any portion of them, were not placed on the Rio Grande, so as to be near the U. S. troops when they shall pass. He is extremely anxious to avoid all chances of collision and appears desirous to preserve peace.

We must not by any act of ours saddle the responsibility of making a civil war upon Texas or the South. The North must be made to shoulder everything of that sort. Please to communicate this to Lieut. Col. McLeod and tell him to see to it.

I shall await your arrival until to-morrow evening, and then, if nothing prevents, I shall return to the Brazos.

A peaceful and conciliatory spirit seems to prevail among the officers of the army, and I hope all will go well. Make my respects to all.

Respectfully yours,

John S. Ford,
Col. Comd'g Rio Grande Mil. Dist.

Gen. E. B. Nichols,
Commissioner, etc.

(Exhibit I.)

Head Quar's, Rio Grande Reg't, Texas Army,
Brazos Santiago, March 4, 1861.

Colonel,

The firing at Brownsville has been heard here and has excited this command. The troops interpret it as a menace. You know their character. Many of the privates are planters and professional gentlemen of wealth. They represent the intelligence and chivalry of the planting and commercial region of the State. The whole command, even those who live by their daily labor at home, hold the same language. They all came to save its honor at the peril of life. They feel that a salute fired by the garrison at Fort Brown, on the day of Lincoln's inauguration, dishonors this command and through them the State of Texas. They know that the insult is only aggravated by the fact that their commanding general has acknowledged the authority of the State, as expressed through the committee of Public Safety of the Convention, and issued public orders for their retirement from our territory, and they—our officers and men—express their determination with a spirit which my own feelings and judgment do not permit me to repress.

But this is not my own judgment alone. It is concurred in by the field officers present, Maj. Terry, and above us both by the commissioner of the Convention, Gen. Nichols. They are with me while I write.

I now beg that you will reply by Capt. Conner of the Fort Bend Rifles, who carries this communication, that the firing of to-day is not of an insulting or hostile character to the State, or your regiment will be in full march on to-morrow to settle the question with the U. S. troops in the field.

With high respect,

H. McLeod,

Lieut. Col. Com. Post.

To Col. J. S. Ford, T. A.,
Brownsville

(A copy)

J. E. Love, Adj't.

(Exhibit J.)

(Copy.)

Brazos Santiago, March 5th, 1861.

To J. C. Harris, Presd't,
S. S. S. Co., New Orleans,

Sir:

I intended to advise you that as anticipated and agreed upon by

us, my State requires the use of your ship longer than provided for in the charter. I have been too much occupied to do so, but I am now called upon to report an outrage committed by Capt. Smith of the *Arizona*, which cannot be overlooked.

He arrived in port and left in a few minutes with his passengers, mail, etc., without even reporting to Col. McLeod, commanding this post, or to me, nor did he have the courtesy even to send Col. McLeod a newspaper.

Important events are transpiring; it is reported that Gen. Twiggs has been disgraced. I fear Capt. Smith has committed a fatal error. I shall request Col. Ford, who is hourly expected, to arrest and iron him, and but for my knowledge of your political sentiments and those of my much esteemed friend Mr. Morgan and your stockholders, your handsome treatment to me as the agent of Texas, and the fact that the *Arizona* comes to us with the flag of Louisiana at her main, for which I give you credit, and not Capt. Smith, supposing that it was done by your orders, which flag one of our batteries on shore is now saluting, and but for which I should feel bound to require Col. McLeod to take possession of her.

Truly yours,
E. B. Nichols,
Commissioner.

(Exhibit K.)

(Copy.)

Instructions to H. B. Waller.

Brazos Santiago, March 13, 1861.

Sir:

In carrying out the purposes of the power of attorney to act as my agent, you will keep always in view that the preservation of the property turned over by the U. S. government is of the greatest importance to the State.

You will, therefore, after filling the requisitions of Col. Ford for such material and transportation as may be necessary for the efficiency of his command, at once proceed to make up a train of all valuable military stores, not needed for the use of the troops in this valley, and order it to proceed by the most practicable route to San Antonio. In case of difficulty with Mexico, the public property will be in danger from vagabond forays, organized on the other side of the river for plunder, like the late one of Cortina. The reinforcements to enable Col. Ford to repel such assaults must come from San Antonio and beyond. That point would, therefore, be the proper rendezvous, and the transportation and military stores would be both secure and avail-

able at that place. In addition to these reasons, the quartermaster's depot at San Antonio will furnish ample and safe storage for all the property.

E. B. Nichols,
Commissioner.

(Exhibit L.)

Galveston, March 15th, 1861.

Mr. J. C. Harris, Manager,
S. S. S. Co., New Orleans.

Sir:

I had this pleasure last, at Brazos Santiago, on the 5th inst., when it was believed the officers in command of the U. S. troops at Fort Brown would not observe the agreement between Gen. Twiggs and the Texas commissioners, and at the moment the rumor of Gen. Twiggs having been stricken from the roll of army officers and disgraced was read to me from the *Delta*, but, as matters did not terminate as seriously as I then anticipated, I did not require Lieut. Col. McLeod to arrest Capt. Smith, who I hope meant no disrespect to Texas.

Important dispatches I forwarded by Capt. Smith on his previous voyage have never reached their destination, so far as I know. One was to Col. Herbert of your army, and another to the Texas delegation at Montgomery. I have had the services of your steamer *Rusk* for, I believe, 28 days, at \$500 per day, for which I will settle with you in due time. I could not carry out the object of my mission to the Rio Grande without chartering rather requesting Capt. Smith of the *Rusk* to charter his ship to the United States, as her charter party, sent you by Capt. Smith. Maj. Porter assured me that he was provided with cash to pay the charter at Key West. You will observe that the charter provides for the payment to be made to Capt. Smith, or to your authorized agent.

You will, therefore, give the necessary directions respecting it. Trusting that my action will meet your approval, I am, very respectfully,

E. B. Nichols,
Commissioner.

(Exhibit M.)

Office of the Southern Steamship Co.,
New Orleans, March 18th, 1861.

E. B. Nichols, Esq.,

Commissioner and Financial Agent of the State of Texas.

Dear Sir:

Your favors, 5th and 15th inst., are at hand. I am pleased to know

that the expedition to Brazos has terminated so favorable for the State of Texas. I regret, however, that you should have counselled Capt. Smith to charter the *Gen. Rusk* for the purpose of conveying troops to Florida, as I fear it may be construed by parties not understanding the case as a willingness on my part to aid in reinforcing Federal garrisons. If, however, as you state, it was part of your policy, thus to dispose of U. S. troops, I am content and trust should any question of my action in this case arise you will put to rest any imputations that may be cast upon my fealty to the South.

I have now to notify you that the State of Texas is charged on the books of the Southern Steamship Company with 28 days service of the steamer *Gen. Rusk*, from morning of 16th of Feby to night of 15th of March, at \$500 per day, \$14,000.00
 With towing schooner *Shark* to Brazos, 500.00
 With 250 bbls. coal, 250.00

\$14,750.00

Respectfully yours,

J. C. Harris,
 Manager.

(Exhibit N.)

The State of Texas in account with E. B. Nichols, Commissioner and Financial Agent.

1861.	Debits.	Voucher.	
Feby 13.	To paid Fiquet & Bouvet's Bill,	1	\$ 83.50
"	" J. H. & J. N. Marks	2	1,248.70
"	" Jas. Connolly & Co.	3	4,478.40
"	" State La., Bill of caps	4	50.00
15	" E. H. Letchford & Co.	5	1,570.00
18	" J. C. Robertson, cash	6	10,000.00
"	" W. Richardson, bill	7	11.75
20	" A. Blum & Bros.	8	63.00
27	" Ladd & Emory	9	354.63
"	" J. W. Franks	10	79.50
"	" E. L. Ufford	11	166.50
"	" E. B. Nichols & Co.	12	58.71
"	" Antonio Morgan's	13	38.75
"	" A. Blum & Bros.	14	196.80
"	" E. B. Nichols & Co.	15	505.47
"	" G. Opperman & Co.	16	611.50
"	" Block & Dean's	17	581.02
"	" Thos. Ellis'	18	113.00
"	" John Westcott's	19	34.50
"	" Anton Miller's	20	14.00
"	" A. Ball's	21	24.00
"	" Lippman Koppre	22	141.00
"	" H. Rosenberg	23	500.00
"	" Von Harten & Nieboun	24	150.54
28	" J. T. Ware's	25	1,545.67
"	" Gustave Jenney's	26	140.20
"	" F. Hitchcock & Co.	27	49.75

Mar.	2.	To Geo Schneider	Bill	28	29.45
		“ Briggs & Yard	“	29	228.40
		“ A. Blum & Bros.	“	30	40.00
		“ Do	“	31	83.25
		“ H. C. L. Aschoff	“	32	30.20
		“ Do	“	33	87.40
		“ Do	“	34	145.20
		“ L. H. Wood & Co.	“	35	258.45
		“ Do	“	36	101.75
		“ E. B. Nichols & Co.	“	37	63.88
Mar.	16.	“ J. Buckley's	“	38	139.50
		“ C. L. Beisner's	“	39	50.75
		“ Howard & Burkhardt's	“	40	378.50
		“ Root & Davis	“	41	180.75
		“ E. L. Ufford's	“	42	28.50
		“ C. Angelini	“	43	14.25
		“ W. Kennedy	“	44	2,000.00
		“ Texas Telegraph Co.	“	45	3.35
		“ C. Neederhoefer	“	46	20.60
		“ Shergory's	“	47	60.25
		“ A. Champion	“	48	120.00
		“ N. Champion	“	49	20.00
		“ Steamer Neptune	“	50	108.00
		“ J. P. Davis	“	51	1,037.02
		“ T. W. Bunker, pilotage,	“	52	69.00
		“ Do services,	“	53	50.00
		“ Jno. S. Ford	“	54	300.00
		“ Lieut. Col. H. McLeod	“	55	10.00
		“ H. B. Waller	“	56	3,000.00
Mar.	16.	To W. W. Reynolds	Bill	57	3,000.00
		“ Do	“	58	1,000.00
		“ Bal. acct Leon Smith's	“	59	962.67
		“ Adj't Love for Col. Ford	“	60	900.00
		“ Kaufman and Klaener's	“	61	30.25
		“ Lt. Col. McLeod	“	62	30.00
		“ Capt. Geo. Patterson	“	63	75.00
		“ Armstrong & Bros.	“	64	19.00
		“ American Telegraph Co.	“	65	17.20
	18	“ C. E. Thompson, Coms.	“	66	5.00
		“ Anton Miller's drayage	“	67	17.00
		“ Southwestern Express Co.	“	68	2.50
		“ T. B. Stubbs & Co.	“	69	111.61
	19	“ G. H. & H. R. R. Co's.	“	70	876.50
		“ T. C. Shearer & Co.	“	71	2,172.16
		“ E. S. Woods	“	72	99.42
		“ J. P. Davis	“	73	11.00
		“ S. T. Fontaine	“	74	10.00
		“ Jas. Connoley & Co.	“	75	706.01
		“ Schooner <i>Shark</i> 1 mo.	“	76	925.00
		“ D. Neil	“	77	143.75
		“ C. L. Beisner	“	78	100.00
	23	“ E. B. Nichols	“	79	408.00
		“ J. C. Harris, Manager	“	80	14,905.40
		“ Diana's bill trans. troops	“	81	86.00
		“ B. B. B. & C. R. R. Co.	“	82	174.00
		“ L. M. Hitchcock	“	83	300.00
					\$58,556.81
Mar.	23.	To balance due in cash,			\$ 3,209.16

1861.		Credits.		
Feb'y.	13.	By cash from Citizens Bank, N. O.,		\$10,000.00
“		By cash from E. B. Nichols' endorsement La. State Bank,		10,000.00

	By cash from W. H. Leitchfield & Co., N. O.,	1,570.00
	By cash from Jas. Connoly & Co., N. O.,	2,500.00
21	“ “ Wm. Hendley & Co.,	500.00
	“ “ Mr. Mahant Gilbert,	500.00
	“ “ J. S. Sellers,	500.00
22.	“ “ Kauffman & Keamen,	250.00
28.	“ “ J. C. Kuhn,	1,000.00
	“ “ Dean Randle & Co.,	500.00
	“ “ R. & D. G. Mills,	1,500.00
	“ “ H. Rosenberg,	500.00
	“ “ J. T. Ware,	500.00
	“ “ Ladd & Amory,	354.63
	“ “ Briggs & Yard,	228.40
	“ “ B. A. Shepherd & Co.,	1,000.00
	“ “ J. M. Brown, Prest.	876.50
	“ “ Ball, Hutchings & Co.,	1,000.00
	“ “ L. H. Wood & Co.,	360.20
	“ “ J. P. Davie,	1,037.02
	“ “ B. H. Shepherd, Agt.,	108.00
	“ “ M. Kennedy,	2,000.00
	“ “ A. Jameson,	925.00
23.	“ for J. C. Robertson, Chrm'n,	2,258.50
Mar. 23.	By cash from J. C. Harris, Manager,	\$ 14,905.40
	“ “ B. B. B. & C. R. R. Co.,	“ 174.00
	“ “ L. M. Hitchcock,	“ 300.00
	By Balance,	“ 3,209.16
		<u>\$58,556.81</u>

E. B. Nichols,
Commissioner.

Austin, March 23, 1861.

REPORT NO. 5.

Committee Room, March 22, 1861.

To Hon. O. M. Roberts,
President of the Convention.

The committee on Public Safety beg leave to report to the Convention that they found it absolutely necessary to go to Galveston to distribute means for carrying on the enterprises they had set on foot to obtain the Federal property for the State, and being authorized by the Convention to hold their sessions when and where in their judgment the public safety demanded they made arrangements to adjourn to meet at Galveston. Some of the committee, when they left home not anticipating the action of the Convention in requiring them to remain in session, did not provide means for defraying such expenses. The committee, however, were relieved by Dr. Simms, who generously and patriotically tendered to the committee the use of \$400. The committee accepted the amount for the use of the committee. When the committee reached Galveston, they received from their financial agent, Gen. E. B. Nichols, the sum of \$10,000. A full account of the debits and credits of the committee has been rendered