IN SENATE. 
MONDAY, MAY 11, 1846.

The Journal having been read—

A Message was received from the President of the United States, by Mr. Walker, his Private Secretary, which was read by the Secretary of the Senate, as follows:

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIONS:

The existing state of the relations between the United States and Mexico renders it proper that I should bring the subject to the consideration of Congress. In my Message at the commencement of your present session, I stated the state of those relations, the causes which led to the suspension of diplomatic intercourse between the two countries in March, 1845, and the long continued and unredressed wrongs and injuries committed by the Mexican Government on citizens of the United States in their persons and property, were briefly set forth.

As the facts and opinions which were then laid before you were carefully considered, I cannot better express my present convictions of the condition of affairs up to that time, than by referring you to that communication.

The strong desire to establish peace with Mexico, on liberal and honorable terms, and the readiness of this Government to regulate and adjust our boundary, and other causes of difference with that Power, on such fair and equitable principles as would lead to permanent relations of the most friendly nature, induced me in September last to seek the reopening of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Every measure adopted on our part had for its object the furtherance of these desired results. In communiquing to Congress a succinct statement of the injuries which we had suffered from Mexico, and which have been accumulating during a period of more than twenty years, every expression that could tend to inflame the people of Mexico, or deflect or delay a pacific result, was carefully avoided. An Envoy of the United States repaired to Mexico with full powers to adjust every existing difference. But though present on the Mexican soil, by agreement between the two Governments, invested with full powers, and bearing evidence of the most friendly dispositions, his mission has been unequalled. The Mexican Government not only refused to receive him, or listen to his propositions, but after a long-continued series of inconveniences, have at last invaded our territory and shed the blood of our fellow-citizens on our own soil.

It now becomes my duty to state more in detail the origin, progress, and failure of that mission. In pursuance of the instructions given in September last, an inquiry was made, on the 15th of October, in 1845, in the most friendly terms, through our consul in Mexico, of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, whether the Mexican Government would receive an envoy from the United States intrusted with full powers to adjust all the questions in dispute between the two Governments; with the assurance that “should the answer be in the affirmative, such an envoy would be immediately despatched to Mexico.” The Mexican Minister, on the 15th of October, gave an affirmative answer to this inquiry, requesting at the same time that our naval force at Vera Cruz might be withdrawn, lest its continued presence might assume the appearance of menace and coercion pending the negotiations. This force was immediately withdrawn. On the 16th of November, 1845, Mr. John Slidell, of Louisiana, was commissioned by me as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to Mexico, and was intrusted with full powers to adjust both the questions of the Texas boundary and of indemnification to our citizens. The redress of the wrongs of our citizens naturally and inseparably blended itself with the question of boundary. The settlement of the one question in any correct view of the subject involves that of the other. I could not, for a moment, entertain the idea that the claims of our much-injured and long-suffering citizens, many of which had existed for more than twenty years, should be postponed, or separated from the settlement of the boundary question.

Mr. Slidell arrived at Vera Cruz on the 30th of November, and was courteously received by the authorities of that city. But the Government of General Herrera, was then contending to its fall. The revolutionary party had seized upon the Texas question to effect or hasten its overthrow. Its determination to restore friendly relations with the United States, and to receive our Minister, to negotiate for the settlement of this question, was violently resisted, and was made the great theme of demonstration against it. The Government of General Herrera, there is good reason to believe, was sincerely desirous to receive our Minister; but it yielded to the storm raised by its enemies, and on the 1st of December refused to accredit Mr. Slidell upon the inoffensive guerrillas. These are so fully and ably exposed in the note of Mr. Slidell of the 3rd of December, that to the Mexican Minister...
of Foreign Relations, herewith transmitted, that I deem it unnecessary to enter into further detail on this portion of the subject.

Five days after the date of Mr. Siddle's note, General Herrera was appointed the commandant to General Paréde's division. The officers of this division, as is customary, were necessarily absent from the camp, and on the 30th of December, General Herrera pressed the case of the Government to the president. The request was acceded to, and the admittance was restored to the Federation, which was the object of the request. The administration, therefore, was not only restored to the Federation, but was also restored to the government of the United States, and the government of the United States, as the result of the restoration, was administered by a competent government. The government of the United States was, therefore, in all respects, a government of the United States.

But the government of the United States was, in all respects, a government of the United States, and as such it was entitled to the protection of the law. The government of the United States was, therefore, in all respects, a government of the United States, and as such it was entitled to the protection of the law.

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