



Texas Navy Association

Historical Article



letter to Commodore Tod.]
[COPT.]

. WASHINGTON, TEXAS, April 28th, 1857.
Capt. JOHN G. TOD, GALVESTON:

MY DEAR SIR,—Your favor of 21st instant, with enclosures, came to hand to-day. I take pleasure in replying by first opportunity; and also to send to his Excellency, Gov. Pease, the certificate you requested, as I do to-day. A copy of the certificate I herewith enclose you for your early information. It is, I believe, sufficiently full, and I hope you will meet with no delay in receiving your pay at Washington. I do not see how a question can be made, as you probably have in your possession papers, which would, of themselves, constitute a sufficient voucher, independent of a certificate from me, or any one else. It is well enough, however, to be fully armed, as we both recollect the story of Lord Nelson's being refused pay for his eye, until he obtained the certificate of a surgeon that it was "out;" and afterwards tendered a similar one that his arm was "off," when he went to receive his pay for that unlucky member.

I am sincerely, and truly, and heartily glad

that the officers of the navy of Texas have at length obtained relief, and at least partial justice; and I accord to Gen. Rusk especially, and to all those who so nobly advocated the measure in Congress, great credit for their efforts in this behalf. When at the North in 1850, '53 and '54, I embraced every opportunity which presented to advocate their claims, where such advocacy promised to be of the least service; and I have omitted no occasion during the last twelve years to do the same. In the matter of annexation, the cause of these officers was, by no means, lost sight of by me; but it was one of those "contingencies" of that great American measure, which, while its injustice was pointed out and admitted, could not be obviated at the time; but, like many other things, had to be left to the magnanimity and the generosity of the Government of the United States. Relief should have come much sooner, and should have been yielded with a better grace—it should have been freely tendered, and promptly. It would have been more honorable to the United States, and more just and acceptable to the gallant men of our little navy.

Texas was poor, and it was always a source of sorrow and mortification to me that

they could not all have been paid their just dues during my administration. But our treasury was exhausted—our credit gone—our frontiers threatened by savage and Mexican enemies, and it appeared necessary, ABSOLUTELY necessary, for me to husband every dollar of the public money to meet the pressing emergencies, either present or contingent, upon which our very existence as a nation seemed to be suspended in uncertainty. Things have been changed. Texas is now rich, and so is the General Government, and these just claims of her naval officers have been too long neglected.

I was ever the friend of these officers; though I have probably been misunderstood by them, and, perhaps, often misrepresented by my enemies to them. But I took as good care of them as I did of myself, or better rather, and they are now far nearer obtaining reward for their services and sacrifice in the public behalf than I ever expect to be. I served Texas some ten or twelve years, almost for nothing, and in consummating annexation was, incontinently, "stricken from the rolls" without a cent, or a "thank you, sir," even. But I have not complained. The sacrifice was made freely and voluntarily. It is true "I am stricken, and my heart, like a bruised reed, is

waiting to be broken,” but after I am dead my services will be appreciated. Contemporary hatred, injustice and jealousy, will prevent an earlier return for them. But I am quietly at work on my little farm, with one sound and one crippled hand; and my two boys, Edward and Charles, are now able to assist me in the daily labor necessary to support a dependent family. If we can have our healths, and favorable seasons, I have no fear of being able to get along quite well. I am, now, almost sixty years old, and consequently may expect to be “relieved” before many days.

I shall be happy to hear from you, and to know how you speed at Washington. And remain, as ever, your friend, Anson JONES.

MEMORANDA AND OFFICIAL
CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE
REPUBLIC OF TEXAS, ITS HISTORY AND
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