

NEGOTIATIONS WITH MEXICO.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

Transmitting the information required by Resolutions of the House of Representatives,

RELATING TO CERTAIN NEGOTIATIONS

WITH THE

Government of the United Mexican States.

DECEMBER 28, 1826.

Read, and laid upon the table.

WASHINGTON :

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To the House of Representatives of the United States :

WASHINGTON, 28th December, 1826.

I transmit to the House of Representatives a report from the Secretary of State, containing the information requested, by two resolutions of the House, relating to certain negotiations with the Government of the United Mexican States.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, 26th Dec. 1826.

The Secretary of State, to whom the President has referred two resolutions of the House of Representatives, under date the 19th inst. the first requesting the President to inform the House, "if he deem it not incompatible with the public interest, whether any instructions have been given to our Minister at Mexico, relative to the ascertaining and running of the boundary line between that Government and the United States; and if such instructions have been given, whether an answer has been received to the same, and what that answer is," and the second, requesting the President, under the same qualification, to inform the House "whether any measures have been taken, by instructions to our Minister at Mexico, or otherwise, to obtain the runaway negro slaves from Louisiana and elsewhere, which have taken refuge in the territories of that Government; and also whether any measures have been taken with the Government of Mexico, to enable citizens of the United States to recover debts from those who have fled from the United States to the territories of Mexico," has the honor to report, that the subjects, both of the boundary between the territories of the United States and those of the United Mexican States, and of slaves who have escaped from their proprietors in the United States and taken refuge in the territories of the United Mexican States, have formed topics of instruction to the Minister of the United States at Mexico, and of negotiation between the two Governments; and a treaty has been signed by their Plenipotentiaries, embracing, among other stipulations, an article in relation to one of those two subjects; but as the treaty has not been ratified or rejected, (as far as information has yet reached this Department,) by either Government, it is respectfully submitted, that it would be premature now to disclose the purport of that article. And it would be still more premature, as is also respectfully submitted, to communicate, at this time, what has passed between the two Governments in relation to the other of the two subjects above mentioned, there being yet in progress a negotiation concerning it.

In respect to the recovery of debts from those who have fled from the United States to the territories of Mexico, although reports have reached this Department that the laws in the adjoining province of Texas interposed obstacles to such recovery, those reports have not been substantiated in such manner as appeared to the Secretary of State would justify a formal application to the Mexican Government to remove those obstacles.

All which is respectfully submitted.

H. CLAY.