

U.S Ship Raritan  
Off Vera Cruz 11 June 1846

My dear Sir,

The Mexican consul assembled on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst [instant]: and is said to be the largest in the number of deputies ever assembled. I have carefully examined the newspapers, both from Mexico & Vera Cruz, but they are so much under the control of the Govt, and say so little, that but a very imperfect account of the real state of the country can be learned from them.

The speeches in [the Mexican?] Congress are full of indignation against the “norte” and there are many resolutions to provide for the expenses of the war but there is no revenue [sic]. Genl. Paredes has marched against our forces with 8000 men from the City of Mexico – The papers announce that he will receive large reinforcements on his march – The public opinion however is, that his troops will desert him, and that he will reach the frontier with but few followers.

This province – all the western provinces and the city of Gaudalaxaya [Guadalajara] have all pronounced in favour of Santanna. The last arrivals from Havanna [sic] say the Santanna [Santa Ana] will not return to Mexico, unless the call is unanimous- The most important news in the Journals is, that all the provinces that have pronounced against the present Govt have all voted supplies for the army, and passed resolutions to support the war against the United States and to resist this “Unholy” invasion.

General Arista has published a proclamation saying, that after exhausting all his powder and ball-consuming all his provisions he abandoned Matamoros, with all the honors of war- taking with all his arms and artillery. He says that he has taken up his position near Matamoros and calls for more troops. This is believed throughout the country, and at this time the Mexicans are resolved to prosecute the war.

Our blockade, so far, is only a Quasi blockade – All the vessels that we have yet fallen in with under Mexican colors, claim to belong to Campechy and are permitted to pass from whence; [sic] their cargos find their way to Mexico. A semimonthly British steamer leaves for England via Havana and she enters the port as noncommercial. Yet, the last one carried out more than \$2.000.000 in species besides much cochineal and Jalap.

All the ports – i.e. Vera Cruz and Tampico & could be easily taken and occupied. The castle here is strong and would resist a heavy bombardment, yet it could be taken by storming.

I find here that the British Consul and the British Com[manding] officer have all the news; even in advance of the Mexican Gov[‘]t. They not only have their agents in the Mexican camp but even, I am convinced in General Taylor[‘]s camp. On our arrival here from Port Isabel, The English Commander gave me later intelligence from the seat of war than we brought with us.

Our dispatches to our squadron in the Pacific could only be sent on to Mazattan, through English houses.

Are they not in all probability, opened and read by the British Consuls and the Minister at Mexico? The dispatches brought here by the Princeton were sent on in that way.



LancasterHistory

I visit Spanish, French and Mexican ships; all are without news, but the moment that I set my foot on board a British ship I hear all the news not only from Mexico but from the army; and the interest which they manifest in all the proceedings show, that they have much at stake, and that they are personally interested. I forward with this a package of Mexican papers, from them you may learn the tone of the Gov[']t more in detail.

The Raritan is the senior ship in the Gulf, Commodore Conner being at Pensacola. The health of Com. C. is not good. Our ship, from having been much at sea and for 9 months almost entirely without fresh provision has at this time a large number sick with Dysentery and Scurvy.

Should any thing occur here which would be important to you I shall write - please let my Lancaster friends, should you see any of them, know that I am well.

With respect your friend &  
Obedient Servt [servant]  
J.M. Foltz

Hon: James Buchanan  
Secretary of State

