

CHAPTER XIII

· SECOND TERM AS PRESIDENT — ANNEXATION

THE Constitution of the Republic made the President ineligible for two succeeding terms. There were three candidates in the field for the succession to Houston, Mirabeau B. Lamar, the Vice-President, Peter W. Grayson, and James Collingsworth. The contest was a very bitter one, and virulent personal attacks were made against the candidates. Just before the election Grayson committed suicide by shooting himself at Bean's Station, Tennessee, and Collingsworth by throwing himself from a steamer into Galveston Bay. Lamar was elected President, and David G. Burnett Vice-President. Lamar was a man of extravagant ideas, and regarded Texas as an established empire, with all the possibilities of territorial expansion, unlimited wealth, and military and naval conquest. He was inaugurated December 8, 1838. In his address he declared himself emphatically against annexation to the United States, and drew a glowing picture of the advantages that would accrue to Texas from maintaining her own autonomy. In his first message to Congress he recommended the establishment of a national bank, to be founded on the hypothecation of a specific portion of the public

domain, the guarantee of the plighted faith of the nation, and an adequate deposit of specie or its "equivalent." The specie, or its equivalent, was not forthcoming, and the bank was not organized.

Lamar's policy in regard to the Indians was the direct opposite of that of Houston. He declared that they were public enemies or intruders, and had no rights to the soil. If any grants had been made to them by the Mexican government they had been extorted by fear of the tomahawk and the scalping knife, and therefore void. The "solemn declaration" made by the Convention of 1835 had never been ratified, and in any case was void because the Indians had not fulfilled their part of its obligations by keeping quiet. He denounced the Indians as pestilent and merciless enemies to the settlers, and declared in favor of a war against them, which "would admit of no compromise, and have no termination except in their total extinction or total expulsion." There is no doubt that Lamar's policy in regard to the Indians was in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the white settlers. They regarded the aboriginal inhabitants simply as noxious wild beasts, who ought to be cleared from the land like wolves. Constant collisions took place as the restless colonists pushed farther and farther into the interior, and the wild Indians were naturally predatory and barbarous. Those who were partially civilized, like the Cherokees, occupied rich lands which the settlers coveted, and there was little respect for Indian occupancy or

agreement as to boundaries. It is one of the most creditable features in Houston's character that he opposed the prevailing animosity of the people against the Indians, and persisted, so far as he had power or influence, in a system of justice and protection of their rights. An occasion for active operations against the Indians was not long wanting. General Canalezo, who had succeeded to Filisola in command of the troops on the Rio Grande, endeavored to stir up the Indians to active hostilities against the colonists. He sent one Manuel Flores as agent to the Cherokees and other tribes, with letters to the chiefs urging them to war. Flores and his party were discovered and attacked near Austin by a number of the colonists. Flores was killed, and his letters fell into the hands of the Texans. Although there was no evidence that the Cherokee chiefs had made, or were likely to make, any agreement with the Mexicans, it was assumed that the danger was pressing, and that the tribe must be expelled from the country. A force was organized by General Albert Sidney Johnston, the Secretary of War, consisting of Colonel Burleson's regiment, which had been fighting the prairie Indians in the West, and volunteer companies under General Rusk and Colonel Landrum, from the eastern settlements, the whole under the command of General K. H. Douglass. The Indians were informed in "a firm but friendly manner," by General Johnston, that they must leave the country and surrender their gunlocks. They refused. They were

attacked by the troops on July 14, 1839, near the Cherokee village, and defeated in a sharp engagement. They rallied the following day and were again defeated, Bowles, their war chief, being killed. The troops then advanced against the Shawnees, who surrendered without a battle. The Texans burned the cabins and laid waste the cornfields of both these tribes, and the Indians withdrew across the Red River, or scattered to the northern prairies, where they formed hostile and predatory bands against the settlements. Houston was absent from the country on a visit to the United States when this raid took place. He had protested against the repudiation of the "solemn declaration" in Congress, but without avail. On his return, he addressed the citizens of Nacogdoches, who were unanimous in favor of the expulsion of the Cherokees. The most violent charges were made against him, and he was accused of inciting the Indians to resist the government. Threats were made that he would be shot if he attempted to speak. He came forward and stilled the crowd by his commanding presence. He denounced the administration for its breach of plighted faith, and accused the soldiers of barbarity in mutilating the body of Bowles. The audience listened in silence, and Houston's courage and sincerity triumphed over their tumultuous passions.

Trouble broke out with the Comanches from a more reasonable cause. These haughty and untamable Indians had been accustomed to domineer over

the timorous Mexicans, and to conduct their negotiations in a very masterful and contemptuous fashion. A delegation of the chiefs of the tribe came into San Antonio to arrange a treaty of peace with the Texan commissioners on March 11, 1840. They had agreed to bring in their captives, but only surrendered Matilda Lockhart, a little girl. They alleged that the other twelve prisoners whom they were known to possess had been captured by other tribes. The Lockhart girl said that the other captives were detained for ransom in the Indian camp near the town. The chiefs were informed that all the white captives must be brought in, and that they would be detained as prisoners until they were. A company of soldiers was brought into the council room to keep them under guard. The chiefs shouted the war-whoop and drew their knives. A desperate *mêlée* took place in the room, in which the Indians were all killed. The warriors on the outside took the alarm, and commenced to shoot. There was a running fight in the streets of the town, in which a number of Indians, including squaws, were killed. The Comanches were deeply enraged at the slaughter of their chiefs, and determined to avenge it. On the 4th of August, a raiding party of 600 swept down upon the country, and attacked Victoria. They were repulsed, but gathered a great booty of horses and cattle, and massacred a number of the outlying settlers. They then surprised and burned the little town of Linnville on the coast, most of the inhabitants escaping in boats

and lighters off shore into the harbor. As the Indians were returning with their booty, they were followed and attacked by a body of troops raised among the settlers. A battle took place on Plum Creek, in which the Indians were routed and scattered. The government determined to carry the war into the Comanche country. The force under Colonel John H. Moore attacked the principal village of the tribe, on the Red fork of the Colorado, October 23. It was surrounded at daybreak and surprised. Men, women, and children, were indiscriminately slaughtered, and the village burned. The entire Comanche nation was exasperated, and a desolating warfare raged on the frontier during the whole of Lamar's term of office. Companies of rangers were maintained in service during the period at a great expense, and the frontier settlements were kept in continual turmoil and peril as the result of the President's "vigorous Indian policy."

Lamar had no less extensive views in regard to the naval operations of the Republic. In 1838, Mexico had been engaged in a war with France over the claims of French citizens. The French fleet had bombarded and taken Vera Cruz, and in an attempt to drive them out, Santa Anna had lost his leg, and recovered his popularity. Yucatan had also revolted, and was endeavoring to gain its independence. The Texan navy of four vessels had entirely disappeared at the beginning of Lamar's administration. One was captured, one sunk, and the other two condemned

as unseaworthy. Appropriations of imaginary funds were made on an extensive scale for the purchase of a new fleet. The steamer *Zavala*, mounting eight guns, the sloop-of-war *Austin*, twenty guns, two brigs, the *Colorado* and *Dolphin*, and three schooners, the *San Bernard*, *San Antonio*, and *San Jacinto*, were purchased on credit. The fleet was put under the command of Commodore E. W. Moore, and sent to Yucatan to aid the insurgents.

The Federalists in the Northern States of Mexico had taken advantage of the disturbances to organize a revolt. An adventurer by the name of Canales undertook to found a Federal Republic in North Mexico in alliance with Texas, and persuaded a number of Texans, under Colonels Ross and Jordan, to join him in an invasion across the Rio Grande. They were mere filibusters without the authorization of the Texan government. The expedition shared the usual fate of the invasions of Mexico, in arousing the hostility of the inhabitants and experiencing the treachery of their allies. After fighting several battles and occupying several towns, they were deserted on the field of Saltillo by their allies, but fought their way through the enemy, and retreated in safety to Texas.

Lamar's great scheme, however, was the conquest or occupation of New Mexico. An expedition was organized among the adventurers, who had been disappointed in the failures to invade Mexico, and Congress was asked to authorize and make an appropria-

tion for it. Houston, who was a Representative from Nacogdoches, was strongly opposed to it. The debate had gone on apparently in its favor, and the usual fiery and flamboyant speeches had been made about planting the Lone Star flag on the cathedral towers of Santa Fé. When they had been concluded, Houston, who had been sitting on one of the back benches, engaged in his usual habit of whittling, rose, and with his practical sense and humorous illustration demolished the scheme. He pointed out the folly of the expedition across 600 miles of uninhabited country, and the mistake of expecting that the people of New Mexico, who were thoroughly Mexicans in their education and sympathies, would receive the invaders otherwise than as enemies. Such an expedition would inevitably arouse the active hostility of Mexico and provoke an invasion on the western frontier. Houston took up the arguments of the advocates of the expedition, one after another, and answered them. Coming to the speech of Isaac Van Zandt, who had spoken in a very "high-falutin" style, he used one of those familiar illustrations which were a feature of his command over a frontier audience. He said, "A Tennessee neighbor once stationed his negro, Cæsar, with a rifle at a deer drive, and told him to shoot when the animal broke cover. The deer sprang out, but the rifle made no sound. When Cæsar was cursed for not shooting, he replied, 'Lord a mighty, massa, dat buck jump so high, I think he break his own neck.' So with my

young friend Van Zandt; he jumps so high in his speech that he breaks his own neck, and it is not necessary to shoot at him." Houston's arguments prevailed, and Congress refused to authorize the expedition.

Lamar, however, persisted, and took the authority which Congress had refused to grant him. He ordered the Secretary of War to issue arms for the troops, and the brass six-pounder was stamped with the conquering name of "Mirabeau B. Lamar." He issued a proclamation to the people of New Mexico inviting them to become citizens of the Republic of Texas, and to acknowledge its laws. He attempted to disguise the warlike purpose of the expedition by announcing that no attempt would be made to subjugate the country, but only to establish friendly commercial relations with the people in case they did not wish to unite with Texas. Its military form was only intended for defense against the Indians. The expedition started from the neighborhood of Austin June 1, 1841. It numbered about 270 soldiers with a number of teamsters and traders, and three commissioners to treat with the people of New Mexico. It was under the command of General Hugh McLeod, and President Lamar bade it farewell with his usual outburst of classical oratory. The expedition started too late. It was oppressively hot, and the grass was poor. The guides lost their way, provisions gave out, and the party was harassed by hostile Indians. As the expedition, after great suffering, approached

the border of New Mexico, a party on the strongest horses was sent forward to procure relief and provisions from the people whom they had come to conquer. They were made prisoners, and forwarded to Governor Armigo at Santa Fé. Troops were sent against the remainder of the expedition, who upon false promises of safety and return home laid down their arms and surrendered. The prisoners were treated with great barbarity. Some of them were shot for attempting to escape, and the others were marched on foot to the City of Mexico, where they were confined in the prisons or made to work with the criminals on the public roads, until they were finally released by the interposition of the foreign ministers. So ended the scheme for the conquest of New Mexico, which, beside its original loss, had a very bad effect upon public opinion in the United States. Jackson wrote to Houston, "The wild-goose chase to Santa Fé was a very ill-judged affair, and the surrender without the fire of a gun has lowered the prowess of the Texans in the minds of the Mexicans."

General James Hamilton had been appointed minister to Great Britain and France. He concluded a convention with Lord Palmerston for the recognition of the independence of Texas, on the condition that Texas would assume \$1,000,000 of the debt due by Mexico to the English bond-holders. The English Anti-Slavery Society sent its formal protest to Lord Palmerston, to which he replied with his usual civil

insolence, and the official intimation that they were a set of idiots. Daniel O'Connell announced his purpose to interrogate the ministry on the matter, and proposed a scheme for settling free negroes from the British colonies in Texas under the protection of Mexico. France followed the example of Great Britain, and acknowledged the independence of Texas, as did also Holland and Belgium. General Hamilton had also been appointed a commissioner to negotiate the five million loan, and attempted to obtain the subscriptions of European bankers. He had sanguine hopes of success at one time, and announced that he had made arrangements with the house of Lafitte and Company, of Paris, to open books for the loan. The negotiations fell through, and their failure was charged to the adverse influence of M. Humann, the French Minister of Finance, who had been prejudiced by M. de Saligny, the chargé d'affaires in Texas. M. de Saligny had withdrawn in dudgeon, because of a quarrel with Mr. Bullock, an inn-keeper of Austin, in which he considered that the Texan authorities had not treated him with becoming respect. It appears that Bullock's pigs intruded into the stable and ate up the corn of M. de Saligny's horses. Saligny's servant killed one of the pigs, and Bullock horsewhipped the servant. Saligny entered a complaint against Bullock, and Bullock ordered him out of his hotel. Saligny applied to the Secretary of State for redress, and failing to get it left the country. This was the story to account for the failure of

the French loan, but probably the financial condition and prospects of Texas were a more sufficient reason. At any rate, General Hamilton completely failed with the European capitalists, and Texas was spared the additional burden of a loan which would probably have been wasted in extravagance.

The finances of Texas sank to a frightful condition under Lamar's administration. There was no revenue except from the customs duties; but as these were receivable in government money they simply canceled so much indebtedness without bringing in any available funds. The public land sales amounted to practically nothing, and the sole resource was the issue of the government promissory notes, called "red-backs." These were issued of all denominations down to twelve and a half cents, and fell in value until they were worth no more than two cents on the dollar, or would not be received at all. It is to the credit of the Texan government, and about the sole financial folly which it did not commit, that it did not attempt to make its notes legal tender, and to compel their circulation under penalties of the law, as was done later under the Southern Confederacy. The public debt of Texas during Lamar's administration was increased by \$4,855,215, as compared with \$190,000, the expenses during Houston's term, and the condition of the country was one of financial chaos.

During the last year of his term Lamar yielded to the disappointment of his high-flown schemes

and the load of complaint and obloquy, and obtained permission from Congress to abdicate his functions of government. The duties of his office were performed by Vice-President Burnett. At one time, toward the close of his administration, affairs became so desperate, and Congress felt itself so helpless, that the members proposed to abandon their places, and go home. Houston made an eloquent speech recalling them to their duty, and on his motion a resolution was adopted "to adjourn until to-morrow at the usual hour." During Lamar's administration the seat of government was removed to a location on the Colorado River, selected by a commission for that purpose, and a town laid out, which was named Austin. At that time it was far beyond the line of settlements and exposed to Indian attacks, so that the members of the government were sometimes obliged to take their turns at standing guard. The principal redeeming feature to the Lamar régime was the foundation given to a system of public education by a grant of land for a university, and appropriations of the public domain to each county for the establishment of schools.

Houston was the centre of the political opposition to Lamar's administration, and the people were divided into the "Houston" and "anti-Houston" parties, which continued to be the politics of Texas until it became a part of the United States, and, indeed, never entirely lost their power so long as he lived. He was nominated for President, and be-

gan those campaigns of stump-speaking which were afterward so marked a feature in the politics of Texas, and such effective means for his retention of power. In the election there were 11,531 votes cast. Houston received 7415, to 3616 for David G. Burnett. Edward Burlson was elected Vice-President. Houston was inaugurated for the second time on the 16th of December, 1841.

In his message to Congress he said, "It seems that we have arrived at a crisis which is neither cheering for the present, nor flattering for the future." No change had taken place in the attitude of Mexico. Overtures had been made for the amicable adjustment of the difficulties, but they had been rejected, and he would not incur the degradation of further advances. It would be well to encourage Mexican citizens with the kindest treatment so far as they wished to engage in commerce with the citizens of Texas, but there should be no interference with the revolutions or disturbances in Mexico. It would only exasperate the national enemy, while weakening the resources of Texas. The relations with the Indians were in a very unsatisfactory condition. Immense sums had been spent in fighting them, but without good results. The erection of frontier posts at suitable points, and the establishment of trading stations protected by guards, would insure tranquillity and a lucrative commerce, while just and equitable treaties would maintain a lasting peace. There was not a dollar in the treasury, and the country was

involved from ten to fifteen millions. "We are not only without money, but without credit, and for want of punctuality without character." It would be necessary for Congress to totally suspend the redemption of the liabilities. In order to carry on the government it would be necessary to make a new issue of paper money, not exceeding \$350,000, to be received at par for the government revenues. One million acres in the newly acquired Cherokee country should be specially set apart for the redemption of this issue. Finally, retrenchment and the most absolute economy should be established in the expenditure of the government.

Houston's first work was to carry out his recommendations for economy. Upon his suggestion his own salary was reduced from \$10,000 to \$5000, and those of the other civil officers in the like proportion. Many useless offices were abolished, and the most rigid economy was exercised in every department. All claims, even the most just and pressing, were postponed; and all appropriations by Congress, except those absolutely necessary to carry on the government, were vetoed. Among the claimants was one Colonel Jonathan Bird, who had built a blockhouse at Birdsville at his own expense for the protection of the frontier. He applied to Congress for reimbursement. The members told him that his claim was a just one, but that it would be useless for them to pass a bill for his relief as the President would veto it. They told him, however, that if he

would see Houston, and get his approval, they would vote the appropriation. Houston told him that his claim ought to be paid, but that he could not approve any demand on the treasury in its bankrupt condition. Said he, "If it would do you any good, colonel, I would give you half my present fortune; but my only possessions are a stud horse, who is eating his head off in the stable, and a solitary gamecock, without a hen to lay an egg."

The rigidity of Houston's economy is shown by the fact that the payment from the treasury during his three years' term only amounted to \$417,175, exclusive of \$17,907 paid for the mail service and the collection of taxes.

Houston immediately set to work to pacify the Indians. He sent commissioners to the various tribes with messages of friendship, and to arrange treaties of peace. They were successful in every instance, and although there were occasional troubles, owing to the encroachment of the settlers upon the Indian country and the inevitable conflicts between the hostile races, there was no general war with any Indian tribe during the whole of his administration. Individual hornets were flying about, but the whole nest was not disturbed. Houston addressed the Indians in their own style of language, with which he was familiar, and with a figurative eloquence, which they could appreciate. A number of his Indian "talks," as they were called, have been preserved. This is one of them:—

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, *October 13, 1842.*

TO THE RED BEAR AND CHIEFS OF THE COUNCIL:

My Brothers, — The path between us is open; it has become white. We wish it to remain open, and that it shall no more be stained with blood. The last Council took brush out of our way. Clouds no longer hang over us, but the sun gives life to our footsteps. Darkness is taken away from us, and we can look at each other as friends. I send councilors with my talk. They will give it to you. Hear it, and remember my words. I have never opened my lips to tell a red brother a lie. My red brethren, who know me, will tell you that my counsel has always been for peace; that I have eaten bread and drank water with the red men. They listened to my words, and were not troubled. A bad chief came in my place, and told them lies, and did them much harm. His counsel was listened to, and the people did evil. His counsel is no more heard, and the people love peace with their red brothers. You, too, love peace; and you wish to kill the buffalo for your women and children. There are many in Texas, and we wish you to enjoy them.

Your Great Father, and ours, of the United States, wishes the red men and the people of Texas to be brothers. He has written to me and told me that you wanted peace, and would keep it. Because peace was good we have listened to him. You, too, have

heard his wishes, and you know the wishes of the red brothers on the Arkansas. Let us be like brothers, and bury the tomahawk forever.

Bad men make trouble; they cannot be at peace, but when the water is clear they will disturb it, and make it muddy. The Mexicans have lately come to San Antonio and brought war with them; they killed some of our people, and we killed and wounded many of them. We drove them out of the country; they fled in sorrow. If they come back again, they shall no more leave our country, or it will be after they have been taken prisoners. Their coming has disturbed us, and for that reason I cannot go to the Council to meet you, as I had intended. But my friends that I send to you will tell you all things, and make a treaty with you that I will look upon, and rejoice at. You will counsel together. They will bring me all the words that you speak to them. The Great Spirit will hear the words that I speak to you, and He will know the truth of the words that you send to me. When truth is spoken his countenance will rejoice, but before him who speaketh lies the Great Spirit will place darkness, and will not give light to his going. Let all the red men make peace; let no man injure his brother; let us meet every year in council that we may know the hearts of each other. I wish some of the chiefs of my red brothers to come and see me at Washington. They shall come in peace, and none shall make them afraid.

The messenger from the Queen of England and the

messenger from the United States are both in Texas, and will be in Washington, if they are not sick. They will be happy to see my brothers. If the Big Musk is in the Council he has not forgotten my words, and he knows my counsel was always that of a brother; and that I never deceived my red brothers, the Cherokees. They had much trouble and sorrow brought upon them, but it was done by chiefs whose counsel was wicked, and I was far off and could not hinder the mischief that was brought upon his people. Our great Council is to meet again in one moon, and I will send a talk to our agent at the trading house, who will send it to my red brothers.

Let the war-whoop be no more heard in our prairies. Let songs of joy be heard upon our hills. In our valleys let there be laughter, and in our wigwams let the voices of our women and children be heard. Let trouble be taken away far from us; and when our warriors meet together, let them smoke the pipe of peace and be happy.

Your brother,

SAM HOUSTON.

Santa Anna had taken advantage of the popularity which he had gained by his attack upon the French in Vera Cruz to reorganize his party and depose President Bustamente. The great majority of the people of Mexico were bitterly opposed to the surrender of Texas, and Santa Anna felt compelled to

at least make a pretense of renewing the invasion. A small body of troops under General Vasquez was sent across the Rio Grande, and advanced upon San Antonio, which they reached on March 6, 1842. The small Texan garrison retreated, and the Mexicans took possession of the town. They hoisted the Mexican flag on the cathedral, but, after some plundering, retreated without attempting to hold the place. Similar raids by small forces were made at the same time upon Refugio and Goliad. These raids caused great excitement among the colonists, and it was apprehended that they were the forerunners of a more formidable invasion. The President issued a proclamation calling out the citizens. A force of 200 or 300 quickly gathered at San Antonio under General Burleson, but found that the enemy had retired. General Alexander Somerville was sent to take command of the levies, which soon amounted to about 3500 men. They were eager to pursue the enemy across the Rio Grande, but Houston was soon convinced that the advance of the Mexicans had been merely a temporary raid, and decided against any offensive war. He issued a proclamation forbidding any advance without authority, and, while professedly encouraging the war spirit, took effectual measures to prevent any expedition into Mexico. After some exhibitions of temper and insubordination the troops were disbanded by General Burleson and returned home.

The war between Houston and Santa Anna was

carried on by paper missiles. Santa Anna issued a public letter in reply to a proposition made by General Hamilton without authority from the Texan government. General Hamilton had proposed that Mexico should acknowledge the independence of Texas for the payment of \$5,000,000, and \$200,000 in secret to the agents of the treaty. Santa Anna was justifiably indignant at the proposed attempt at bribery, which he denounced as an insult and an infamy. He declared that Mexico would never surrender her right to Texas, and would never desist from war until she "had planted her eagle standard on the banks of the Sabine." Houston replied with a category of Santa Anna's acts of perfidy and falsehood, and a somewhat disingenuous argument of the peaceful character of the Santa Fé expedition. To Santa Anna's threats of the conquest of Texas he replied with vigorous emphasis:—

"But you declare that you will not relax your exertions until you have subjugated Texas; that you 'have weighed its possible value,' and that you are perfectly aware of the magnitude of the task which you have undertaken; that you 'will not permit a Colossus within the limits of Mexico;' that our title is that of 'theft and usurpation;' and that 'the honor of the Mexican nation' demands of you 'the reclamation of Texas;' that 'if it were an unproductive desert, useless, sterile, yielding nothing desirable and abounding only in thorns to wound the feet of the traveler, you would not permit it to exist as an inde-

pendent government, in derision of your national character, your hearths, and your individuality.' Allow me to assure you that our title to Texas has a high sanction, — that of purchase, because we have performed our conditions; that of conquest, because we have been victorious; it is ours because you cannot subdue us; it has been consecrated ours by the blood of martyred patriots; it is ours by the claims of patriotism, superior intelligence, and unsubduable courage. It is not a sterile waste or a desert. It is the home of freemen, it is the land of promise, it is the garden of flowers. Every citizen of Texas was born a freeman, and he would die a recreant to the principles imbibed from his ancestry if he would not freely peril his life in defense of his home, his liberty, and his country."

He concluded, "Ere the banner of Mexico shall triumphantly float on the banks of the Sabine, the Texan standard of the single star, borne by the Anglo-Saxon race, shall display its bright folds in Liberty's triumph on the Isthmus of Darien."

The war fever continued to rage, and the demand for offensive operations against Mexico was so strong that the President called a special session of Congress, which met at Houston on June 27. In his message he alluded to the public threats of Santa Anna, and said that "it was not for us to act on the supposition that they were merely intended to give him temporary popularity at home." He did not believe that a formidable invasion would be attempted,

but it was evident that the enemy would continue to annoy the frontier. He had heretofore been opposed to offensive measures, but the question was whether they were not now necessary. He left it for Congress to decide. The war fever prevailed in Congress. It passed an act appointing Houston to the command of the army with dictatorial powers, and appropriating ten millions of acres of the public domain for war purposes. Houston vetoed it in a message declaring that it was contrary to his principles to accept the powers of a military dictator, and that the country had no means whatever for carrying on the war against a powerful nation. It was asserted by the enemies of Houston that his self-denying declaration was a piece of popular clap-trap, and his whole conduct in the affair a specimen of his "Indian cunning." They declared that he had consulted with the members of Congress in regard to the details of the bill which he vetoed, and that he had created the demand for the dictatorship in order to refuse it. During the fortnight which passed before the publication of his veto, great turbulence prevailed, and there were threats of violence and assassination. Houston was warned by his friends to have a protecting guard, but his house was open as usual, and the voice of his young wife could be heard at the piano in the evening through the open windows, while knots of desperate men were gathered to curse and threaten him. Whether Houston played a political trick in regard to the dictatorship or not, he undoubtedly

showed great practical sagacity in refusing to allow the country to undertake the invasion of Mexico without means, and with only an undisciplined army of volunteers.

In March, 1842, Houston proclaimed a blockade of the Mexican coast. The Mexican navy had been destroyed in the harbor of Vera Cruz by the French fleet, and the Texan vessels could command the Gulf. They had been cruising off the coast of Yucatan without accomplishing anything for themselves or the insurgents. The insurgent government of Yucatan had agreed to pay their expenses, but nothing was received from it. The crews were unpaid and the vessels out of repair when they returned from their cruise. They were sent to New Orleans to refit, but there was no money to pay the bills, and the vessels were given in pawn as security. Houston sent orders to Commodore Moore to sail for Galveston, but he refused to do so until the debts, for which he had given his personal pledge were paid. At a secret session of Congress in January, 1843, it was decided to sell the vessels, and commissioners were sent to take possession of them. The commodore refused to deliver them up, and sailed for Campeachy on an appeal for aid, and the promise of a subsidy by the Yucatan government, which was being besieged in that place. Houston issued a proclamation declaring Moore's operations to be piratical, and requesting foreign navies to seize the vessels and deliver them up. Moore succeeded in relieving the siege of Cam-

peachy by driving the Mexican vessels from the harbor and cannonading the land batteries. He returned to Galveston, and a paper war ensued between him and the President. The people of Galveston were indignant at the action of Congress in ordering the sale of the navy, and the act was repealed. The vessels were laid up, and remained useless until they were turned over to the United States, after annexation. The whole conduct of the navy, like that of the army, showed the utter want of subordination which existed among the volunteer adventurers, and the difficulty which Houston had in maintaining any regulation or authority.

During the excitement of the apprehended invasion, Houston, who had been opposed to the change of the capitol to Austin, removed the government to Houston, and afterward to the town of Washington on the Brazos. This excited great indignation among the citizens of Austin, and they refused to permit the removal of the archives. Houston sent messengers for them, but the citizens shaved the manes and tails of their horses, and drove them off with contumely. On the 20th of December, 1842, Houston dispatched a company of armed men with wagons to bring off the archives by force. As they were loading the boxes into the wagons at the Land Office, the citizens gathered, and a cannon was trained on the building. It was touched off by a Mrs. Eberly, the Amazonian keeper of a hotel in the town, but, fortunately, no one was injured by the discharge. The company

started with their wagons, but were overtaken and surrounded by the citizens at their camp at Brushy Creek, about eighteen miles from Austin. The company was compelled to surrender and haul the boxes back to Austin. Houston complained to Congress of this insubordination, but nothing was done about it, and the boxes remained at Austin.

Disturbances broke out in 1842 on the old "neutral ground" in Eastern Texas among the settlers themselves. A strong element of desperadoes and criminals remained among the people. Forged land titles and squatters' claims furnished the cause of the disturbance. The courts were powerless to enforce claims under the laws, and the citizens formed themselves into a band, calling themselves the "Regulators," to carry out their own ideas of justice by the bullet and the lash. The opposite party organized under the name of the "Moderators," and the whole section was involved in a bitter and vindictive neighborhood war. Appeals were made by the peaceable citizens to Houston to suppress it. He ordered out a force of militia under General Smith, who marched to Shelby County, and found the two parties drawn up in battle array. He persuaded them to disperse without fighting, and the troubles were quieted in a measure. But the private warfare lasted for some years, and the squatters continued to hold their lands by the title of the rifle.

In September, 1843, the Mexicans made a more serious raid across the Rio Grande. General Adrian

Woll entered San Antonio with a force of 1200 men. It was a surprise, and the Mexicans took the members of the district court prisoners. The militia rallied at Gonzales under the command of Captain Matthew Caldwell, known as "Old Paint," and advanced to attack the Mexicans with about eighty men. Captain John C. Hays, the famous Texan Ranger, was sent forward with a small party to draw a sally from the town. General Woll came out with 200 cavalry and 600 infantry, and a battle took place on the Salado Creek. It lasted until sunset, when the Mexicans retreated into the town. A party of fifty Texans, under Captain Nicholas Dawson, in attempting to join Caldwell, were surrounded on the prairie by the Mexicans, who kept out of the range of their rifles, but fired upon them with a cannon, until they were compelled to surrender. The prisoners were all butchered after their surrender, and only one of the party succeeded in making his escape by killing a cavalry man with his own lance, and dashing off on his horse. General Woll retired from San Antonio on the 18th, taking with him his prisoners and plunder. He was pursued by Caldwell, whose force had increased to 400 or 500 men, but the report of a reinforcement to Woll, under General Ampudia, prevented Caldwell from attacking him.

This raid again renewed the excitement and the demand for offensive operations against Mexico. Houston was once more compelled to cater to the war spirit. He issued a proclamation on September 16,

announcing that the Texan troops would cross the Rio Grande, and calling upon the levies to muster at San Antonio. General Somerville was again given the command, probably with secret instructions not to attempt any serious invasion. Troops gathered at San Antonio in an ill-supplied and insubordinate condition, and after several weeks of waiting a considerable number of them went home. On November 18, Somerville set out on his march with 750 men, and reached Laredo December 6. He moved down the river, instead of crossing it. His troops were convinced that he had no serious purpose, and became insubordinate. About 200 left him and returned home. Somerville crossed the river with the rest, and took possession of Guerrero. From that place he recrossed the river and informed his army that he intended to return to Gonzales. About 300 men refused to return. They elected Colonel William S. Fisher as their commander, and determined to invade Mexico on their own account. They made an attack on the town of Mier on the night of the 23d, and entered it. During the engagement for the possession of the town the next day the Texans were persuaded to surrender by false representations of the arrival of Mexican reinforcements, and on the promise that they should not be sent into Mexico. The promise was violated, and they were marched as prisoners toward the City of Mexico. They rose on their guards at the Hacienda del Salado, about eighteen miles beyond Saltillo, and made their escape. Un-

fortunately, they deserted the road and took refuge in the mountains, where they lost their way and were worn out by hardships and want of food. They were tracked down by parties of the soldiery, and all but four recaptured. Every tenth man of the prisoners was shot by order of Santa Anna for their attempt to escape, and Captain Ewan Cameron, the leader of the revolt, who had escaped drawing the black bean in the death lottery, was afterward ordered to be shot. The prisoners were confined in the fortress of Perote near Jalapa. General Thomas Jefferson Green and a few others escaped by tunneling through the wall, and the rest were eventually released at the interposition of the foreign ministers.

A sort of predatory expedition took place the same year. It was an attempt to capture a train loaded with Mexican goods on its way from Independence, Missouri, to Santa Fé. Captain Jacob S. Snively started in the fall of 1843 with about 150 men to capture the train in the region south of the Arkansas, which was claimed to be Texas territory. The train was escorted by a force of United States cavalry, under the command of Colonel Philip St. George Cooke, who obtained information of Snively's design. He informed Snively that he was trespassing on the territory of the United States, and compelled him to surrender. His party was partially disarmed and rendered harmless for mischief. A part accompanied Cooke's cavalry to Independence and a part returned home, having suffered somewhat in skirmishes with

the Indians on the way. It was an error on the part of Houston to have authorized such an expedition.

On October 13, 1842, President Houston sent a dignified and forcible appeal to the governments of the United States, Great Britain, and France to interpose with Mexico, and require that either she should recognize the independence of Texas, or make war upon her in a civilized manner. He pointed out that no serious attempt at invasion had been made for the past six years, and that the war had only been carried on by predatory raids and by inciting the Indians to massacre. He said:—

“If Mexico believes herself able to subjugate this country, her right to make the effort to do so is not denied, for, on the contrary, if she chooses to invade our territory for that purpose the President, in the name of the people of all Texas, will bid her welcome. It is not against a war with Mexico that Texas would protest. This she deprecates not. She is willing at any time to stake her existence as a nation upon the issue of a war conducted on Christian principles. It is alone against the unholy, inhuman, and fruitless character it has assumed and still maintains, which violates every rule of honorable warfare, every precept of religion, and sets at defiance even the common sentiments of humanity, against which she protests, and invokes the interposition of those powerful nations which have recognized her independence.”

This appeal received the approval of Sir Robert

Peel and M. Guizot. Lord Aberdeen, the British Minister of Foreign Affairs, offered to mediate with Mexico for a cessation of hostilities, but declined to act jointly with the United States, on the ground that the latter's relations with Mexico were not sufficiently friendly to justify expectations of any good results from her interference. Under the convention arranged by General Hamilton, the British minister to Mexico had been instructed to proffer a mediation which had been categorically refused by the Mexican government. This offer was now renewed, but with no better apparent success. In the mean time, the efforts for annexation had been revived in the United States. On June 6, 1843, President Houston sent a dispatch to Minister Van Zandt at Washington, directing him to withdraw the application of Texas for annexation to the United States. In further dispatches, which were doubtless intended to be shown to the members of the United States government and to leading men in Congress, he communicated the facts of the friendly proffers made by European governments, and intimated that by an alliance with them Texas would be relieved from the necessity of desiring annexation to the United States. President Tyler was strongly in favor of annexation, and opened negotiations with Houston to induce him to renew the application. The Mexican minister to the United States announced in August that any act of annexation by Congress would be considered a declaration of war. Houston demanded to know if the United

States could be depended upon to protect Texas from invasion while the negotiations were going on. Secretary Upshur did not answer this question, but stated that the Senate had been canvassed, and that there was an assurance of the necessary two thirds who would vote to ratify the treaty. Houston then applied to Colonel William S. Murphy, the United States diplomatic agent in Texas, and was assured that the United States would not permit the interference of Mexico or any other power while the negotiations were pending. Houston accepted this as sufficient, and appointed J. Pinkney Henderson as a special commissioner to Washington to renew the application for the treaty. He also sent a secret message to the Texan Congress, informing it of what he had done, and requesting its approval. During these negotiations Houston wrote several important letters, doubtless intended to affect public sentiment in the United States. On February 16, 1844, he wrote to Jackson, pointing out the advantages in trade and security which Texas would secure by maintaining her independence, but declaring himself in favor of annexation. His desire for peace and a settled order outweighed all other considerations. He said:—

“I have no desire to see war renewed again in Texas. It is not the apprehension of personal danger that would alarm me, but rather the deleterious influence which it has upon our population. The revolution has already introduced into Texas more wicked

and ambitious men than could be desired in our present condition. In armies and camps such men have an opportunity of extending their acquaintance, and deriving some prominence from associations which totally disqualifies them from usefulness in a peaceful community. Unwilling to embark in the useful avocations of life, in many instances they become restless demagogues or useless loafers. They are either ready to consume the substance which they have not earned, or to form combinations unfavorable to good order and the administration of the laws. Peace in Texas would relieve us from such people, and in the absence of their baleful influence give to society a vigorous constitution and healthy complexion. All the evils which we have experienced have resulted from such characters, and unless we have peace permanently established among us we cannot tell when a September election might not submerge the country to the misrule of such men for three years.

“Furthermore, I wish to reside in a land where all will be subordinate to law, and where none dare to defy its mandates. I have arrived at that period of life when I desire retirement and assurance that whatever I possess will be secured to me by just laws wisely administered. That privilege I would deem a rich requital for whatever I may have performed useful in life. With it I would be happy to retire from all cares of public station, and live in the enjoyment of the reflection that, if I had been serviceable to any

portion of mankind, their prosperity and happiness were ample recompense. I would give no thought to what the world might say of me when I could transmit to posterity the reputation of an honest man."

In conclusion he said:—

"Now, my venerated friend, you will perceive that Texas is presented to the United States as a bride adorned for her espousal. But if, now so confident of the union, she should be rejected, her mortification would be indescribable. She has been sought by the United States, and this is the third time she has consented. Were she now to be spurned it would forever terminate expectation on her part, and it would then not only be left for the United States to expect that she would seek some other friend, but all Christendom would justify her in a choice dictated by necessity and sanctioned by wisdom. However adverse this might be to the wishes or the interest of the United States, in her present situation she could not ponder long. The course of the United States, if it stop short of annexation, will displease France, irritate England, and exasperate Mexico. An effort to postpone it to a more convenient season may be tried in the United States to subserve party purposes and make a President. Let them beware. I take it that it is of too great magnitude for any impediment to be opposed to its execution. That you may live to see your hopes in relation to it crowned with complete success, I sincerely desire. In the event that it speedily takes place, I hope that it will afford me an

opportunity of again visiting you at the Hermitage with my family. It is our ardent desire to see the day when you can lay your hand on our little boy's head, and bestow upon him your benediction."

In May, he wrote to Minister Murphy a letter, which shows his enlarged views of the future of Texas as an independent power, and of the possibilities of the creation of a great and rival empire in the West. It was not a wild and extravagant vision, and might have been accomplished but for the annexation of Texas and the subsequent acquisition of California by the United States. He said:—

"If faction or a regard for present party advantages should defeat the measure, you may depend upon one thing, and that is, that the glory of the United States has already culminated. A rival power will soon be built up, and the Pacific, as well as the Atlantic, will be component parts of Texas in thirty years from this date. The Oregon region in geographical affinity will attach to Texas. By this coalition or union the barrier of the Rocky Mountains will be dispensed with or obviated. England and France in such an event would not be so tenacious on the subject of Oregon as if the United States were to be the sole possessor of it. When such an event would take place, or in anticipation of such a result, all the powers which either envy or fear the United States would use all reasonable exertion to build us up as the only rival power which can ever exist on this continent to that of the United

States. Considering our origin, their speculation may seem chimerical and that such things cannot take place. A common origin has its influence so long as common interests exist, but no longer. . . . The union of Oregon and Texas will be much more natural and convenient than for either separately to belong to the United States. This, too, would place Mexico at the mercy of such a power as Oregon and Texas would form; such an event may appear fanciful to many, but I assure you that there are no Rocky Mountains interposing to such a project. But one thing can prevent its accomplishment, and that is annexation. If you, or any statesman, will only regard the map of North America, you will perceive that from the forty-sixth degree of latitude north there is the commencement of a natural boundary. This will embrace Oregon, and from thence south, on the Pacific coast, to the twenty-ninth or thirtieth degree south latitude will be a natural and convenient extent of sea-land. I am free to admit that most of the province of Chihuahua, Sonora, and Upper and Lower California, as well as Santa Fé, which we now claim, will have to be brought into the connection with Texas and Oregon. This, you will see by reference to the map, is no bugbear to those who will reflect upon the achievement of the Anglo-Saxon people. . . . You need not estimate the population which is said or reputed to occupy the vast territory embraced between the twenty-ninth and forty-sixth degrees of latitude on the Pacific. They will, like

the Indian race, yield to the advance of the North American population. The amalgamation, under the advisement of statesmen, cannot fail to produce the result in producing a united government formed of and embracing the limits suggested. It may be urged that these matters are remote. Be it so. Statesmen are intended by their forecast to regulate and arrange matters in such sort as will give direction to events by which the future is to be benefited or prejudiced. You may fully rely, my friend, that future ages will profit by these facts, while we will only contemplate them in prospective. They must come. It is impossible to look on the map of North America and not perceive the rationale of the project."

Before Jackson had received Houston's letter he had written on February 13 a letter expressing his strong desire for the annexation of Texas. It was kept secret for political reasons by the Democratic conspirators, headed by Calhoun, who were opposed to the nomination of Van Buren. It was believed that both Van Buren and Clay had come to an understanding by which they hoped to eliminate the Texas question from the coming election, in which they expected to be the candidates of their respective parties. The question had excited a bitter controversy, and each one feared that it would cost him vital votes. Clay wrote a letter, April 11, in which he declared that the annexation of Texas would be certain to bring on a war with Mexico, and endanger

the safety of the Union. Van Buren also published a letter expressing his belief that the annexation of Texas would be followed by a war with Mexico, and that in such an event the United States would not be justified in the eyes of the world. The treaty was submitted to the Senate with a message from President Tyler advocating what he termed the re-annexation of Texas. The controversy raged in the country and in Congress, but the influence of these two great leaders upon their respective parties was sufficient to secure rejection. The treaty was rejected on June 5 by a vote of thirty-five to sixteen.

As soon as the treaty was definitely rejected by the United States the British government acted. Lord Aberdeen proposed to Ashbell Smith, the Texan minister to Great Britain and France, a "diplomatic act" in which five powers, Great Britain, France, the United States, Texas, and Mexico should be invited to join. Its purpose was to secure peace between Texas and Mexico and the permanent independence of the former, Texas giving a formal pledge not to unite with any other nation. France agreed to join with Great Britain in the "act," and the three powers were to compel the assent of Mexico. The refusal of the United States was expected. Houston, who had been absent from the seat of government for some time, sent instructions to Anson Jones, Secretary of State, to close with the offer of Great Britain and France. Jones, who was then President-elect, disobeyed the order, and, instead, sent leave of ab-

sence to Minister Smith. Why Houston permitted this is an unsolved problem, but it is possible that he was willing that Jones, who was then his friend and a political protégé, should have the distinction of concluding the treaty. At that time Houston and Jones were both regarded as opposed to annexation, and the majority of the people of Texas agreed with them, considering that the action of the United States had rendered it hopeless.

In the mean time independent negotiations had been going on for an armistice and a treaty of peace with Mexico. The ex-provisional Lieutenant-Governor, J. W. Robinson, who had been among the prisoners captured at San Antonio by General Woll, had addressed a communication to Santa Anna from the prison of Perote, proposing, if he was released, to go to Texas, and arrange the terms of a treaty by which Texas would acknowledge the sovereignty of Mexico, on condition that she should have a separate government. The proposition, which was probably made for no other purpose than to secure his own release, was accepted. Santa Anna's communication, which was addressed to "Mr." Houston and claimed Texas to be a province of Mexico, was of course rejected. But in it Mexico had expressed a willingness to suspend hostilities. An armistice was agreed upon through the mediation of the British minister, and commissioners were appointed on the part of President Houston and General Woll, to arrange for an exchange of prisoners, pending negotiations for a per-

manent peace. They agreed upon the terms of an armistice to last until May 1, and the agreement was signed on February 15. It was rejected by Houston on the ground that it referred to Texas as a province of Mexico. No acts of hostility followed, although General Woll notified Houston that the war was renewed.

Jones was inaugurated President on the 1st of December, 1844. In his last message to Congress Houston had the pleasure of announcing that his measures of economy had resulted in the solvency of the treasury. The expenses of the government had been met. The total cost of his administration during the three years had been only \$416,058, and there was a balance in the treasury of \$5058. The Exchequer bills, with some fluctuations, had appreciated nearly to par, and the revenues of the country were on a sound and stable basis. Of all Houston's services to Texas none was more important than his firm and judicious economy, and its rescue from the danger of the absolute collapse of the government from the extravagance and wild financial schemes of the preceding administration. In his valedictory address he said in regard to annexation, "The United States have spurned Texas twice already. Let her therefore firmly maintain her position as it is, and work out her own political salvation. Let her legislation proceed upon the principle that we are to be and to remain an independent people. If Texas goes begging again for admission to the United States, she will only de-

grade herself. . . . If we remain an independent nation our territory will become extensive — unlimited.”

The knowledge of the “diplomatic act” and the apprehension that Texas would be bound to Great Britain and France by their guarantee of her independence aroused the alarm and jealousy of the United States. Public sentiment turned decidedly in favor of annexation. Van Buren was defeated in the Democratic Convention, and James K. Polk was nominated as an avowed advocate of annexation. Clay endeavored to satisfy public opinion by declaring that he was in favor of annexation if it could be accomplished without war, but Polk was elected by a small majority in the Electoral College. On February 14, a joint resolution was adopted by both Houses of Congress for the admission of Texas into the Union. President Herrera, of Mexico, who had been elected by the Liberal party, agreed to a treaty by which Mexico consented to acknowledge the independence of Texas, on condition that she would not become annexed to any other power. The United States government became exceedingly anxious. Special agents were sent to make all sorts of promises to the people, and the old war feeling was stirred up by intimations of aggressive movements against Mexico. Lamar, and the other ambitious leaders who had been opposed to annexation, now strongly favored it, and it was even proposed to overthrow the government on the ground of President Jones’s supposed opposition to the measure. Houston, who was a

friend of Jones, although they afterward quarreled bitterly, lent his strong personal influence to the support of the government. The proposition of President Herrera was made known to the people by proclamation, and a convention was also called to take action on the invitation of the United States. It met in Austin on the 4th of July, 1845, and adopted a resolution for annexation, which was submitted to Congress for ratification. It was accepted with only one dissentient vote, that of Richard Bache, a grandson of Benjamin Franklin. The convention framed a state constitution, which was accepted by the people at a general election. October 14, Texas ceased to be a Republic, and became one of the United States.

Some question has been raised as to the sincerity of Houston's desire for annexation. At the time he was accused of having been bought by British gold, and he was charged with treason with all the bitterness of envenomed political animosity. There is no reasonable doubt that Houston went to Texas for the purpose of bringing about its acquisition by the United States, and with the knowledge and support of Jackson. During the early years of the struggle for independence annexation to the United States would have settled the question in favor of Texas, and was ardently desired by every man in it except those who were blinded by wild schemes of ambition and impossible conquest. Houston was too shrewd and sensible not to recognize its advantages. Nevertheless,

he was revolted by the opposition of a considerable portion of the people of the United States, and by the repeated refusals of its government. He came to see the possibilities of a western empire to be founded by and attached to Texas, and recognized that the time had come when the United States must make a definite choice. His patriotism and his pride would not submit to further national humiliation. Ashbell Smith, Secretary of State to President Jones, relates this incident of Houston while the last negotiations were pending, and before Congress had passed the resolution for annexation: —

“He was leaving Washington on the Brazos one morning in February, 1845. He came into my room, booted, spurred, whip in hand. Said he, ‘Saxe Weimar [the name of his saddle-horse] is at the door, saddled. I have come to leave Houston’s last words with you. If the Congress of the United States shall not by the 4th of March pass some measure of annexation that Texas can with honor accede to, Houston will take the stump against annexation for all time to come.’ When he wished to be emphatic he spoke of himself by name, Houston, in the third person. Without another word, embracing after his fashion, he mounted his horse and left.”

So far as Houston’s personal ambition was concerned, it undoubtedly would have been favored by annexation. He was debarred from being again President of the Republic by the constitutional limitation. He would naturally and inevitably be one

of the Senators of the new State in Congress, with a fresh career open before him and the possibility of a still wider ambition in the Presidency of the United States. He was prepared to sacrifice this rather than endure another national affront, but he was undoubtedly rejoiced when annexation was accomplished on honorable terms.

In his private life during his second term Houston was enabled to establish a home and abandon some of his manners of a reckless and freebooting frontiersman, as under the influence of his wife he had reformed his habits of drinking and swearing. He still lived, however, in a primitive fashion. One of the old settlers of Texas thus relates his first interview with him: "I had come to Texas from Alabama, and was at Washington on the Brazos, then the seat of government, in 1843. One morning I was approached by Houston's negro boy Tom, who was his cook and body-servant, with an invitation from the President for me to dine with him that day. I was then only about twenty years of age, and was naturally a good deal flustered by the unexpected honor, which I was unable to account for, as I had never spoken to the President. The dinner was at one o'clock. I found the President at the double log-house which was his residence. He received me with a kindly and hearty welcome, which put me at once at my ease. The dinner consisted of wild turkey, bread, and black coffee. Houston said that but for the kindness of a neighbor, who had sent in the

bird, the dinner would have consisted of only bread and coffee. He told me all about my family and relatives in Tennessee, and in fact a great many things that I did not know myself. His whole manner and conversation were most gracious and friendly. From that time I was always his devoted friend and political follower." It was Houston's custom to acquaint himself with the antecedents of new-comers to Texas as far as he could, and attach them to himself by friendly interest and hospitality. If, however, they showed signs of rivalry or opposition to him, he was apt to turn his tongue against them, and be as harsh and sarcastic as he had before been friendly.

Mrs. M. H. Houston, a Scotch lady of wealth who made a cruise in the Gulf of Mexico with her husband in a yacht, and wrote a couple of books about her travels in the United States, thus describes a visit to Houston in 1844:—

"The city of Houston is beautifully situated on the banks of the Red River. The houses are built entirely of wood, and the hotels are wretched. Our chief end, however, was answered, for we received a visit from the conqueror of San Jacinto and the friend of the red man. As is invariably the case in the introduction of Americans, either to one another, or to foreigners, much shaking of hands, together with considerable use of the monosyllable 'sir,' took place between us and General Sam Houston, whose costume is a happy mixture of the inevitable black satin waistcoat (donned probably from a sense of con-

ventional respect for his British visitors) and a coarse, blanket-like overcoat, which, having much the appearance of green baize, is the ordinary covering of a Texan gentleman. A wan and worn-looking man is the President of the new Republic, and there are, notwithstanding the shrewd and kindly expression of his face, signs thereon that he has (more than his many admirers like to think possible) deserved in his day the sobriquet of 'Drunken Sam,' which was long since bestowed upon him. He has been twice married, having obtained — a thing easily done in America — a divorce from his first wife; his second marriage has, in one respect at least, proved of signal advantage to him, for, thanks to the influence of *Madame la Presidente*, General Houston has eschewed the habits of drinking and using bad language, in which he formerly indulged. He was what I have heard called 'a fine swearer' in days gone by; but he has learned not only to govern men, but to rule his tongue, which he has probably found to be a far more difficult matter. Like most Americans whom I have known, he is very proud of being able to clearly prove his descent from an English, or rather, in his case, from a Scotch family. He told us that his forbears belonged in Lanarkshire, and claimed cousinship with us at once. Never have I seen a man who had 'done,' not alone the 'State,' but the cause of humanity, such 'good service in his day' who was so simple and unobtrusive in his manner, and who seemed to think so little of himself."

Houston endeavored to fulfill his purpose to visit Jackson at the Hermitage with his family, after annexation, but he only arrived a few hours after the death of his "venerated friend," whom he held in such affection and reverence.