XII.

Hd Qrs Gloucester Jamaica
13 July 1823

My Lord

Captain Herbert's report upon the present state of Mexico is interesting, and tho' he will have laid it himself before the Admiralty at his return I have enclosed it in my Public Letter numbered 121 where Your Lordship can have reference to it if You think proper

The intrigue of American politics has long been busy in the interior of Mexico, it was perceptible when I visited Vera Cruz in 1817 but the Spaniards at that time doubted the stability of the American Government in the event of War. Their Mexican politics it seems to me weighed much with them when they resolved on War with us, and the result of the struggle has been to change the opinion of the Colonists on the point alluded to and to give their party greater weight. Their Agents I am told had considerable influence with Herrera

To
The Right Honorable
Lord Viscount Melville K.T.

or

on whose ambitious half formed mind it has worked by some such reasoning as this -

"America having within herself the means "of producing whatever Europe now furnishes "to it, and being endowed besides with many "rich and valuable productions which are "necessary to Europe in a variety of ways as well "as in the manufactures she now furnishes to "America - Europe must if America pursues "a just and steady policy become the tributary "of America, and the seat of power accordingly "removes from it to the latter

"That to accelerate this great end it is decisive "to draw as close as possible the connexion between "the several independent states now forming "and the United States of North America, which "will thus become their bulwark against all the "European Powers"

Herbide appears to have adopted in some degree this reasoning and to have something acted on it - He wished I believe to have made Buonaparte his model but the materials were not so abundant, or so well moulded to

to his purpose as those which the latter found
neither had the skill to adapt himself to
the circumstances he was placed in. He was
lavish to a degree in his expenditure endeavouring
by that means to form a party and to surround
himself by those whose interest it became by
sharing in this lavishness to attach themselves
to him and by their influence to support
his Government. But these persons had neither
influence or riches, and taking violent
measures to replenish the resources which he
had in this way wasted, he by that means
and by the narrow restriction means he took of
Commerce alienated those who were the
only really influential persons namely the
Merchants and the Owners of the Lines
His Munificence had gained the soldiers
and it is thought that had determined to trust
to the result of a battle many of them would
have gone over to him, but the Officers upon
the greater part are Creoles being under the
influence those described were decidedly
against him. Your Lordship will perceive
from what I state the change is favourable
to

to commercial speculation and has given it a new impulse from which good results are entertained in this Island, the Merchants of which have entered into it become of whom are there to establish their connexions —

I understand that Captain Herbert has drawn the Characters of the three leading men he speaks of, well; but there are others pressing forward to consideration who will possibly encrease the elements of intrigue altho' I rather favour the opinion that they may serve by their different views to influence to weaken the power of the Army as a distinct body, and as mercantile interests new the things which moved the different parties in the late revolution, so that interest will state keep the power divided and perhaps down the pretensions of any individual to the sovereign power — I have been looking from day to day with anxiety for the Eden to return from Sierra Leone hoping to obtain from Capt Lawrence late and better intelligence than I possess by other means, but as the time is past which should have

brought

brought him here I am led to suspect that meeting
Doctor Markie at his return to the Havanna, the
latter has persuaded him to go back with him
the Doctor to Vera Cruz, to which place he had
previously requested the Captain of the Oceanus
would convey him, the latter however leaving
that I was looking for his return to this place daily
offered the Doctor to come here to me which would
not cause him much delay & gave him a much
better chance of reaching his destination, but he
declined the offer - The non-return of the Indian
(if she really has gone with the Doctor) will subject
me to inconvenience in providing for the
next Convoy, and it would have been much better
if the Doctor had communicated with me to make
known somewhat of the object of his Mission as might
be sufficient for my caution in furthering it
while he might well have done by several
opportunities from the Havanna where his
residence occasioned much observation and
curiosity, he however has not in any way communicated
with me or (Sobrino) with Lt Charles Pooley
whilst the latter was at the Havanna

J Pb

If the affairs of Mexico ~~do~~ settle calmly down, every thing appears favourable to the British interest. But the new Commander of St. Juan de Ulloa, is represented to be a Man of great intrigue and consumable ability and it is said that he has communicated influence with some of the Creole leaders, these tho' well intentioned are said to be imbecile and in every Case the Old Spaniards who have joined the Revolution have greatly the advantage over the Creoles in Intelligence and authority as well as in Energy, they are however always viewed with Jealousy by the latter.

The great means of quieting the Mexican population is in the Mines, these give employment to the lower Classes without number, and bringing some degree a speculation pursuit engages them more intensely, they give a spring to the industry of the Country by the various occupations of the different Artizans who find employment in connexion with them, as well as to the Agriculture of the districts by collecting a large population in a small space and thus by creating a ready market for the produce of the soil. While all that are Soldiers this is not the case

What is most wanted for this purpose is the regular supply of Quicksilver, the furnishing of which will open to our Merchants a further field for speculation and research, let us hope by Lord that it will serve to benefit our Country and that the ingenuity of our Citizens will find employment in the application of shaping of which they have not at present before one single instance but which the loss of men & means in the late struggles must make still more necessary

I know but little of Columbia the Expositions of the three Secretaries of State which I send in my Cipher Letter N. 123 show that every thing is to be still created in their government which has been hitherto one of military occupation without respect for property or person, and I flatter sufficiently the cause of the sums Moralis met with and the means by which he contrived to maintain himself so long as the navigation of the Lake of Maracaybo was in his hands, it seems however now confirmed that La Borde's

mand

want of energy or want of means to follow up the advantage he had gained off Porto Cavello by proceeding at once to rain the blockade of the Gulf of Maracaybo, has given Padilla who commanded the Columbian Flotilla time to collect a force to keep the Sea and defeat the Flotilla of Morales & by that means to secure himself from the Frigate of La Borda if he should now appear In the mean time our numerous bickerings on the side have not secured us their good will, and the affair of the Commandant of Nova Cuba having been with the Carraccas is still without a solution Those they will do what will be sufficient to satisfy our government at once, but unless it is represented home to them they are not so disposed My Public Letters 83. 90. 105. shew the measures that have been taken while I look with anxiety for the sentiments of your Lordship & the Government to guide my further conduct, but must it to avoid giving reasonable cause of Complaint ~~[illegible]~~ I adhere steadily to our neutrality, and if this is settled we shall have no further difficulty in so doing the act of firing on the Carraccas was one of rash and wilful outrage arising in the blood

from

from various little causes of vexation, in which I am sorry to say it seems to have been more generally wrong and overbearing in our conduct. The case of Mr Jarnatow is in fact the only one in which I trace no blame attributable to her for Captain Muldemay's conduct seems in the whole case to have been very improper

Your Lordship is aware that one of the Judges of the territorial Audiencia in Cuba was empowered to investigate the complaints which Mr Chas. Long had preferred against the Pirates from St Jago. This Officer went to say he had made his report and was very desirous to proceed to Principe the Capital of the Province of Cuba, but the Rains had rendered the Roads impassable and he had great fears respecting Pirates by sea unless I could give him a Convoy to the Vessel which he meant in - I have accordingly the Scamer to attend him & advised him to embark in her, reminding him that tho' I may protect him from actual Pirates I cannot interfere between his Vessel and a Columbian - He may will afterwards go on to the Havanna to learn the result of the opinions which he has

given

My interviews with General Rios shewed Captain General Jurbe has not been sufficient to let me judge if he is sincere in his desire to preserve good understanding but he professes strongly that desire, and I believe it is also entertained by the other authorities whom I have been in communication with. He has carried himself (Rios) very steadily in the short time he has held command, the people look up to him and it is thought he will keep them together longer than would have been the case had he not arrived but it is the general opinion that the restoration of the King with absolute power, from which they look for the return of the former restrictions on them, would cause a movement for the purpose of either declaring independence or of uniting themselves to North America the fear of the negroes and the timidity of the people of property are the only causes of this present quiet

Pray as regards Cuba I trust is at an end but I hope you hold it still in view, and I shall wish some anxiety a report upon the orders I have

given

given for examining the Coast of Yucatan which
was the last resort of them which have reached
Mehan had some very strong and unusual
winds to which I attribute a little burst of sickness
which has shown itself on board the Gloucester
she has buried one Man & has two now seriously
ill of about fifteen who have been sent to the
Hospital, they have originated for the most part
in Colds caught in the Winds have described
but as the Ship is perfectly sweet and dry in
every part and the people have been long
upon fresh meat, there can be nothing to fear
in Quarantine and I trust that few further
cases will be added to the list on which we have
at present with accounts Every case included
about 33 on board all slight and about 15 at
the Hospital of whom two are very ill but not in
immediate danger 4 are ill and the rest are
Convalescent - The season has been very favorable
and I trust we shall be received without losing
more. The fault of the Gloucester Crew has from
the first been that of intemperance and many
of the Cases can be traced directly to that cause

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It was to be expected from the hasty way in which the men were brought together in some degree, but has been more than I could conceive even difficult to control, the severity necessary for this with the state of inactivity in which the ship has been since her arrival has led to some desertion and has lost by that means perhaps a Dozen men but infinitely less than I expected, many have been invalided in consequence of the diseased state in which they had been formerly. and the Marine Artillery suffers from the remnant of the Ague which attacked them at Fort Monroe. He is now 20 Seamen short of Complement and has about 70 men away in the Schooners to which they have been lent - He is therefore still in constant readiness for Service should he be kept so

Have thus My Lord touched upon the subjects of most interest and assuring Your Lordship of my desire to fulfil the duty which You have done me the honor to entrust to me in such way as to meet the wishes of Your Lordship and the Government

I remain Your Lordships
Most obedient humble Servt

E. F. Lo. Elliot

July 13. 1823.
Monterey at Tamaica.

Owen to Melville.

Comments on the state of
Mexico & results of
failure of Hulvide's
policy to establish a
party by lavish expend-
iture etc, — result.
opportunity for commercial
speculation —
movements of the "Eden" —
as not arrived, probably
gone to Vera Cruz —
+ be-industries
Mexican mines occupy
lower classes and
provide good opening
for speculation to
British commercialists
State of Columbia still
unsettled — Morales tho'
lacks energy or means

to follow up victory,
defeated by Padilla.
Most favourably disposed
towards England and
subject of "Annexation"
fizzing still without re-
dress. Desirous of following
policy of neutrality as
far as possible. In
many cases the English
at fault during squadron
The "Scarus" sent to
escort an officer carrying
the report of Rivadeneira of
S. Jago" to Cuba.
Gen. Lewis, new Capt. Gen.
of Cuba, thought to be sincere
friendly. The effects of
legal restoration would be
1 Independence.
2 Union with N. America
Reasons for present peace.
Cheque fear, + the duty of
property owners.
Pray attend in Cuba, query
as to Yucatan.

Dr. Increase in sickness due to strong winds. Few exacerbations and cases of intemperance, but no cause for anxiety.