Sir

About one Month ago Three or four Spanish Gentlemen from Saint Antonio came to this Town, they brought with them about Twenty Thousand Dollars in Cash which they layed out here in Merchandise which they took away Packed on Mules on their return home they were waylaid at the River Sabine by fifteen or sixteen Armed Men all said to be Citizens of the United States & Robed of all their Goods. The Spaniards proceeded on to Nacogdoches, as well as they Could & the Robbers encamped on this side the Sabine with their booty. Three or four days after the officer Commanding at Nacogdoches Sent about thirty Soldiers (Cavalry) Accompanied by the persons who had been Robbed, who Crossed the Sabine attacked the

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89 On March 2, 1811, the royalists, displeased with the régime of Casas, staged a counter-revolution in San Antonio, reestablishing the rule of the Spaniards. They imprisoned Casas, with other rebels and the envoys of Jiménez. These latter included Ignacio Aldama, Father Juan Salazar, two Franciscans, and several soldiers; their coffers were heavy with silver bars. They were commissioned to the United States to obtain supplies and men. For details see Garrett, *Green Flag Over Texas*, 50-58; J. Villisana Haggard, “The counter-Revolution of Béxar, 1811,” *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, XLIII, 222-235.

90 After the counter-revolution in Texas, free commerce, which had been established by the rebels between Texas and Louisiana, was abolished. However, the restored Spanish government in San Antonio sent officials to Natchitoches to trade; their purses were filled with the money they had taken from Jiménez’s envoys. In December, 1811, Don Nemesio, who had forbidden even communication with Louisiana, authorized trade with Natchitoches in order to obtain gifts for distribution among the Indians. M. Salcedo to N. Salcedo, Mapimi, August 14, 1811; same to same, Béxar, September 18, 1811, *Historia Operaciones de Guerra*; Salcedo, Manuel, 1810-1812, A.G.N., transcript BL., 67-69 (hereafter cited *Operaciones, Salcedo*).
Camp of the Brigands, Several discharges of Musquetry passed between them the result was, the Spaniards Carried the Camp retook all their Goods & what property they could find belonging to the Robbers, Consisting of twenty or thirty Horses & Mules, Some Money, Goods, Saddles, Value-less Clothing etc & returned to Nacogdoches with the whole. The Spaniards killed one of the Robbers a man formerly from Kentucky by the Name of John Villers, wounded another by the Name of Taylor from Georgia & took another Prisoner by the Name of Middleton I believe from Virginia, there were four of the Spaniards wounded one of whom Dangerously. The Robbers I believe have a Camp or place of Rendezvous at some place on what they call Neutral Ground Between the Rio Honda & Sabine & I believe they are sending emmissaries to Rapides, Oppolousas [Opelousas] & to this Town to engage Recruits, for Some other Outrage.91

Yesterday Another party of Spaniards Came here Consisting of fifteen Armed Men, tis said have brought with them a much larger sum of Money to purchase goods with.92 An Eschort of Soldiers we understand Came with them Over the Sabine to near this Town, but did not appear here, are waiting, till the Spaniards return with the goods they purchase to Conduct them Back. From Accounts from Nacogdoches there has lately Arrived there Six hundred troops & it is said that the whole Number Destined for that place is two Thousand, for what purpose Such a Number are Collecting at Nacogdoches is not

91The Neutral Ground established in 1806, between Texas and Louisiana as a temporary settlement of the boundary dispute between Spain and the United States, naturally became a haven of desperadoes, because in this area neither the laws of Spain nor of the United States applied, nor did any law of man exist. Marshall, A History of the Western Boundary of the Louisiana Purchase, 27-30.

92Apparently, Sibley does not exaggerate the amount of money brought to Natchitoches, since Spanish documents report that large sums were involved. Salazar stated in his trial for treason that the rebel chief Jiménez had ordered all silver on hand at the Rio Grande, as well as the money he had collected, to be placed in the strong box of the church at Monterrey. Jiménez afterward countermanded the order, sending it to Casas in San Antonio. However, Salazar said that he knew nothing of the silver. “Trial of Friar Juan Salazar,” Historia Independiente, MS., vol. 412, A.G.N. The Junta of San Antonio reported that Casas had received from Jiménez thirty-three and one-half loads of silver bars, and that the Junta was waiting orders concerning the disposition of the wealth. “Report of the Texas Deputies,” MS., Nacogdoches Archives. In March, 1811, the commandant-general ordered Salcedo to return from Coahulla to Texas as soon as possible, in order to direct to Vera Cruz the silver seized in Béxar. Documentos Históricos Mexicanos. Obra conmemorativa del primer centenario de la independencia de México, VI, 102-103. As late as January, 1817, officials continued to investigate the loss of 125,000 pesos carried from the Holy Church Cathedral in Monterrey by Jiménez in 1811. Historia Operaciones de Guerra, Arredondo, José Joaquín, 1811-1820 A.G.N., transcript BL., IV, 205 (hereafter cited as Operaciones, Arredondo.)
ascertained; but it probably may be from a Report having Reached Mexico that Men were recruiting in the United States & preparing to enter the Dominions of Spain for the purpose of Aiding the Revolutionists, & it is no doubt true, that in this Town, at Rapides & Oppolousas some Efforts have been made to Engage Men pretendedly for that Service, and that a Correspondence in writing has been Carried On upon that Subject between persons here & leading Characters of the Revolutionary party in the Spanish Country. all the Troops at Nacogdoches are Commanded by European Spanish officers or those Attached to Ferdinand the Seventh who Seem to have gained An Ascendancy throughout the Kingdom of Mexico. About three or four Months ago at the time when all the Country on this Side of the River Grand appeared to be revolutionised the people were proclaimed free & Independent. An officer from the other Side of River Grand of the Rank of General in the Revolutionary Army Arrived at St. Antonio with an Eschort of about thirty Men on his way to the United States, with a Very large quantity of Money & Uncoined Barrs of Gold & Silver for the purpose of procuring Assistance in Men & Arms to Aid the Revolutionists. On his Arrival at St. Antonio thinking himself Amongst his friends, Conceived all danger of being intercepted at an end, when a Conspiracy was formed Against him by leading Characters at St. Antonio tempted by the Immense Sum of Money he had, he was Seized, delivered over to his enemies & hanged with his brother & several persons who ac-

93From the documents, this statement is a rumor rather than fact, because at this time, Don Nemesio was pleading with the viceroy of Mexico to send troops, as “Texas was destitute”, and threatened with invasion by French agents and American insurrectionists. Also, at this time, Herrera, former commander of Texas troops, who had been seized in the Casas revolution in San Antonio, sent as prisoner to Coahuila, and later liberated during the counter-revolution in Coahuila, was returning to Texas as governor to restore order. N. Salcedo to Viceroy Venegas, Chihuahua, September 15, 1811, Historia, MS., vol. 331, A.G.N.; Documentos de la Independencia, Publicación de Secretaria de Educación Pública (Mexico, 1928), I, 333-334.

94Sibley’s information was correct. Luís de Onís, rejected by the United States as minister to the American Government from the Supreme Junta of Spain, had remained in Washington as an informer of French intrigues and aggressive plans of the United States in regard to Spanish dominions. In April, 1811, both Onís and the Junta of Texas informed their superiors of several designs of American revolutionists threatening to invade Spanish territory to aid the rebels; Sibley’s name was connected with such an enterprise. Hatcher, The Opening of Texas, 212-213; Onís to Viceroy Venegas, Philadelphia, April 24, 1811, Historia, Operaciones de Guerra, Notas Diplomáticas 1809 á 1820, A.G.N., transcript Béxar Archives (hereafter cited as Operaciones; Notas Diplomáticas) III, 55-57.

95Casas Revolution, January 22-March 2, 1811.

96The embassy of Jiménez; see note 92.
compained him,\textsuperscript{97} a Self Created Council was formed who took Charge of his property, & are now purchasing goods with it & pretend to be attached to Ferdinand the Seventh. The persons who are Coming here to trade are members of that Council, who pretend to Exercise both Civil & Military Jurisdiction.——

Besides the Encampment of Robbers on this Side of the River Sabine, there is another Collection of Bad Men & Some Women at the Pecan Point On Red River a Most beautiful place between the Caddo & Panis Tribes of Indians. I understand there Number is about Twenty and are daily Augmenting, Some of them from this place, Some from Arkansa, Washita & Most of them have Escaped from different Jails in the United States, the Indians have repeatedly Complained to me of their Ill Conduet, they are enemies to all Law & Good Order, & If suffered to remain there long Undisturbed they will become so Strong that it will Cost the Government an expensive expedition to remove them. They are building Cabbins & Planting Corn & doing Great Mischief Among the Indians, And Inticing Negroes from their Masters & receiving them as comrades. The Indians in this quarter are all quiet & friendly to our Government & would generally Conduct well was it not for their having too much Intercourse with Bad white People, with which this frontier of the United States is too much Invested.

I am Sir, with great esteem
John Sibley

[Manuscript illegible]

(No title or number)

\textsuperscript{97}After a counter-revolution in Coahuila and the seizure of the rebel chiefs Jiménez and Hidalgo, the envoys Aldama and Salazar were sent to Monclova where they were tried for treason, and executed. “Trial of Friar Juan Salazar in Monclova,” Historia Independiente, MS., vol. 412, A.G.N.