

*Memoranda and Official Correspondence Relating to the Republic of Texas,
its History and Annexation,
Including a Brief Autobiography of the Author.*

by Anson Jones,
Late President of the Republic of Texas

and unprofitably enough to myself, I made another effort in good faith to escape to private life. I sold my house and improvements in Austin, and took my family and returned to Brazoria county, and recommenced the practice of my profession at Columbia, boarding with Mr. Ammon Underwood. By fall I had succeeded in establishing a business about as extensive as I could attend to. But my office-holding had impoverished me, and embarrassed my affairs just at a time when the wants and expenses of a family were beginning to be felt. I however was beginning to emerge from these difficulties, when I was again implored to take upon myself the duties of office. The Presidential term of Gen. Lamar expired in December of this year, and Gen. Houston's second term commenced. It was a ques-

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"Private Memoirs"

[From Ammon Underwood, Esq.]

COLUMBIA, Dec. 20th, 1841.

Doct. ANSON JONES :

DEAR SIR,—I learn, with much regret, that there is a probability of your accepting an office in the cabinet. I can only say that you must be governed in so doing by feelings of PATRIOTISM, not of INTEREST. A wide field is open for your professional skill here, in the rich county of Brazoria, which your reputation would turn to the best account. I do assure you I am also somewhat selfish in wishing you to make your permanent residence among us. * * * Please write me and inform me relative to your future intentions, to taking office, &c.

I remain your friend, &c., A. UNDERWOOD.

[Endorsement.—Of course \$1,500 in *Texas money* could not be much inducement for a man to leave a lucrative practice. The salary of Secretary of State, when reduced to par funds, would not more than pay a negro's hire.]

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"Letters, etc."

[From Mr. Ammon Underwood.]

COLUMBIA, Texas, 18th May, 1843.

HON. ANSON JONES :

DEAR SIR,—I leave in the morning for Massachusetts. I would have been happy to have given you possession of our house before starting. * * * I know, my dear sir, that you are not much disposed to correspond where there is not an absolute necessity for doing so; but if you could do me the honor of addressing me that which is new and interesting, addressing me as per direction for Mrs. Jones, I would feel very much gratified. I feel for you a respect, believing that the high station you fill is honored, and the country benefited by your talents; and conclude you will yet fill, with honor to yourself &c., and loud festival shoutings and rejoicings at the now certain prospect of annexation. Your name is cried aloud as Governor Jones instead of President. Though an unwavering friend of yourself and old "Sam," I had much rather give my vote for you for Governor, than the higher sounding title of President, of Texas. * * * * *

Your friend, respectfully, A. UNDERWOOD.

[Endorsement.—Don't halloo "till you are out of the woods" is a good rule; and we are not "out of the woods" yet, by a long way.—A. J.]

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"Letters, etc."

[From Ammon Underwood, Esq.]

COLUMBIA, Dec. 23d, 1844.

His Excellency, ANSON JONES,

President of the Republic of Texas:

DEAR SIR,—We had a mass meeting at Brazoria on Saturday. Resolutions, not such as I approved, were passed. Being

on the Committee of thirty to draft them, I done all in my power to change the objectionable portions of them. The meeting was a large one, for this county—being fully 200 persons present. It was often and repeatedly asserted that you and Gen. Houston are, and long have been, opposed to annexation. This I as often and repeatedly contradicted; referring to your sentiments, often publicly, as well as privately expressed. They are not disposed to believe your words, or acts, if plain as demonstration can make them; but, my dear sir, the splendid results of annexation, which there is high hope among your friends here your administration will speedily achieve, will confute all their slanderous falsehoods; and they will stand self-convicted of having been governed by little-minded prejudice.

I feel convinced that your own discrimination, your own knowledge of the people, as well as their future happiness and the glory of the achievement, will secure all your eminent abilities and energies in its favor. So that, if this great end is possible to be obtained, it will be arrived at.

If deemed impossible to attain this great end, no opposite course could be taken without producing great dissatisfaction throughout the country, until sufficient time elapses to convince the nation that annexation is without hope. I hope you will not deem it presumptuous in me for thus having presumed to address you in this hasty manner, as I will assure you, that the honor and success of your administration is what I most heartily and earnestly desire. * * * * *

Truly your friend, and obt. svt., A. UNDERWOOD.

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"Letters, etc."

[From Ammon Underwood, Esq.]

COLUMBIA, April 5th, 1845.

PRESIDENT JONES:

DEAR SIR,—I wrote you some time since, to which no answer has been received. * * * The public pulse is in a most feverish state here and throughout the country, pertaining to the great question of annexation. The door is now opened for effecting the union, and, as the people believe, much promptitude is desirable on your part to call an extra session of Congress, &c., &c.

By your opponents, and even some of your warm and stanch friends, doubts and fears are entertained relative to your views. My own (as you know) *very powerful eloquence*, has been exhausted in assuring them of your friendship and prompt action in the great cause, so soon as the subject is properly brought before you, but my assurances are not confided in. For my own part, I doubt not that before this reaches you, your proclamation will have been published convening an extra session of Congress. The consummation of this great measure will fill a glorious paragraph—a proud page in the history of your high career; and I know and feel that as you value your own fair fame, but more especially your country's welfare, that your highest energies will be devoted to the accomplishment of this most desirable and glorious result. From all sections of the country,—except Galveston, where, I learn, a majority is in favor of the measure, and the dependents of Government patronage composing your little town of Washington,—a universal voice of acclaim is raised in favor of annexation!—annexation on the terms of the joint resolutions of the Congress of the United States!

I know that your own sentiments and knowledge of the deep interest felt almost universally throughout the community for the speedy consummation of this great measure, will lead you to the most proper and speedy course to effect it; and I would merely add, that the feverish excitement of the community upon this great question exceeds any thing I ever witnessed.

A mass meeting and barbecue is to come off at Brazoria on Monday week; also an annexation ball here on the 14th, and one at Brazoria on the 21st.

Forgive me for this intrusion upon your attention, which I am aware must be heavily and constantly taxed, and permit me, very respectfully, to subscribe myself,

Truly your friend and obedient servant, A. UNDERWOOD.
His Excellency, ANSON JONES.

[Endorsement.—A true bill.—A. J.]

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"Letters, etc."