

Anthony Butler to Andrew Jackson, January 2, 1833, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

COLONEL ANTHONY BUTLER TO JACKSON.

Mexico City, January 2, 1833.

. . . . Mr. Alaman¹ has left his hiding place and is again in Mexico but still in some alarm for the future, notwithstanding the Oblivion promised in the pacification. So soon as matters are so far settled, as to allow me to renew the subjects that have been for some time lying over with this Gove'mt I shall do so, and if Mr. Alaman is here and at liberty I shall make him useful. Gen. Pedraza² it is said has been hitherto very much opposed to any extension of our boundary West, and it was he as I understood who denied Mr. Poinsett the privilege of even discussing the question relative to a Treaty stipulation for the inland Trade between Santa Fé and Missouri. If he continues so strait laced on these subjects, it will give me some trouble to bring matters to the point we desire—even should it be practicable to do so at all. I have one road however by which I hope to reach him and vanquish his scruples, should they remain as strong as it is said they formerly were, and I have besides the very Man provided to do the underworking with him. He is represented to me as a very firm or rather an obstinate man, so that it is impossible to say in advance, what we shall be able to do with him; if he is perceived to be impracticable the better way will be to let the affair stand over for the New Administration that comes into power on the 1st April next.

1 Lucas Alamán, former Mexican secretary for foreign affairs.

2 Manuel Gómez Pedraza, at this time president of Mexico.

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I may meet with difficulties and great ones. Under the present Administration I count on them, I expect them. But I will succeed in uniting T—to our Country before I am done with the Subject or I will forfeit my head. I know them all well, and I know how to manage them. And after my Success with Alaman, who Mr. Poinsett said “ *nothing could Conciliate* ” I do not allow myself to doubt. Bonaparte said that “to determine to succeed” was the first step, and seldom failed. I have made it my maxim in this matter.

In the hope of soon hearing from you I remain My dear Sir ever and faithfully yours