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JOURNAL
OF
THE JOINT COMMISSION.

In pursuance of the provisions of a convention between the United States of America and the republic of Texas, for marking the boundary between them, concluded on the 25th of April, 1838, the ratifications of which were exchanged on the 13th of October, 1838, John H. Overton, commissioner, duly appointed and commissioned on the part of the United States, and Peter B. Dexter, acting commissioner, George W. Smyth, surveyor, and Hamilton P. Bee, clerk to the commission, duly appointed and commissioned on the part of the republic of Texas, met in the city of New Orleans, in the State of Louisiana, on the 7th day of August, 1839, and in accordance with instructions from their respective Governments, proceeded to the organization of the commission, and entered upon the discharge of its duties.

The commission during its deliberations having determined upon the stores deemed necessary for its officers and men to be employed in operations in the field, and made provision for the purchase and transportation of them to the mouth of the Sabine river, at which point its operative duties are to commence; and having agreed upon the escort to be furnished by the two Governments, this day resolved to reconvene at the mouth of the Sabine river on the 15th day of October next, there and then to proceed to run and mark the boundary between the two countries.

Owing, however, to the peculiar unhealthiness of the season, and to other obstacles, the commission failed to meet at the time and place appointed, but assembled on the twelfth of November, 1838, at Green's bluff, on the Sabine river, about thirty-five miles from its mouth. At this meeting were present John H. Overton, commissioner, and John R. Conway, surveyor, duly appointed and commissioned on the part of the United States, and David Sample, commissioner, George W. Smyth, surveyor, and Hamilton P. Bee, clerk, duly appointed and commissioned on the part of the republic of Texas.

The astronomical apparatus and instruments necessary to further proceedings, not having arrived, the officers of the commission moved up the river about fifteen miles to Millspaugh's bluff, where they remained encamped from day to day.

On the 23d November, Mr. McUne Barrow, a citizen of Louisiana, of the parish of Rapides, who had been appointed by the United States commissioner, assistant to John R. Conway, surveyor, arrived in camp; and on the following day was killed by the accidental discharge of his rifle. Although associated but a short time with the officers of the commission, he had, by his gentlemanly deportment, endeared himself to each of them, and they take this opportunity to express their deep sense of the loss they have sustained. His remains were interred on the following day. A solitary pine on the west bank of the Sabine river, marks the spot where they repose.

On the 11th December, Captain S. J. Pillans, of the Texan army, who

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had been directed by his Government to report himself to the Texan commissioner for topographical duty, and John Henry Young, who had been duly appointed clerk to the commissioner on the part of the United States, arrived at the encampment.

On the 20th January, 1840, Memucan Hunt, commissioner, who had been duly appointed and commissioned in the place of David Sample, on the part of the Government of Texas, joined the commission.

On the 1st February, Major James D. Graham, with his assistant, Lieutenant Lee, of the United States Topographical Engineers, detailed, by order of the President of the United States, to attend the commission on the part of that country, in charge of the necessary apparatus and instruments for determining the said boundary, reached the mouth of the Sabine, and was joined by the commission on the 12th February.*

FEBRUARY 13.—Mr. Hunt, the Texan commissioner, not being provided with the apparatus considered by him necessary on the part of his Government for their field operations, proceedings were, upon his application, suspended, with a view to their procurement. During this month Major Graham, with his assistant, Lieutenant Lee, was engaged in a series of astronomical observations, in order to determine accurately the latitude and longitude of the mouth of the Sabine river in the sea, at the termination of its western bank on the Gulf of Mexico. On the 8th day of March Lieutenant Lee was detached, in consequence of the difficulties experienced by vessels entering the river from the obvious want of any chart laying down its shoals and channels, to make a survey of the bar at its entrance into the gulf, and of the river to the lake if practicable, while Major Graham was still unremittingly employed in multiplying his astronomical and magnetic observations, a report of which, forming a most interesting series, settling with accuracy, undetermined before, the variation and dip of the needle, and the latitude and

* It is proper to state that the delay of Major Graham and Lieutenant Lee's arrival at the Sabine, was officially reported to the United States commissioner as having arisen from the following unavoidable causes, namely: Major G. did not receive his orders in Washington, definitely detailing him for this service, until the 1st November, 1839. It then became necessary for him to proceed to Philadelphia, New York, and Boston, to collect and pack up the astronomical instruments necessary for the execution of his duties, when he and Lieutenant Lee sailed in charge of these instruments from New York to New Orleans, transportation by water being necessary in order to ensure their safety. After a very boisterous passage, attended by adverse winds, they reached the latter place on the 18th December, and tried, by every means within their power, to effect a junction with the commission, who unaware that water transportation would be necessary for them, had remained at the encampment awaiting their arrival. Being uncertain of the position of the party, Major Graham despatched a messenger to the United States commissioner on the 29th December, to proceed (via Galveston, the most feasible route) to the Sabine, with a letter, stating his situation, and the necessity of water transportation for his apparatus. By a combination of adverse causes, not by any means unusual for travellers to encounter in a new and sparsely-settled country, this messenger did not reach the camp of the commission on the Sabine until the 21st January. The United States commissioner having, in the mean time, gone to New Orleans on business relating to his duties, there met with Major Graham and Lieutenant Lee, on the 11th January, who, immediately on his arrival, reported themselves to him in person, agreeably to their orders from the Secretary of War, for duty upon the boundary survey. Between this time and the 27th, these officers were occupied in assisting the United States commissioner to obtain such articles of equipment as were considered necessary in their particular department of the duties to be performed, and in procuring safe water transportation for them to the Sabine. Having engaged an excellent sloop, the Thomas Carley, of about forty-seven tons, for this purpose, they sailed from New Orleans on the 27th January, and reached the Sabine with the astronomical apparatus on the 1st February, where, agreeably to their instructions from the United States commissioner, they immediately commenced the necessary astronomical observations for determining the latitude and longitude of the junction of the west bank of the Sabine with the sea, and the dip and declination of the magnetic needle.

longitude, the latter being erroneously laid down in the most approved charts, is appended to this journal. The hydrographic operations of Lieutenant Lee, assisted by Captain Pillans, of the Texan army, to whose voluntary aid we were kindly indebted, are laid down on the map or plans accompanying this journal, and will be found of service to the commerce of both countries.

Pending this delay, the commissioner of Texas, under alleged instructions from his Government, set up on the 2d of March a claim to the centre of those portions of the Sabine river now known as Sabine pass and Sabine lake, which was resisted on the part of the United States, and, after discussion, was referred to the two Governments for their decision. For the purpose of obtaining this decision, and the instruments required on the part of Texas, which had not as yet been procured, the commission was on the 15th of March adjourned to the 15th of April following.

Owing to the delays necessarily attendant upon the receipt of instructions from the Department at Washington, the commission on the part of the United States did not join the party composing the commission of the republic of Texas, who had reached Green's bluff on the 3d of May, until the 15th of May. On this day the joint commission reconvened.

The claim to the centre of the pass and lake set up on the 2d of March last by the Texan commissioner being withdrawn, and the construction of the treaty held by the United States conceded on the 16th, the day following, arrangements were immediately commenced for tracing the boundary. The 17th and 18th of May were spent in the necessary preparations for the commencement of our field operations.

On the 19th, at 11 o'clock, A. M., the commissioners and surveyors of the United States and the republic of Texas, accompanied by Major Graham, of the United States Topographical Engineers, and John H. Young, clerk to the United States commissioner, left their encampment at Green's bluff, and descended the river in two boats to the point of beginning, for the purpose of commencing the demarcation of the boundary. On the 20th, at four o'clock, A. M., we reached the residence of Captain Green, occupying the site of Belknap's old camp, having been detained upon the lake by a storm, and been exposed during the whole of the preceding night to the most inclement weather.

On the 21st we proceeded to the entrance of the Sabine river into the Gulf of Mexico, and then, in virtue of our respective powers, and in conformity to the provisions of the convention between the two countries concluded at Washington the 25th day of April, 1838, we established the point of beginning of the boundary between the United States and the republic of Texas at a mound on the western bank of the junction of the river Sabine with the sea, as designated on the plan or map accompanying this journal, and marked A. The mound was made by throwing up earth in a circular form of fifty feet in diameter, and about seven feet high at its centre, and is surmounted by a pole of thirty-six feet in height, with a keg at its top payed over with pitch. It was also distinguished by the burying of a bottle at each of the cardinal points of the compass, four feet from the centre, containing sealed up within them the following inscription written on paper, viz.:

"Be it remembered that on the 21st day of May, 1840, the demarcation of the boundary between the United States and the republic of Texas was begun at this point, being in conformity with the provisions of the convention for the

demarcation of the said boundary, concluded and signed by the respective plenipotentiaries of said countries at Washington, the 25th day of April, 1838.

"Witness our signatures this 21st of May, 1840.

"JOHN H. OVERTON, *Commissioner of the U. S.*

"JOHN R. CONWAY, *U. S. Surveyor.*

"Witness—

"J. D. GRAHAM, *Major U. S. Engineers.*

"MEMUCAN HUNT, *Commissioner on the part of the Republic of Texas.*

"By the Commissioner.

"GEO. W. SMYTH, *Surveyor of Texas.*

"JOHN HENRY YOUNG, *Clerk to U. S. Comm'r.*"

Dr. Stephen H. Everett's store-house, situated on the west bank of that portion of the river called "the city of the Pass," bears north thirty-two degrees west from the centre of the mound, by the magnetic needle, or north twenty-three degrees and twenty minutes west, with reference to the true meridian. The mouth of Bayou Henderson bears, from the centre of the mound north, nineteen degrees west, by the magnetic needle, or north, ten degrees twenty minutes west, with reference to the true meridian. The distance to the mouth of that bayou from the mound, is one thousand and eighty-eight feet. The mound itself is in latitude $29^{\circ} 41' 27''.5$ north, and longitude $93^{\circ} 50' 14''.2$ west of Greenwich, by the astronomical observations of Major James D. Graham, of the United States Corps of Topographical Engineers. The position of the mound, in reference to other adjacent objects will appear by referring to the accompanying plan of the river. Thence we proceeded along the western bank of Sabine Pass, traversing the entrance of Bayous Henderson and Lee into the pass, to the Sabine lake. Thence along the western bank of the lake, passing the entrances of Mud bayou and Taylor's bayou to a point of woods known and designated as Aurora, opposite to which we passed the night on board a keel-boat anchored off, belonging to Dr. Everett.

Nearly opposite the mouth of Taylor's bayou, and east of the boundary, are two islands, and about half a mile northeasterly is another island, all of inconsiderable size, situated in the lake within a short distance from its western shore. The banks of the pass and lake are generally low prairie marsh.

MAY 22.—Continued the demarcation along the western shore of the lake, crossing the mouth of Crane bayou; thence to the entrance of the river Neches, into the lake;* thence across the mouth of that river, immediately above the little island in the lake designated on the plan of the Sa-

*In accordance with instructions from the Department of State of the United States to their commissioner, upon reaching this point in the demarcation of limit, the special attention of the commission was directed, with a view to its final adjustment, to the question whether, by the stipulations of the treaty between the United States and Mexico, the boundary line should not run thence along the western bank of the river Neches, to its intersection with the thirty-second degree of north latitude. The edition of Melish's Map of the United States, published at Philadelphia, improved to the 1st of January, 1818, referred to in the treaty as laying down and identifying the particular stream, could not be found, notwithstanding every diligence, both on the part of the State Department, at Washington, and the commissioner. In the absence of that evidence, the commission have been led to conclude upon other grounds, equally satisfactory to them, that the river Neches could not have been intended as the river designated by the treaty, as constituting this portion of the boundary between the two countries. The general course of the river Neches is about northwest, and therefore does not correspond in its direction with the course, which, according to the treaty, the boundary line was

bine river and lake by the name of Jones's island; thence west of said island, around the peninsula formed by the projection of the point of land between the Neches and Alligator cove; thence around the cove and western borders of the lake, as delineated on the plan or map; thence around Point Young, along the western pass by which the river Sabine enters the lake; thence northeasterly along the western bank of the river Sabine, traversing the mouths of Cow bayou and Adams' bayou, and around the promontory designated as Horse-shoe bend; thence northwesterly to Huntly, situated at Green's bluff. The portion of the boundary above described from the mouth of the river Sabine in the sea, to Huntly, on the western bank of said river, a distance of forty miles, more or less, including all the sinuosities of said line, is clearly illustrated upon the accompanying plan or map, by the junction of a red teint drawn on the Texan side, and a yellow teint drawn on the United States side.

By a communication of this date from Memucan Hunt, Esq., it was duly announced that his duties as commissioner on the part of Texas had ceased, and that George W. Smyth, Esq., had been appointed his successor, and had immediately entered upon the discharge of the duties of his office.

On the evening of the 22d the commissioners, surveyors, and clerks, on the part of the United States and Texas, together with Major Graham and Mr. Daniel Wilber and Andrew B. Gray (the last two engineers on the part of Texas), embarked near Huntly on board the steambot Albert Gallatin, for the purpose of surveying the river and marking the boundary as far as the thirty-second degree of latitude. The same evening the party proceeded up the river about sixteen miles as far as Ballew's Ferry, passing the mouths of Cyprus creek and Old river on the Texas side.

MAY 23.—At about 11 o'clock, A. M., left Ballew's Ferry, where the boat had lain during the night, and continued the work of tracing the boundary up the river. We proceeded this day about fifty miles. For thirty miles after leaving Ballew's the river winds in a continued succession of abrupt sinuosities. The banks contain here and there patches of pine, though much of the timber is of those kinds which commonly flourish in low land.

MAY 24.—Started at sunrise, and proceeded this day about fifty miles.

to take. It is evidently subordinate and tributary to the Sabine, as determined by the comparative soundings of both, their relative length, &c., &c. It is believed from the best information the commission could procure, that the river Neches loses its distinctive character as a river before it intersects (if it intersects at all) the thirty-second degree of north latitude. The depth of water upon the bar, at its embouchure into the lake, was decided to be less than that at the mouth of either of the three outlets or passes of the Sabine into the lake. Between this point, and the receipt of its principal tributary (the Angelina) from the north, in about latitude 31° , the navigation of the Neches is scarcely inferior to that of the Sabine. It then declines into an inconsiderable stream, navigable (if at all) only at very high stages of water. Whereas, the general course of the Sabine river is north, agreeing with the course indicated by the treaty; it is clearly the principal, and most considerable of those two rivers which flow into Lake Sabine. Steamers of 130 tons burden had already ascended the Sabine as far as the town of Hamilton, distant about 500 miles from its entrance into the Gulf of Mexico; and the commission were enabled, without any other difficulties than those arising from rafts and obstructions formed by overhanging trees, growing upon its banks, to ascend in the steamer Albert Gallatin, of 120 tons burden, to the 32d degree of north latitude, about one hundred miles higher up. There was no perceptible variation in the width or depth of the river, from the head of tide water to this point, and it was represented as affording an equally good navigation for a considerable distance above. The soundings gave along the whole extent of the river forming the boundary, from 15 to 25 feet in the channel. In addition to these facts, the commission refer to the editions of Melish's map of the United States anterior and subsequent to the one called for in the treaty, as establishing the identity of the river Sabine with the stream now so called, and the concurrent testimony of respectable inhabitants in the neighborhood of this boundary, corroborating the same as far back as thirty or forty years.

This portion of the river is by no means so crooked as that which we traversed yesterday. We passed by the town of Salem, situated on one of the mouths of Big Cow creek. About sundown reached the town of Belgrade, where the boat lay for the night. Belgrade is said to have been once the seat of the Boloxi Indians. The night was very clear, and the engineers were engaged on shore until two hours past midnight in making observations for the latitude and longitude, in order to correct the map of the river between its mouth and this point. This is the first point above Green's bluff at which these gentlemen have been enabled to observe, the banks of the river between these places being overflowed on either side, which rendered it impossible to obtain a position for their instruments. The latitude was found to be $30^{\circ} 37' 38''$ north, and longitude $93^{\circ} 40' 18''$ west.

MAY 25.—Started at half-past five o'clock, A. M. We this day found the navigation for several miles above Belgrade somewhat difficult, it being obstructed not only by the extreme crookedness of the river, but also by a raft of about three miles in length, commencing two miles above Belgrade. We proceeded this day as far as Hickman's, situated on a high bluff on the Louisiana side of the river, and about half a mile by land south of Thompson's ferry. The boat lay for the night at Hickman's, being forty miles, more or less, by the course of the river from Belgrade. The engineers were engaged on shore until three hours after midnight in making astronomical observations. The latitude was found to be $30^{\circ} 55' 54''$ north, and longitude $93^{\circ} 31' 18''.2$ west, the sky being very clear and favorable for observing.

MAY 26.—At sunrise left Hickman's, and proceeded this day to within about fourteen miles of Sabine town. The boat lay during the night opposite to White's (until within a few weeks past the residence of Mr. Ferris), situated on a bluff on the east bank or Louisiana side of the river. The atmosphere continuing remarkably clear, the engineers were on shore nearly all night, engaged as usual. Latitude found to be $31^{\circ} 21' 57''$ north, and longitude $93^{\circ} 39' 02''.8$ west. The banks of this portion of the river are in general more elevated than any we have yet passed, some of the bluffs rising as high as fourteen or fifteen feet above the present level of the water, which is just now unusually high. We crossed to-day the path of a recent tornado, which had prostrated the trees and cane on the river banks. Its course was observed to be from south 72° west to north 72° east, and the track to be from three to four hundred yards wide. This was supposed to be the same tornado which occasioned such dreadful destruction of human lives and houses in Natchez on the 7th of May.

MAY 27.—At sunrise the boat started, and about eight o'clock, A. M., reached Sabine town, situated on the Texas side of the river. The latitude was found to be $31^{\circ} 25' 05''.5$ north, and longitude $93^{\circ} 41' 45''$ west. Here the boat lay in order to discharge freight, &c., until about four o'clock, P. M., when we started for Gaines's ferry, where we arrived the same evening, joining Lieutenant Lee and Captain Pillans, who had availed themselves of the first trip of the steamer Albert Gallatin in March to ascend the river as high as this point after the temporary adjournment of the joint commission already mentioned. Lieutenant Lee was charged with the transportation to this point of the astronomical apparatus on the part of the United States (Major Graham having been sent to Washington in charge of the despatches for the State Department). He had occupied himself from the 1st of April until we joined him in making a series of astronomical and magnetic observations, giving the latitude, longitude, magnetic dip and declination at this point, all

of which will appear by reference to the plan of the river.* Mr. George G. Meade, who had been appointed an assistant in the astronomical department for the United States, and ordered to await the arrival of the commission here, had joined Mr. Lee on the 1st of April, and assisted him in his labors.

MAY 28.—Not having arranged the means of transportation higher up the river, we were obliged to lay at Gaines's during this day.

An agreement was however finally made with the master of the Albert Gallatin, to convey the party as high up the river as the 32d degree.

MAY 29.—We accordingly left Gaines's this morning at noon, having taken on board the instruments and camp-equipage previously sent to this place. We proceeded this day about thirty-five miles, our boat lying, during the night, at a high bluff five miles from the village of Hamilton. The night was clear, but the density of the forest on either side was such as to prevent the engineers from observing here.

MAY 30.—Started at 6 o'clock, A. M., and about 9 o'clock, A. M., reached Hamilton, on the west bank of the river, in Texas, where we took in wood. The river up to this point from Gaines's ferry is very crooked, and the navigation a good deal interrupted by overhanging trees. We proceeded this day to a point ascertained by observation to be in latitude $31^{\circ} 48' 33''$ and longitude $93^{\circ} 50' 17''.5$. Here Major Graham, Lieutenant Lee, Mr. Wilber, and Mr. Meade, were occupied until one hour past midnight in making astronomical observations. Above Hamilton, a portion of the river for several miles is wide and quite straight, but during the latter part of the day our progress was again obstructed by trees and the crookedness of the stream.

MAY 31.—Started at 6 o'clock, A. M. We had not gone more three miles when we were stopped by a raft in the river, which detained us nearly seven hours. At half-past one o'clock, P. M., the raft having been removed, we started and ran for the rest of the day, meeting, however, with occasional obstructions. Lay during the night at a point whose latitude was determined by astronomical observations to be $31^{\circ} 52' 23''$ north, and longitude $93^{\circ} 53' 32''.4$ west. The night clear, and the engineers engaged on shore until past midnight in making observations.

JUNE 1.—Started at 6 o'clock, A. M. From this point the character of the land and timber begins to change; the former being higher on both sides of the river than heretofore, and the latter consisting chiefly of the white and red oak, the hickory, the white maple, pine, and cypress. After proceeding about six miles, we again found the river obstructed by a raft, which detained us several hours. After passing this, we found the stream wide and the navigation good to Logan's ferry, which we reached at 3 o'clock, P. M., and stopped here for the night. The sky being clear, the engineers were occupied until a late hour in observing. Major Graham makes the latitude here $31^{\circ} 58' 24''$ N., and longitude $94^{\circ} 00' 02''.4$ W.

JUNE 2.—It having been ascertained that Logan's ferry is very near the point where the 32d degree of latitude crosses the Sabine, we this day discharged the boat and encamped on the Louisiana side, near the bank of the river. Messrs. Lee and Meade, with a part of the camp-equipage, were despatched to select a position north for the encampment.

JUNE 3.—They were joined early on this day by the whole party. The

* Latitude of Gaines's Ferry, $31^{\circ} 28' 15''.6$ N., longitude, $93^{\circ} 44' 32''.8$ W.; from astronomical observations of Lieutenant T. J. Lee.
Magnetic variation, May 29, 1840, $8^{\circ} 40' 35''$ E.; magnetic dip, by two needles, same date, $60^{\circ} 55'$, from observations of Major Graham.

observations made during the night of the 3d indicated, approximately, that we were about one mile north of the 32d.

JUNE 4.—A line was directed to be run from the point of observation about that distance south, and thence to the river. Upon that western line, and about two miles from its intersection with the river, a commanding position, based by the low ground of the river, was selected and immediately occupied as an observatory by the party charged with the astronomical department.

JUNE 5 and 6.—The men were employed in clearing away a space for the astronomical station.

From the 7th to the 16th, engaged during the principal part of every night in observing on all the stars in place for the latitude, some of which could not be seen until the 10th, being obstructed by the thick foliage which had originally shaded the position, and which had not been entirely cut away until after that time. Owing to the season of the year, the stars, both to the north and the south, were necessarily confined chiefly to the class indicated as the 3d magnitude. The moon being near the full, and shining very bright, rendered it extremely difficult for several nights to observe, with a reflecting instrument, on stars of these lesser magnitudes with the accuracy desired. This cause, combined with the advanced state of the season toward the unhealthy period, and the fact that the funds on hand were nearly exhausted, being barely sufficient now to transport the party to the point on Red river, where it would be necessary to take water transportation, rendered it absolutely necessary that the commission should at once adjourn for the season. This step was consequently adopted, and an adjournment ordered until the 1st day of November next; the officers of the party to be occupied, in the meantime, in computing and verifying the calculations of the observations which have already been made, and in correcting the map by them; the results of these labors to be submitted to the commission at their next meeting.

1841. FEBRUARY 14.—The republic of Texas having made no appropriation for continuing the demarcation on the 1st of November, in consequence of which the adjournment to that period became necessary, the commission did not meet until this date. The United States commissioner remained at his residence until notified by the arrival of the Texan commission, on the 25th of December, of the readiness on the part of his Government to renew operations. Accordingly, without delay, they left for New Orleans, which they reached on the 2d of January, and where they remained until the 15th of the same month, engaged in procuring supplies and making the preparatory arrangements for their duties in the field. On the 15th they left New Orleans for their destination, via Opelousas, where their horses were left, and Alexandria, whence, after some detention in waiting for a steamer to ascend the river, they embarked for Shreveport, which they reached on the 1st instant.

On the 7th, Lieut. Col. James Kearney, of the United States' Topographical Engineers, who had been ordered to report to the United States' commissioner, in the place of Major J. D. Graham, of the same corps (the latter having been retained for duty on the northeastern boundary), with Lieutenant Blake as assistant, arrived at Shreveport. After joining the commissioners at this place, and after the arrival, in the interim, of Lieutenants Johnson and Allen, also assistants, they set out for the encampment, which had been left in June last, and reached it at 2 o'clock, P. M., of this day. Here they found the United States and Texas surveyors, and also the clerks of the commission. For upward of five months preceding this

time, from the report of Messrs. Wilber and Gray, surveyors and engineers on the part of the republic of Texas, who had remained encamped, in charge of the astronomical instruments, &c., from the period of the adjournment, there had been a continuity of bad weather, rendering it (perhaps with the exception of only two nights) utterly impossible to observe upon stars in place for latitude. Their meteorological journal shows a depression of the mercury during that period to 9° Fahrenheit upon one occasion.

FEBRUARY 15, 16, 17, 18.—Engaged in removal to the camp of observation, which had been occupied by Major Graham during the last year, and in preparations for observing.

From the 19th February to 3d March, inclusive, the weather was unsuitable for observation, measurably from the dense smoke that settled upon the horizon of evenings, produced by a general fire in the woods for a great distance around us. The boundary was traced and established along the western bank of the Sabine, from Logan's ferry, where it was discontinued last year, to the probable point of the intersection of the 32d degree of latitude, a distance of about three and a half miles, as represented by the accompanying map or plan. The operatives, in the mean time, employed in clearing away the position for the observatory, in opening and extending an avenue for a meridian, and an experimental line east and west to the river. This work being finished, and the sextants forwarded from Washington to Baltimore the first week of January, and thence, on the 20th of the same month, shipped to New Orleans, upon which our reliance in the determination of the 32d degree was now found mainly to depend, not having arrived, it was, on the 4th of March, at the suggestion of the Texan commissioner, concluded to discharge all the men engaged by Lieutenant Johnston on account of the joint commission. The United States commissioner retained, on the sole account of his Government, twelve of the number, upon the requisition of Colonel Kearney, as necessary for forwarding his operations.

MARCH 5.—Lieutenant Blake despatched to New Orleans to procure sextants; no news of the vessel by which those were shipped at Baltimore being received. From this time, and indeed until the 12th of March, with the exception of partial and unsatisfactory observations made on the nights of the 4th and 6th, the engineers were assiduously employed in the adjustments of their instruments and in rating the chronometers.

MARCH 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18.—Colonel Kearney and his party engaged in observing for the meridian, and on the prime vertical at night, portions of some of which became cloudy before morning.

MARCH 19.—Night cloudy and unfit for observing. Lieutenants Johnston, Blake, and Allen, when disengaged from other duties, employed in making a survey and reconnaissance of the river and adjacent country, in reference to the position occupied as an observatory.

MARCH 20.—Lieutenant Sitgreaves, of the United States Topographical Engineers, left in New Orleans to bring up the sextants upon the arrival of the vessel, reached this encampment in charge of them. Night clear. In conjunction with Colonel Kearney, Lieutenant Johnston, having adjusted the sextants just arrived, was employed in observing throughout the night.

MARCH 21.—Fine, clear night until 11 o'clock, when it became cloudy: observers engaged until that time.

MARCH 22.—Rain during the day, the night unpropitious.

MARCH 23.—The party engaged in observing throughout the night, though the day foreboded a different result.

MARCH 24.—Clear day and cloudy night after 9½, P. M. Until that period employed as usual.

MARCH 25.—The day fine, but the night cloudy.

MARCH 26.—At forty-five minutes past 9, A. M., commenced raining, and continued, with occasional intermissions, throughout that day and night.

MARCH 27.—Occasional thunder-storms, with heavy torrents of rain during the day and night.

MARCH 28.—At 7, A. M., the rain increased to a thunder-storm, and fell in torrents for a short time, when it cleared off.

The observations thus far made, indicate our position with sufficient certainty to justify Colonel Kearney in the removal of his transit instrument to the bank of the river, with a view of determining the meridian. The men had been employed for some days in clearing away for it, in cutting an avenue north and south, when the river rose suddenly from the excessive rains that had fallen, and entirely inundated its banks and the adjacent lands for a considerable distance on each side. This untoward occurrence has suspended, for the present, the transfer of the result of our observations at this point to the western bank of the river, and the determination of the meridian thence.

MARCH 29.—The position fixed on for determining the meridian, and both banks of the river, for a considerable distance above and below, under water. Mr. Johnston continues his observations for latitude at night.

MARCH 30.—During the day Colonel Kearney engaged in determining the magnetic dip; the men employed yesterday and to-day in constructing boats to be ready to cut away timber or other obstructions upon places overflow in the line of the meridian, as soon as sufficient land on the bank of the river becomes uncovered to place the transit.

MARCH 31.—The weather fine—employed as yesterday. The river continues to rise, and the whole intervening country between the eminence occupied by the observatory and the river, the former immediately based by the low lands, a distance of nearly two miles west, covered with water, with the exception of a narrow intermediate ridge.

APRIL 1.—Lieutenant Allen, who had, a few days previous, an attack of hemorrhage of the lungs, left, in an enfeebled state, for Fort Jesup, for the purpose of medical aid. Mr. J. H. Young, clerk, resigned and left, devolving upon the United States commissioner, most unexpectedly, the additional duties of his office. The party engaged as yesterday.

APRIL 2 and 3.—The river had attained its greatest height, rendering it impracticable, at its present stage, to effect our object, even with boats.

APRIL 4.—It was determined, under existing circumstances, to extend the meridian north from the observatory, a sufficient distance through the highlands to admit clear of the overflow a vertical line west, parallel with, and of the same length of, that from the observatory to the river, which had already been determined by carefully repeated measurements before the inundation; and from the intersection of this vertical with a line due north from the 32d degree of north latitude, on the western bank of the river, to determine the meridian, and thence commence the boundary north; and after, when the waters subsided, to extend and mark it south to the western bank of the river. This plan, though not as accurate perhaps as would have been adopted under other circumstances, was yet the only one left, unless to await, at this advanced season, the fall of the water, which ordinarily does not occur before June. The reconnaissance had this day satisfied us that the extension of the meridian would admit of such an offset.

Accordingly, from the 5th to the 14th of April, this duty being assigned to Lieutenants Johnston and Sitgreaves, the meridian was extended and traced north one mile and nine hundred feet. At this point, an offset was made west for the purpose of establishing a position in the meridian of the point at which the 32d degree of north latitude strikes the western bank of the Sabine river. The extremity of the offset falling in low and uncommanding ground, cut up by the windings of Garrison creek, rendered it unsuitable for a meridian observatory. A compass line was accordingly run north to the first elevated ground upon which to place the transit. On this day the encampment was removed, and pitched at the position selected for the second observatory for the meridian, distant from the river two miles and 1,998½ feet north.

APRIL 15.—An opinion being entertained that some error had been committed either in the extension of the meridian north from the first observatory, or in laying off, tracing, and measuring, the offset west, Lieutenant Sitgreaves was despatched to re-examine the same, with a view to the correction of the error if ascertained to exist. By the report of Lieutenant Sitgreaves, it was deemed advisable, under existing circumstances, to open, if practicable, a direct communication with the point at which the 32d degree intersects the western bank of the Sabine. This was achieved after much labor, difficulty, and exposure, on the afternoon of the 20th of April. J. R. Conway, United States surveyor, and Lieutenant Blake, proceeded to the point of intersection, and connected it with the line which had been traced and completed on the day previous. From this it was ascertained that the position of the second observatory was forty-four feet and three tenths east of the point of intersection of the 32d degree of north latitude with the western bank of Sabine river.

APRIL 22 and 23.—The meridian of the transit north, already upward of three miles in extent, was prolonged, cleared out, and much enlarged, by cutting away additional timber, so as to offset with every accuracy the position of each mound on the true meridian boundary. On the evening of the 23d the distance of forty-four feet and three tenths was accurately measured west from the meridian on which the transit was placed, and a granite block ten feet long and nine inches square there set up, five feet in the ground. On the south side of this block is engraved "meridian boundary, established A. D. 1841;" on the east side "U. S.;" on the west side "R. T.;"*

* At the southwest corner of the granite, at the depth of four feet below the surface of the earth, is buried a bottle closed with a ground stopper and sealed, containing, written on parchment, the following inscription, viz:

"To mark the meridian boundary between the United States of America and the republic of Texas, this stone is erected on this the 22d day of April, 1841—two miles and 19,985 feet distant, north of the 32d degree of north latitude, where it intersects the western bank of the river Sabine, under the provisions of a convention between the two countries concluded 25th April, 1838.

"J. H. OVERTON,

"U. S. Commissioner.

"J. R. CONWAY,

"U. S. Surveyor.

"GEORGE W. SMYTH,

"Texas Commissioner.

"A. B. GRAY,

"Texas Surveyor.

"H. P. BEE,

"Clerk to Texas Commissioner.

"JAMES KEARNEY,

"Lt. Col. Top. Engineers.

"J. EDMUND BLAKE,

"1st Lt. Top. Engineers

"L. SITGREAVES,

"1st Lt. Top. Engineers."

APRIL 24.—The several parties in the field being ready, and the previous work of the engineers corrected and verified, so as to justify, in the opinion of the commission, the continuance of the boundary, on the meridian in which the granite column had been planted, Lieutenant Sitgreaves was charged with the line north to the southern shore of Lake Caddo.

APRIL 25.—The boundary line was established and measured four miles north from the point of beginning. The meridian of the transit being still continued in consequence of the timber and other obstructions having already been removed in its line, the mounds were carefully located, the corresponding distance of the granite column, forty-four feet and three tenths west from the transit meridian, at the termination of each mile.* The instrument used in tracing the line is a small transit theodolite, made by E. Draper, of Philadelphia, the telescope of which revolves entirely around in its wyes in a vertical plane, and rests on two pillars perpendicular to the horizontal limb. It has a vertical circle for measuring altitudes, and which can be detached from the instrument at pleasure, which was the case in running the boundary. The diameter of the horizontal limb is about eight inches, graduated to fifteen seconds.

APRIL 26.—The party left their encampment at the second observatory, and pitched their tents a short distance west of the line on the south side of a small creek, having on that day transferred the line from the transit meridian to the meridian boundary, by an offset of forty-four feet three tenths. Located fifth mile mound. The country timbered with black oak, hickory, dogwood, and pine, gently undulating, and of medium quality. At the section line (of the public surveys of the State of Louisiana) north of the first mile mound, the distance to the section corner east was found to be 1,517 feet, thereby making the boundary line 3,763 feet east of the range line dividing 16th and 17th ranges.

27th.—Encampment stationary; day unpromising. Established one mile and erected mound 6, crossing a small drain running eastwardly. Land, except immediately on the creek occupied by the encampment, inferior; face of the country less rolling; timber, the same.

* The mounds are embankments of earth five feet high, with a base of fifteen feet in diameter, having a border of eighteen inches. In the centre of each mound is planted a post of the most durable wood to be found, eight feet in length, the portion of it above the apex of the mound (being conical shaped) squared to eight inches. Upon the east side is carved "U. S.;" on the west side "T." The south side is numbered to indicate the miles distant from the intersection of the 32° of north latitude with the western bank of the Sabine river. At the foot of each post, which is planted eighteen inches below the surface of the ground, is buried a glass bottle closed with a ground stopper, and sealed, containing, written on parchment, the following inscription:

"To mark the meridian boundary between the United States of America and the republic of Texas this mound is erected, on this the day 1841, miles distant north of the 32d degree of north latitude.

"J. H. OVERTON,
"U. S. Commissioner.
"J. R. CONWAY,
"U. S. Surveyor.
"GEORGE W. SMYTH
"Texas Commissioner.
"A. B. GRAY,
"Texas Surveyor.
"H. P. BEE,
"Clerk to Texas Commissioner.
"JAMES KEARNEY,
"Lt. Col. Top. Engineers.
"J. EDMUND BLAKE,
"1st Lt. Top. Engineers.
"L. SITGREAVES,
"1st Lt. Top. Engineers."

APRIL 28.—Sent forward our baggage-wagons, three miles in advance, and encamped in section 6, township 13, range 16, on the east of the line. Determined two miles of the boundary. Located and erected the seventh and eighth mounds. The country broken, poor, and lightly timbered; the several water-courses passed this day, running westwardly, are branches of a large stream that empties into the Sabine above, called Bayou Sacré Dieu.

29th.—Encampment stationary; traced two miles of the line, and erected the ninth and tenth mounds, the latter near the centre of Black's field, through which the boundary passed.

30th.—Encampment stationary; ran this day 2½ miles, and located and erected eleventh and twelfth mounds. Crossed a branch of the Sacré Dieu, 20 feet wide, a short distance north of the tenth mound. Thick undergrowth woods. Measured to section corner east of boundary; found it to be 1,808 feet, and distance to intersection of township line with boundary north of the tenth mound 2,594 feet.

MAY 1.—Advanced encampment six miles, and pitched our tents on the east side of the line, in section 6, township 14, range 16. Established two miles of the boundary, and erected thirteenth and fourteenth mounds, crossing at the distance of 3,330 feet south of the latter, another tributary of the Sacré Dieu, which we named bayou "Belle Fleur," from a beautiful white flower that adorned its banks. Flat country, timbered principally with oak.

MAY 2.—Encampment stationary. Ran this day two miles, erecting fifteenth and sixteenth mounds, and crossing 4,380 feet south of the fifteenth mound, another branch of the "Sacré Dieu." The country passed through this day was comparatively open and interspersed with tall pine.

MAY 3.—Encampment stationary. Traced about one and a half miles, and erected mound seventeen this day. Thick undergrowth.

MAY 4.—Sent forward our encampment about six miles, and encamped on west side of line, about three fourths of a mile, in township 15, range 17, section 1. The operations this day were extremely slow and laborious, from the character of the country through which the line passed, running along the border of Mill creek, crossing it 3,000 feet north of the eighteenth mound. Erected this day the eighteenth and nineteenth mile mounds.

5th.—Encampment stationary. Established this day nearly three miles, erecting mounds twenty, twenty-one, and twenty-two. The country open and requiring less cutting, and better calculated for long stations. At section line 2,762 feet north of twentieth mound, measured to the corner west, and found it to be 3,225 feet.

6th.—Removed our encampment about five and three fourths miles in advance, on the east of the line, in township 16, range 17, section 7. Progressed three miles, and erected mounds twenty-three, twenty-four, and twenty-five.

7th.—Encampment stationary. Ran this day only one mile, the weather unpromising.

8th and 9th.—Encampment still stationary. On the 8th despatched wagons to Shreveport for supplies. Ran one and a half miles, and erected twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh mounds. Open pine and oak woods. On the 9th, the severe rains this day and the preceding night rendered it impossible to operate.

10th.—Advanced the encampment four and three fourths miles north, and pitched it to the east of the line in section 19, township 17, range 16. Traced

2½ miles, and erected mounds twenty-eight, twenty-nine, and thirty. The ground passed over this day was hilly and broken, with gullies and branches flowing with water, from the recent heavy rains.

11th.—Encampment stationary. Occupied the whole day in cutting through a heavily timbered bottom crossing a bayou at 650 feet north of thirty-first mile mound, established this day only one mile, and erected thirty-first mound.

12th.—Sent forward and located the encampment three and one fourth miles north, in section 6, township 17, range 16, a little east of the l.i.e. Traced two miles of the boundary, and erected mounds thirty-two and thirty-three. Thinly timbered country.

13th.—Remained at the same encampment. Ran this day two miles, and erected the thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth mounds, crossing "Quapaw bayou" at 4,000 feet north of the thirty-sixth mile.

14th.—This day having been recommended by the President's proclamation to be observed by all religious denominations as a day of prayer and fasting, on account of the afflicting calamity which has so recently and unexpectedly befallen this nation, by the death of her late President, all operations were suspended, and the members of the commission, and officers associated with them, joined their fellow-citizens of the neighboring village of Greenwood, in the appropriate services for the occasion.

15th.—Encampment advanced three miles, and pitched a quarter of a mile west of line. Established the thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh miles. Country heavily timbered, and cut up by ravines and ponds.

16th.—Removed the encampment about five and a half miles, and encamped a quarter of a mile west of the boundary, in township 18, range 16. Traced this day the thirty-eighth, thirty-ninth, and fortieth miles, passing over a high and elevated country, but generally poor and gravelly. At section line 2,835 feet north of the thirty-eighth mile, measured to half mile section-stake west, and found it to be 316 feet.

17th.—Encampment stationary. Established forty-first, forty-second, and forty-third miles, passing over a country much the same as yesterday.

18th.—Advanced the encampment about three miles north, to the shore of Ferry lake, a short distance to the east of the boundary. Established the forty-fourth and forty-fifth miles. The course of the lake at this point is northeast and southwest, and appears, at some very distant period, from the quantity of large dead cypress standing now in water, ranging in depth from six to fifteen and even twenty feet, to have been once a large cypress swamp, bordering, at various distances, back on each side, from one to a half mile, a large bayou called the Cypresses, which runs into the lake, or rather forms it at its northwestern extremity. The channel of this bayou is still traced by its greater depth of water, throughout the whole extent of the lake, and the entire exemption from standing timber within its banks. The numerous arms or bays on this lake, formed at the mouths of its various tributaries, and the great quantity of dead timber and stumps, render its navigation extremely difficult and dangerous.

19th and 20th.—Encampment stationary, the operatives employed in cutting from the 45th mile to the open lake, on the border of which was a thick undergrowth. At section line, 3,025 feet north of the 45th mound, measured to half-mile section stake, and found it to be 200 feet west, thereby making the boundary 2,840 feet east of the line dividing 16th and 17th ranges.

21st.—Despatched Mr. Conway, United States surveyor, in search of a boat to transport the party and baggage train across the lake. The men

employed in cutting through a small island which we called Neutral island, the 46th mile mound falling near the centre, and terminating on a base line previously marked by Colonel Kearney for triangulating across the lake. The angle made at the intersection of the meridian boundary with the base line was $80^{\circ} 55' 18''$. This mound was erected of 30 feet base and 10 feet perpendicular height. The engineers were engaged in taking the angles for the determination of the distance across, and transferring the boundary to the opposite shore of the lake. The correctness of the line, which was ascertained by a meridian line established with the transit, by Colonel Kearney, reflects great credit upon Lieutenant Sitgreaves, the officer charged with the instrument used in tracing the boundary.

22d.—The party sent with Mr. Conway in search of a boat, arrived in charge of a large ferry-scow, and were engaged in repairing it the remainder of the day.

23d, 24th, 25th.—Employed in transporting men, baggage, provisions, wagons, &c., across the lake, which was found to be 3 miles and 867 feet on the meridian boundary, and pitched the camp about a quarter of a mile west of the line.

26th.—It was found impossible, from the many arms, projections, and swamps, to continue the meridian boundary for some distance on the north side of the lake, without the most appalling difficulties, as shown by the plans. Thereupon, the meridian, as extended across the lake by Colonel Kearney, was taken up and continued to 2,351 feet north of the 52d mile, when an offset was made back to the meridian boundary, and the line resumed. Mr. Rives's plantation was run through by the line, throwing the greater part on the Texas side. Wherever it was practicable, offsets were made to the meridian boundary, and mounds erected, and the line traced, as shown by the accompanying plans. At the first section line on the north side of the lake, the distance to the range line was ascertained to be one mile and 2,635 feet west of the boundary, making a difference of a mile in the public surveys on the two sides of the lake.

27th.—Removed the encampment about five miles north, and encamped a mile east of the line. Established the 53d mound. The greater part of the men engaged in making a road, and bridging a creek, for transporting the wagons, &c.

28th.—Encampment stationary. Established 54th and 55th miles. Country poor; timber, oak interspersed with pine. Measured to half-mile section stake, east of line, and found it to be 66 feet.

29th.—Advanced the encampment a mile and a half, and pitched it a little west of the boundary, on a point of highland bordering the overflow of "Jim's bayou." Traced this day the boundary to the overflow. A part of the men sent around to the lake to bring the boats to this point, to be used when the depth of water would not admit of operations otherwise. Rafts were constructed, but did not answer so well, owing to the density of the cypress, and thick undergrowth.

30th.—Encampment stationary. From the reluctance manifested by the men to go into the water, it became necessary that the officers should lead them. The operation this day in wading and cutting, where the depth of water would admit, through forests of cypress, and almost impervious undergrowth, added to the excessive heat of the weather, were very severe upon the party, making, after every effort, only the distance of 1,950 feet to the bank of Jim's bayou.

31st.—Encampment still stationary. Continued our aquatic labors, reaching the highland, after cutting through a deep swamp and overflow almost impenetrable.

JUNE 1st.—Despatched our baggage train to cross the bayou below, and to select some eligible position on the highlands, near the probable route of the line. After a most circuitous day's journey, encamped at a spring of delicious water, on an old Indian trail leading from Caddo prairie to the Coshatta village, and a short distance west of the boundary. Established the 58th and 59th miles; country high and rolling; timber, principally pine, hickory, and dogwood.

2d.—Sent forward the encampment about 4 miles, and pitched it a few yards east of the line. Traced the 60th, 61st, and 62d miles, passing over a country comparatively flat, with the exception of the first mile; timber very much the same.

3d.—Advanced the encampment three and a half miles. Encamped to the east of the line. Established 63d and 64th miles, going over a high, rolling country, timbered with pine.

4th.—Removed the encampment to the bank of Black Bayou, a short distance east of the boundary. Traced the 65th, 66th, and 67th miles this day, crossing several streams that empty into Black Bayou; the country covered with thick undergrowth timber.

5th.—Advanced the encampment a mile and a half, and pitched the tents east of the line. Located the 68th, 69th, and 70th miles, crossing Black bayou a short distance north of the 69th mile mound. At this point the bayou is composed of several branches running near each other, overflowing the surrounding country for some distance, and making it very swampy and boggy. 1,692 feet north of the 69th mile, being the 33d degree of north latitude by our measurement, a post was planted, marked 33° latitude, and two trees, one east of the line with U. S., and the other, T., west of the line, as shown in the accompanying field-note book. There, according to our estimate, terminated the west boundary of Louisiana, and commenced that of Arkansas. This evening J. H. Overton, United States commissioner, was taken sick, from exposure in crossing the swamps of Black bayou.

6th.—Forwarded the encampment two miles north, and pitched it a short distance east of the line. Established the 71st and 72d mile, passing over an open pine country. Sent back the wagons after provisions.

7th.—Removed the camp two miles north, and a quarter of a mile east of the boundary. Traced 73d and 74th miles, crossing a large creek 1,650 feet north of the 72d mile. Country flat, with thick undergrowth.

8th.—Sent ahead the encampment two miles, and pitched it east of the line. Established this day the 75th and 76th miles, crossing several creeks.

9th.—Removed the encampment two miles north, and located it half a mile west of the boundary. Established the 77th and 78th miles, running along a creek bottom for some distance. On this day Mr. A. B. Gray was thrown from his horse, and escaped narrowly from a serious injury. He was, however, enabled soon after to again resume his duties on the line.

10th, 11th, 12th, 13th.—Encampment stationary, except on the morning of the 10th, when it was moved four miles ahead, and pitched half a mile east of the line, at a fine cooling spring.

10th.—Located 79th, 80th, and 81st miles.

11th.—The supplies of bread having been left at the last encampment, the hands refused to work, and several taken sick. The consequence was, nothing done this day.

12th and 13th.—Established 82d, 83d, 84th, 85th, and 86th miles, passing through a low country covered with an almost impenetrable undergrowth of young oaks and hickory. The increasing sickness of the United States commissioner, with an attack of fever upon three of the officers (Mr. Conway, Mr. Bee, and Lieutenant Blake), along with the sick hands, amounting to a dozen or more, rendered the camp the appearance of an hospital, and the most unpleasant and disagreeable passed on the line.

On the morning of the 12th, four gentlemen rode into camp, from Red river, and informed us of our near approach to the Sulphur fork. They were the first new faces seen in camp for a long time; remained a few days, and were of signal service in expediting our passage across the swamp and river.

14th.—Encampment moved to the southern bank of the Sulphur fork. The men engaged this day in assisting the wagons, &c., through an overflowed swamp, and across a large tributary of the river, over which the oxen and mules swam with the wagons empty.

15th and 16th.—Encampment stationary. Engaged the principal part of the 15th in constructing rafts to transport the supplies, baggage, &c., across the river, being a fine, deep, navigable stream, about 237 feet wide; also in assisting forward two mule teams that had been sent back to Lake Caddo for provisions on the 6th instant.

16th.—Engaged part of the day in tracing the 87th mile, and the remainder in transporting the baggage, provisions, &c., across the river.

17th.—Removed the encampment a mile and a half on the north side of the river, a short distance east of the line, in the highlands. Marked the 88th and 89th miles, crossing the bend of a large bayou between the river and 88th mile mound; the latter falling on high ground just out of the overflow.

18th.—Sent forward the camp six miles, and encamped quarter of a mile west of the line. Established the 90th, 91st, and 92d miles, crossing the first township line of the Arkansas surveys 1,150 feet north of the 90th mile. Measured to section corner on range line dividing 28th and 29th ranges, and found it to be 1,984 feet west. Country flat, with occasional pine hills.

19th.—Advanced the encampment three miles north, and pitched on the bank of Hurricane creek, half a mile west of the line. Traced 93d, 94th, and 95th miles, passing through Mr. Floyd's field. South of the 94th, mound, and over a country low and much cut up with bayous, creeks, &c.

20th.—Encampment stationary. Marked 96th and 97th miles, crossing the remains of an old hurricane. At 5,166 feet north of the 96th mile, crossed Hurricane creek—twenty feet wide. Country high and rolling for some distance, the rest much such as passed over yesterday.

21st.—Removed the encampment five miles ahead, and about one mile west of the boundary. The morning forebode rain, but passed off with occasional showers. At 3, P. M., set in to rain, and poured down with great violence; continued so throughout the night. Established 98th and 99th miles, passing over an open, pine, and blackjack country. At township line, 1,020 feet north of the 98th mile, measured 1,050 feet to section corner west.

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22d and 23d.—Encampment stationary. Marked the 100th, 101st, 102d, and 103d miles, crossing the Fulton road, or Trammel's trace, 2,750 feet north of the 102d mile. Country open, and handsomely undulating. At the Fulton road commences Red river bottom. At 1,030 feet north of the 100th mile, measured 820 feet to section corner west of line.

24th.—Sent forward the encampment four miles, and pitched it half a mile west of the boundary, on the bank of the north Sulphur (a branch of the Sulphur fork, called also Big bayou), and which has its source and course for a considerable distance along the base of hills that line the southern lowlands of Red river. Established this day the boundary to the bank of Red river, crossing Big bayou 3,300 feet north of the 103d mile, and finding the distance from the intersection of the 32d degree of north latitude with the western bank of the river Sabine, to Red river, to be 106 miles and 2,083 feet; the terminus being a short distance above the White Oak shoals, at a sudden bend of the river, as shown by the accompanying plan or map. The distance across to the north shore was 809 feet. At section line 967 feet north of the 106th mile, measured to range line dividing 28th and 29th ranges, according to the United States surveys of lands subject to sale in the State of Arkansas, and found it to be 162 feet west. The intervening country between the 103d mile and the river, except a small portion immediately bordering the latter, is a low bottom land, subject to overflow from three to eight feet, timbered principally with red oak, hackberry, cotton wood, &c., &c.

The meridian portion of this boundary has been achieved amid difficulties of no ordinary character, arising, as well from the nature of the country through which it passed, as from the unpropitious season of the year in which the commission were employed.

The plans or maps of the whole extent of the boundary determined under the convention between the two countries, beginning at the mouth of the river Sabine, on the Gulf of Mexico, in the sea, in latitude $29^{\circ} 41' 27''.5$ north, and longitude $93^{\circ} 50' 14''.2$ west, thence along the western bank of said river to the intersection of the 32d degree of north latitude therewith, and thence due north to the Red river, are authenticated by the signing of this journal by the joint commission.

In testimony whereof, the undersigned, commissioners and surveyors on the part of their respective Governments, do sign this journal containing their proceedings as a joint commission appointed to run and mark the boundary between the United States and the republic of Texas, under the convention between the said States and said republic of Texas, concluded at Washington, on the 25th of April, 1838, the ratifications of which were exchanged at the said city on the 12th day of October, 1838.

J. H. OVERTON,
United States Commissioner.
J. R. CONWAY,
United States Surveyor.
GEO. W. SMYTH,
Texas Commissioner.
A. B. GRAY,
Texas Surveyor.

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Map of Sabine Pass, and
Mouth of Sabine River.

[To be annexed to document 199.]

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING,

In further compliance with a resolution of the Senate, copies of correspondence relative to the demarcation of the boundary line between the United States and Texas.

APRIL 14, 1842.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and motion to print referred to the Committee on Printing.

APRIL 20, 1842.

Ordered to be printed, and that 500 additional copies be furnished for the use of the Senate.

To the Senate of the United States :

In further compliance with the resolution of the Senate of the 2d of February last, requesting information touching the demarcation of the boundary line between the United States and the republic of Texas, I transmit a report from the Secretary of State, and the accompanying documents.

JOHN TYLER.

WASHINGTON, April 12, 1842.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, April 12, 1842.

The Secretary of State, referring to the report from this Department of the 17th ultimo, relative to the demarcation of the boundary between the United States and the republic of Texas, has the honor to lay before the President an extract from a letter which has since been received from Mr. Overton, the late commissioner on the part of the United States, and a copy of the correspondence which accompanied that letter.

All which is respectfully submitted.

DANL. WEBSTER.

The PRESIDENT of the United States.

K-7-105

Mr. Overton to Mr. Webster.

[Extract.]

OPPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA, March 19, 1842.

SIR: In consequence of my absence from this place, to which your letter of the 9th ultimo was forwarded, I had not the honor of receiving it until a few days since.

The accompanying sheets contain the correspondence referred to in my letter to Mr. Forsyth of the 1st of August, 1840.

MILLSPAUGH'S BLUFF,
Sabine River, May 15, 1840.

SIR: The return of Major James D. Graham, of the United States Topographical Engineers, from Washington, with a reply to my despatch to the Department of State, with which he was charged, enables me to lay before you the *definitive* action of the Government in reference to the pretensions set up by you in behalf of your country.

I am instructed to say that the claim advanced by you to the centre of that part of Sabine river called the Sabine pass, and Sabine lake, can not be entertained, to notify you of my readiness to enter at once upon the actual survey and demarcation of the boundary, beginning on the gulf of Mexico, at the mouth of the Sabine river in the sea, and running thence along the western bank of said river.

In the event of your declining to co-operate with me in thus carrying into effect the provisions of the convention between the two countries, which can not reasonably be anticipated, it will become my duty to withdraw, with all those associated with me, from the commission.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. H. OVERTON.

MEMUCAN HUNT, Esq.

GREEN'S BLUFF,
Sabine river, May 15, 1840.

SIR: I have received your note of this date, stating that you are instructed to say, that the claim advanced by me to that part of the Sabine river called Sabine pass and Sabine lake, can not be entertained, and notifying me of your readiness to enter at once upon the actual survey and demarcation of the boundary, beginning on the gulf of Mexico, at the mouth of the Sabine river in the sea, and running thence along the western bank of said river, and you add in advance, that in the event of my declining to co-operate with you in thus carrying into effect the provisions of the convention, "which cannot reasonably be anticipated," it will become your duty to withdraw, with all those associated with you, from the commission.

I, too, have received from the Government I have the honor to represent, a reply to the despatches I transmitted after our suspension of operations on

the 15th March. In my instructions the hope is most earnestly expressed and entertained that the just claim of half the pass and lake will be yielded by the Government of the United States and Texas. But they proceed to state, "if, however, you should fail to obtain the concurrence of the United States commissioner, you will propose the second proposition, that of starting at the western [bank] of Sabine river into the bay or lake, and running," &c., &c. In reference to your assertion that my concurrence in running the line as you propose, can not but be reasonably anticipated, I have only to remark, that, until the many arguments which I presented in our late correspondence are controverted, which show so conclusively that the southern termination of Sabine river is at its entrance into Sabine lake or bay, that reason would seem to indicate a different conclusion.

I will take occasion here to add on that subject, that, in an official letter of his excellency the President of the United States, while Secretary of State, to the Hon. Joel R. Poinsett, then minister to Mexico, dated August 25, 1829, he unquestionably recognises the termination of Sabine river in Sabine bay. I will quote his excellency's words: "It is represented to us that of the two streams which empty into Sabine bay

The distance between them although only four miles where they enter into the bay," alluding to the Sabine and Neches rivers. I conform to the instruction of my Government in presenting my first proposition, and, if it is declined, as is indicated in your note, I respectfully present the second, the substance of which is herewith transmitted.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

MEMUCAN HUNT.

JOHN H. OVERTON, Esq.,
Commissioner, &c.

Substance of my second proposition for running and marking the boundary line, submitted to John H. Overton, Esq., state commissioner, the 3d March.

The commissioner of Texas proposes that the United States commissioner commence the line at what he considers the entrance of Sabine river in the sea, and that he, the commissioner of Texas, begin at what he believes to be the mouth of Sabine pass in the sea, progressing respectfully, conformably to their different construction of the treaty to the debouch of Sabine river in the bay or lake, and thence, along its western bank to the intersection of the 32d degree of latitude; thence, due north to the Red river; leaving that part of the line from the entrance of Sabine river in the lake or bay to the southern termination of Sabine pass, for future negotiations between their respective Governments, there being, it is believed, no difference in the views as to the manner in which the line is to run from the lake or bay to Red river.

GREEN'S BLUFF,
Sabine river, May 15, 1840.

SIR: I received your note in reply to mine of this date, a few moments since, through your secretary, Mr. Bee. I have nothing further to add. My previous note contains the ultimatum I was instructed by the President of the

United States to give you in reference to the existing difference between us as commissioners of our respective Governments. It now rests with you to proceed or not. I desire to leave to-morrow in the event of your declining to cooperate with me in the manner proposed in my previous note of this date, being the only one which the Government of the United States conceives to be in conformity with the solemn treaty between the two nations.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. H. OVERTON.

MEMUCAN HUNT, Esq., *Commissioner, &c., &c.*

TEXAN BOUNDARY LINE COMMISSION,
Green's Bluff, Sabine River, May 16, 1840.

Your note in reply to mine of yesterday was handed to me late last night by your secretary, Mr. Young, stating that you had nothing further to add, referring me to your previous note of the same date, as containing your ultimatum conformably to the instructions of the President of the United States, in reference to the existing difference between us as commissioners of our respective Governments.

I regret that this difference of opinion is still entertained by the two Governments and ourselves. I had confidently expected that the Government of the United States, professing in its intercourse with other powers a determination to set up and maintain no claim not founded in strict fairness and justice, would, after a reference of our correspondence on that subject, have waived its pretensions to the whole of Sabine pass and Sabine lake or bay, it having been made so manifest (at least to the Government of Texas) that the southern termination of Sabine river is at its entrance in Sabine lake or bay. The great desire, however, of my Government to establish immediately that part of the boundary between Sabine and Red rivers (the reasons for which I at some length detailed in my letter to you of the 7th March, and more fully explained verbally), my Government is constrained, as I am myself, with very great reluctance, to yield, as the last resort, rather than prevent the immediate establishment of that part of the boundary from Sabine to Red river, what is conceived to be its just rights, and to commence and establish the boundary on the west bank of Sabine pass, Sabine lake or bay, and along the western bank of Sabine river, &c., to the Red river. If there should be, however, any unnecessary delay on the part of the United States, in progressing immediately and steadily with the work until it is completed, the proposition will not be considered binding on the Government of Texas, as it is made for the purpose of securing to the citizens and Government immediately benefits which could not be otherwise obtained without delay, and which the Government conceives to be paramount to the ownership of half the pass and lake, with the consequent protraction of time necessary in a reference of the subject to a third power, or in otherwise negotiating its conclusion. I will zealously join you in the greatest possible exertions to mark and establish the line in the shortest practicable period, being fully prepared with all the necessary officers and instruments for that purpose.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

MEMUCAN HUNT.

JOHN H. OVERTON, Esq., *Commissioner, &c.*

GREEN'S BLUFF,
Sabine River, May 16, 1840.

SIR: I have received your note of this date, by which I am pleased to find your assent to the proposition contained in mine of yesterday for tracing the boundary line. It will afford me pleasure to cooperate with you immediately in carrying out this arrangement, with which view I shall give the necessary directions to the gentlemen acting with me on the part of the United States. I must, however, remark that I do this in conformity with the treaty, divested of any condition. I can not recognise from any source the right to dictate conditions upon which I proceed to the discharge of the duty assigned me by my Government, and to which alone I am responsible.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. H. OVERTON.

MEMUCAN HUNT, Esq., *Commissioner, &c.*

GREEN'S BLUFF,
Sabine River, May 16, 1840.

SIR: I have this moment received your note in reply to mine of to-day's date, and hasten to assure you that I did not intend the most remote assumption of power or authority not vested in me by my Government, and I can assert, without the fear of its being controverted, that there is not a sentence, word, or syllable, in my note, to which yours is an answer, which indicates, in the most remote manner, any disposition on my part to "dictate" to you. You are in possession of my proposition, and have accepted it, and in our labors, which I will join you in immediately, I shall adhere to it as its plain and liberal purport indicates. But agreeably to the position you occupy in your note, I may infer, I suppose, that an indication on your part asking a change of my proposition of the question of the boundary will be admitted to be an effort on your part to dictate to me.

Hoping that we may succeed in an early termination of the arduous labors before us, and that the utmost harmony and concert may in future exist in the joint commission,

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

MEMUCAN HUNT.

JOHN H. OVERTON, Esq., *Commissioner.*

Texas - Louisiana Boundary April 25, 1838

Report, Message from U.S. President

K-7-105

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