

No. 6.

ALEXANDRIA, *September 13, 1837.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 11th instant, and beg to ask a reference to my letters of June 7th, from Petie; of July 7th, from Guaymas; of July 27th, from Mazatlan; of October 10th, from San Blas, and November 24th, from Honolulu. Those letters explain the difficulties I had to encounter, and the reasons which influenced my conduct in going to the Sandwich islands, as the only practicable route by which I could carry into effect the orders I had the honor to receive from the President of the United States, through the Department of State, in November, 1835. Those orders, directing me "to embrace the earliest opportunity to proceed to and up the Oregon, by such conveyances as may be thought to afford the greatest facilities for attaining the end in view," in my humble opinion, fully justified my chartering the brig Lorient, to convey me to the river Columbia. On the subject of freight, I beg leave to assure you, that none was taken on board, either on my account, or that of any other person. The provisions, accoutrements, &c., &c., of the American settlers from the Willhamett, whom I conveyed from that river to Bodega, were taken aboard the Lorient free of expense, as the agreement of the settlers, now on file in the Department of State, shows; and the benefit that will result to the United States from that measure alone, will be, nay is, at this moment, more than ten times equivalent to all the expenses incurred in my journey. From the 1st day of June, 1836, when my private affairs were closed in Guaymas, I devoted myself to the duty assigned me; wholly regardless of my private interest, which would have led me to the capital of Mexico, to prosecute, in person, the claim I hold against that Government. (See my letter of October 10th, from San Blas.)

In conclusion, I beg leave most respectfully to remark, that inasmuch as I have paid on the account of the Government of the United States in specie, which I carried with me at my own risk, it seems to be but fair that I should be re-imbursed in the same currency, to the full amount of my account.

With sentiments of the highest respect,

I am your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM A. SLACUM.

To the Hon. JOHN FORSYTH,
Secretary of State, Washington.

No. 7.

ALEXANDRIA.

SIR: In submitting this account for the actual expenses I have paid in gold and silver, on account of the Government of the United States, I wish it to be distinctly understood, that, from June, 1836, when I closed my private affairs as nearly as I could in Guaymas, I devoted all my time and energies to execute the commission intrusted to me, to the postponement of my private interest, which would have led me to the city of Mexico, to urge in person the claim I hold against that Government, for about 10,000 dollars.