

Department of State,  
Washington, June 15. 1850

dodis.ch/41081

4<sup>a</sup>  
4  
A Dudley Mann, Esquire 3<sup>d</sup> & 8<sup>a</sup>

Sir

In closing my letter to you of the 1<sup>st</sup> of February last, I stated that the question of sending a special Agent for commercial objects, to Switzerland, remained still under consideration. An unusual pressure of public business has hitherto delayed the decision of this question.

Since the date of our national existence, we have hailed with pleasure all liberal demonstrations throughout the world, and have been emulous to be the first, to acknowledge new states, claiming admission into the family of nations. But with the old Helvetic Republic, which has existed for centuries, and which has ever been endeared to us by the liberality of its institutions, and by the orderly deportment and character of its citizens, it may be thought, that we have been too neglectful of diplomatic intercourse. At this period, when the reactionary movement of continental Europe seems to threaten the obliteration of liberal political institutions, we owe it to the character of our own free Government, as well as to the commercial interests of our country, to strengthen, by all the means at our disposal, the ties which bind us to the Swiss Confederation, which, like our own happy land, is the home of the free.

We are aware, that the total subversion of Swiss Nationality has been threatened; and the sentiments of the American Government cannot be those of indifference to the fate of the Helvetic Republic. We do not

EAR

86

Dodis




propose, to make any physical demonstration in its behalf,  
 nor in behalf of the friends of rational civil liberty in  
 France, Germany and elsewhere. But it must not  
 be imagined, that we look upon their noble struggles,  
 to establish and maintain liberty upon a durable basis,  
 as unconcerned spectators. - We regard as brothers and bene-  
 factors of the human family those enlightened and in-  
 flexible patriots in Continental Europe, who have conti-  
 nued steadfast in their purpose, to give to their country-  
 men such permanent institutions, as Washington and  
 his contemporaries gave to America. That they may be  
 eminently successful in the realisation of their just aims,  
 is assuredly the earnest prayer of our Government, as it is  
 that of the Freemen who sustain it. The importance of the  
 preservation of the nationality of Switzerland to the United  
 States, in a commercial view, cannot be mistaken. Our  
 products enter the Cantons chiefly thro' the ports of Havre  
 & Antwerp; but Switzerland with a population of some-  
 thing less, than two millions and a half, is reckoned to  
 be the consumer of 150,000 bales of American cotton, as  
 well as much of our tobacco, rice and other products.  
 The Swiss Duties on Tobacco are merely nominal, as they  
 are upon the other products of the United States. - Were  
 the Confederations even now to enter the "Deutsche Zoll-  
 verein", as has been proposed, the heavy duties, amounting  
 to \$ 3.35 lbs. per cwt. on tobacco, now levied by that  
 Union, would add to the oppression of the régime, and  
 enormous duties in other countries, already so deeply affecting  
 that American staple. Hitherto no considerations, whether of  
 a political, or commercial character, seem to have impelled  
 our Government so far, as to enter into an ordinary treaty of  
 amity and commerce with the Helvetic Confederation, or to  
 hold with it any diplomatic intercourse whatever. One effort

was made to conclude a treaty with Switzerland, which failed from a concurrence of fortuitous circumstances, and not from design. With the history of this proposition, the chief object of which was, to unite, with the assurances of amity, usual in such instruments, some important stipulations for the extradition of criminals, you are well acquainted. You will remember that this treaty fell to the ground, because the period for the exchange of ratifications, which was only six months, expired before the Swiss Confederation could be consulted as to an amendment, proposed by the senate of the U. S., at the time of its confirmation by that body. A copy of that treaty accompanies these instructions, and you will renew that proposition, as it was approved by the Senate, combining with it such stipulations of a commercial character, as may be deemed just and liberal, and best calculated to strengthen the bonds of friendship and alliance between the two sister republics.

It is supposed, that the objects of our mission can be easily accomplished in three months. But I do not propose to limit you to that precise period. In the meantime I shall expect full and frequent reports from you, as on former occasions, when engaged in the public service.

You will, herewith, receive the following papers, necessary in the execution of the duties, hereby assigned to you by the President, as Special Agent to the Swiss Confederation.

1. A full power
2. Letter addressed to the Minister of foreign affairs of Switzerland, and office copy of the same
3. A special passport.
4. A letter of credit on the Bankers of the U. S. in



London, authorising them, to pay your Drafts, at  
the rate of \$ 4500 per annum, beginning on the  
15<sup>th</sup> inst., the date of these instructions. This  
allowance will supersede the trouble of keeping  
and rendering the usual Detailed account of expenses.  
The sum of \$ 200 is here advanced to you, on account.

I am, Sir, respectfully

Your obedient servant

(sig) John M. Clayton.