

E 21/24600

*L'Agent spécial des Etats-Unis auprès de la Confédération, A. Dudley-Man,
au Président de la Confédération, H. Druey*

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[Berne, 12 juillet 1850]

The President of the United States has charged me with a special mission to the government of the Helvetic Confederation. I have now the honor to present my credentials.¹ In performing this agreeable duty permit me to give you an assurance of the lively and abiding solicitude of my country for the continued welfare of the Swiss and the perpetuity of the free institutions of Switzerland. Such solicitude is natural. Switzerland is not only a self-governing nation like America, but like America she is a Republic composed of sovereign commonwealths, zealously co-operating for the honor, the usefulness and the prosperity of the whole. Under the operations of her enlightened system, the oppressed have an asylum, the free a home in central Europe.

I indulge the hope, Mr President, that Switzerland will hereafter be better acquainted with America. Steam has so annihilated space that the frontiers of the two Unions are at present only about 13 days apart; and the distance between them, measured by time will, most probably, be considerably further diminished. The commercial intercourse between the two republics already large cannot fail to augment rapidly from year to year. The Swiss will assuredly find America at no distant day incomparably the best of all their customers for the products of their industry.

Switzerland and America as is perfectly apparent are bound to each other by

1. *Cf. Annexe.*

inseverable political and commercial ties of paramount importance, to say nothing of the bonds created by an extended emigration of temperate, industrious, enterprising citizens from the former to the latter.

I entertain a confident belief, Mr President, that the children of William Tell and of Washington will remain true to themselves, down to the latest posterity; and that their principles of government will, in the Providence of the Almighty, make the circuit of the globe, restoring to mankind its just title to the rights to which it was born. Those principles, happily, have nothing to fear from discussion, oral or written, nor from a dissemination of the truths and knowledge. Like light they travel, regardless of tyrants frowns, like light they convey to humanity the choicest blessings of Heaven.

ANNEXE

E 13(B)/33

*Le Secrétaire d'Etat des Etats-Unis, J. M. Clayton,
à l'Agent spécial des Etats-Unis auprès de la Confédération, A. Dudley-Man.*

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Washington, June 15th 1850

In closing my letter to you of the 1st 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 department 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 propose to make any physical demonstration in its behalf, nor in behalf of the friend of national 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 benefactors of the human family those enlightened and inflexible patriots in Continental Europe, who have continued steadfast in their purpose to give to their countrymen 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 through the ports of Havre and 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 confederation even to enter the «Deutsche Zollverein», as has been proposed, the heavy duties, amounting to \$ 3 35 cts pr cwt. on tobacco, now levied by that Union would add to the oppression of the régime, and enormous duties in other countries

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already so deeply affecting that American staple. Hitherto no considerations, wether of a political or commercial character, seem to have impelled our government so far as to enter in 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 criminels you are well acquainted. You will remember that this treaty² 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 adressed to the Minister of foreign affairs of Switzerland and office copy of the same.
3. A special passeport.
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 15th instant; 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.³

2. *Convention d'extradition des criminels du 15 septembre 1846, ratifiée par le Sénat américain le 3 mars 1847.*

3. «Après que l'Envoyé des Etats-Unis eut exposé au Président de la Confédération suisse et au chef du Département du Commerce et des Péages, l'objet de sa mission et qu'il leur eut remis ses propositions par écrit; après que les représentants de la Confédération eurent fait rapport de ces propositions au Conseil fédéral, reçu ses instructions, et remis à M. Man leurs propositions écrites; après que les plénipotentiaires des deux parties se furent, dans plusieurs conférences, expliqué les vues de leurs commettants, entendu sur le fond et sur la rédaction des articles en français et en anglais, ils signèrent, le 25 novembre 1850, sous réserve de ratification, le Traité général d'amitié, d'établissements réciproques, de commerce et d'extradition des criminels, que nous avons l'honneur de soumettre à l'approbation de l'Assemblée fédérale.» *Extrait du Message du Conseil fédéral à l'Assemblée fédérale du 2 décembre 1850, accompagnant le traité entre les Etats-Unis et la Confédération.* FF 1850, III, p. 621—649.

Ce traité, ratifié par les Chambres fédérales les 17 et 18 décembre 1850, n'a pas été ratifié sous cette forme par les Etats-Unis.