Mexican War
Letter
James Gadsden

General Jesup

Charleston June 16. 46

Dear Sir

Since writing you I have seen a statement in our papers from Capt Sanders who it seems have gone West: to accomplish what I suggested— If 4 Feet can be carried to Matamoras and 3 to Carmago: when it seems Gen Taylor is desirous of establishing a Port The Boats I recommend would be the very Transports you need— If these Li— ghters could accompany them, and once in the River Rio Grande: I really believe that the Two Steamers could keep up the depth required: there being a larger depth at the Mouth of the River so as only to ply between the Mouth. or Barilla & Carmago— If disposed to purchase. ~~I could~~ you can command my advice & services in the case: as I think it probable that a better negotiation may be made through a private Individual than through an Officer

If it is suspected that Government need the Boats I doubt if they could be pur— chased at a fair rate

I should think, at this season of the year: there would be no difficulty: though

the voyage might be tedious to carry with Boats & Lighters - We have an inland passage from Charleston to St Johns - From St Johns selecting good weather and availing yourself of the Ports of St Augustine, Mosquito & Cape Florida may be turned from these Coast wise, with the harbors of rescue of saving the voyage to the Mississippi may be accomplished - If the Rivers are high: the route of rivers & down the La Fourche or Atchafalaya & Teche may be taken and from thence coast wise, having the Sabine & Galveston Bay to retreat to. the voyage may be accomplished to the Point of destination - If any troops are to be sent from this quarter. they can be transported by this conveyance - If the purchase sh^d be made - it would be advisable to put the Boats in dry dock & thereby have one in Charleston for examination and thorough repairations - Even this operation sh^d be done as a private transaction, all of which can be done through me if so desired - not even permitting the parties to know

who made the purchase or for what use intended— I could hold out the idea of a private enterprise connected with our Rail Road

Yours Truly
James Harden

E.W.M.

General Jessup

Charleston June 10 46

Dear Sir

Since writing you I have seen a statement in our papers from Capt. Sanders who it seems has gone west to accomplish what I suggested. If 4 feet can be carried to Matameras and 3 to Carmazo where it seems Gen. Taylor is desirous of establishing a Port the boats I recommended would be the very transports you recd. If then lighters could accompany them, and once on the River Rio Grande: I really believe that the two steamers could keep up the de required: there being a larger de at the mouth of the River so as only to ply between the mouth or Baretta & Carmazo. If disposed to purchase, you can command my advice & services in the case, as I think it probable that a better negotiation may be made through a private individual than through an officer. If it is suspected that Government recd. the boats I doubt if they could be furnished at a fair rate.

I should think at this season of the year there would be no difficulty, though the voyage might be tedious to carry both boats & lighters. We have an inland passage from Charleston to St. Johns. From St. Johns selecting good weather and availing yourself of the Ports of St. Augustine, Merchetto & Cape Florida may be from there coast wise with the harbors of rescue offering the voyage to the Mississippi may be accomplished. If the Rivers are high, the route up river & down to La Foursche or Achafalya & Teche may be taken and from there coastwise, having the Sabine & Galveston Bay to retreat to, the voyage may be accomplished to the point of destination. If any troops are to be sent from this quarter, they can be transported by this conveyance. If the purchase shd. be made, it would be advisable to put the boats in dry dock of which we have one in Charleston for examination and thorough reparations. Even this operation shd be done as a private transaction, all of which can be done through me if so desired, not even permitting the parties to know who made the purchase or for what use intended. I could hold the idean of a private enterprise connected with our Rail Road

Yours truly

James Gadsden

Docket: In regard to the steamers required for the Rio Grande
Col. James Gadsden Charleston June 16/46

JAMES GADSDEN May 15, 1788- December 25, 1858 statesman. Involved with military defences in Gulf of Mexico during War of 1812. president of the South Carolina R.R. at this time. In 1853 Pierce appointed Min. to Mexico and he negotiated treaty (of Guadaloupe Hidalgo) for purchase of part of Ariz. and N.M.