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Carta de Charles Alfred Washburn a

Solano Lopez.



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Buenos Ayres Aug. 21st 1866.

His Ex.

President Lopez.

Dear Sir,

On the 4th of November last I reached this place intending to return immediately to Paraguay. All communication had, however, been previously cut off and I was obliged to wait here the arrival of our Admiral with his Squadron to send me up in ^{a vessel} of war. He did not reach here till January & then, much to our surprise, he refused to send up a vessel without orders from the Government at Washington. So I undertook to go up as best I could leaving Mrs Washburn here. But when I got to the camp of Pres. Mitre, at that time near Corrientes, he refused to allow me to pass through his lines till he had conferred with his Government, after which he said he thought no objection would be made. I then returned here & again set out for Paraguay again, taking my wife with me. But when there we were not allowed to pass Pres. Mitre putting me ^{off} from time to time with promises saying at one time he would again see the Gov. & at another that he would consult his allies till after five months of the most miserable existence in Corrientes, I wrote him

AN
ASBURY

a strong protest - Four days after that I rec^d.
advises from Washington from which it appeared
that our government was very much displeas^d
at my detention by the allies and had sent orders
to our Admiral to take me to Paraguay on a
war vessel and to send up such convoy a escort
as might be necessary to get me through.

The Admiral has not yet arrived from Rio &
I know not how soon I shall get away but as
Mr Becom tells me that the "Decide" is going
up again I write this to let you know that at
least one American Gun-boat will soon be in
your waters. If the Brazilians object and do not
allow it to pass then will soon be an American
squadron there the effect of which on the termina-
tion of the war no one can appreciate so well
as your Ex.

I think I shall start from here from the
1st to the 4th of September - I shall probably go up
on the "Shamrock" a very large & powerful Gun-
boat.

For some reason I cannot understand
the allies are very much opposed to my going
to Paraguay - I have been told that when they
surg'd the office of Sr^{te} Ejesyiza they found
letters from your Minister in Paris Sr^{te} Barrero
in which he spoke of me as a great friend to

Paraguay and a bitter enemy of the allies & said some other things that lead them to suppose that my visit to the states was rather to serve the interests of Paraguay than on any business of my own. At any rate they have kept me here for over nine months until our Government has taken up the matter & now we will soon see what the end of it will be. My position during all the time of this detention has been most disagreeable & unpleasant & though I don't suppose it is now not very pleasant in Asuncion it can hardly be so bad as Corrientes.

As I shall probably have the pleasure of seeing you within three or four days after you receive this I will not write at more length - I may say however that the valor and endurance shown by the Paraguayans have excited the wonder of the world.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant
Charles A. Washburn

I take the liberty of enclosing a photograph of a friend of mine that will make the trip with me to Paraguay.

