

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING,

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 19th instant, correspondence between the Department of State and the minister of the United States at Portugal, in reference to his salary.

FEBRUARY 23, 1867.—Read, ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit to the Senate, in answer to their resolution of the 19th instant, a report from the Secretary of State with accompanying documents.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

WASHINGTON, *February 21, 1867.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 21, 1867.

SIR: The Secretary of State, to whom was referred the resolution of the Senate of the 19th instant, requesting the President to communicate to that body, "if in his opinion not inconsistent with the public interests, any correspondence between the Department of State and the minister resident of the United States at Portugal with reference to his salary or compensation; and also to inform the Senate if such minister has received any salary or compensation on account of services in his office since the act of Congress of July twenty-fifth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, and if so, out of what fund it has been paid," has the honor to lay before the President a copy of the correspondence called for by the resolution, and to report that no salary or compensation on account of services in his office, since the act of Congress of July twenty-fifth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, has been paid to the minister resident of the United States at Portugal.

Respectfully submitted:

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

The PRESIDENT.

List of papers.

- No. 388. Mr. Harvey to Mr. Seward, March 31, 1866.
- No. 196. Mr. Seward to Mr. Harvey, April 23, 1866.
- No. 201. Mr. Seward to Mr. Harvey, July 30, 1866.
- No. 404. Mr. Harvey to Mr. Seward, October 1, 1866.
- No. 208. Mr. Seward to Mr. Harvey, December 19, 1866
- No. 424½. Mr. Harvey to Mr. Seward, January 5, 1867.

Mr. Harvey to Mr. Seward.

No. 388.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Lisbon, March 31, 1866.

SIR: The state of my health renders it necessary for me to ask a congé for a few months, in order to make a trial of the baths in Germany, as recommended by the physicians here. I do not name a specific period, because the experiment must be controlled by circumstances, now impossible to determine with exactness.

If this discretion be granted, I shall endeavor not to trespass upon the privilege in any way, and should an occasion arise demanding my personal presence, I would feel bound to return to Lisbon without delay, disregarding all personal convenience.

In case this request can be properly allowed, I would beg to suggest that Mr. C. A. Munro, may be named as chargé d'affaires during my absence, as he is familiar with the general course of business in the legation, is competent, and is also fairly entitled to this temporary recognition, for his faithful services.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES E. HARVEY.

Hon. W. H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Harvey.

No. 196.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, April 23, 1866.

SIR: Your despatches Nos. 387 and 388, dated respectively the 30th and 31st ultimo, have been received, and your proceedings relative to the so-called minister of Mexico at Lisbon are approved.

The request for a few months' leave of absence, which forms the subject of your No. 388, is cheerfully granted, and it is hoped that your health may be benefited by the relaxation, and the course of treatment which has been prescribed by your physicians. The department sees no objection to your charging Mr. Munro with the duties of the legation during your absence, for the performance of which he will be entitled, pursuant to section 11 of the act of August 18, 1856, to the compensation of a secretary of legation.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JAMES E. HARVEY, Esq., &c., &c., *Lisbon.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Harvey.

No. 201.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 30, 1866.

SIR: I have to inform you that the act of Congress, approved on the 25th instant, entitled "An act making appropriations for the consular and diplomatic expenses of the government for the year ending thirtieth June, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, and for other purposes," provides in section first that "no money shall be paid to the present minister at Portugal out of any funds whatever on account of further services in his office."

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JAMES E. HARVEY, Esq., &c., &c., *Lisbon.*

Mr. Harvey to Mr. Seward.

No. 404.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Lisbon, October 1, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that I returned to my post yesterday from the leave of absence courteously granted to me by the department, and have this day resumed its regular duties.

After an examination of the affairs of the legation, I have the pleasure to report that Mr. Munro, who was appointed chargé d'affaires in conformity with your instruction No. 196, has faithfully discharged that trust, and kept me regularly advised upon all official matters during my absence, so that there has not been the slightest interruption or delay in the current business. A draft will be made on the department to cover his compensation.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES E. HARVEY.

Hon. W. H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Harvey.

No. 208.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 19, 1866.

SIR: Your draft for £82 7s. 2d. has been presented and payment refused in compliance with the act of Congress passed at the last session, which provides that "no money shall be paid to the present minister resident at Portugal out of any funds whatever on account of further services in his office."

Mr. Munro will be entitled to draw for his salary as secretary of legation for the term certified, less the tax.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JAMES E. HARVEY, Esq., &c., &c., *Lisbon.*

[NOTE.—The draft of Mr. Munro, authorized to be drawn by him for his services as chargé in the above instruction, has been presented at the department, but has not yet been paid.]

Mr. Harvey to Mr. Seward.

No. 424.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Lisbon, January 5, 1867.

SIR: Upon returning here from the leave of absence granted to me last summer, I paid over to Mr. C. A. Munro the sum of \$398 63, for his services as chargé d'affaires during my absence, as the most convenient way of closing the account to him, and made a draft upon the department to cover the same, accompanied by his receipt. The body of that draft was in these words:

"Ten days after sight please pay to the order of Messrs. Baring Brothers & Co., eighty-two pounds seven shillings and two pence, for services of C. A. Munro, esq., as chargé de'affaires, per instruction No. 196."

This form was adopted to exclude all possibility of misapprehension. The draft in question has now been returned to me protested, with the following remarks by the agent of Messrs. Baring Brothers & Co., at Washington:

“Our notary made the demand for it at maturity, 15th instant, and was answered it would be paid, but since then the department has refused to pay, in consequence of the law passed by Congress that no money should be paid to the present minister resident at Portugal out of any fund whatever, on account of further services in his office. We were informed, however, at the same time, that Mr. Munro's draft would be paid, and we therefore thought it best to return it to you without further delay under protest.”

This action upon a draft made for the services of another person, and in no sense for my own services, has placed me in an irksome position, in consequence of the protest by which it was followed, and I deem it proper to submit these facts to notice now, under the belief that it must have originated in a misapprehension.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES E. HARVEY.

Hon. W. H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State