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## Letter from John Sibley to William Eustis, February 9, 1811

John Sibley

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Sir

In a letter I wrote you dated Jany.—I mentioned Something of what was understood here to have taken place relative to a general Revolution in the Kingdome of Mexico.—On the 5 Inst. a Mr Edward Quick arrived here from Nacogdoches and gave me at my own house the following information. that on the 31st of Jany. last Arrived at Nacogdoches an Officer Called Captain Syce [Sáenz] with about Eighty Cavalry or mounted Infantry from Monterey on this Side of Mexico. On his Arrival at Nacogdoches he immediately Arrested & Confined in Irons the late Comedant [sic] of that place, took possession of the public Archives, the Treasury & proclaimed the Government of the Spanish Monarchy at an end. & that he was Come to take possession of that place in the Name of the free Independent Government of the people, he Opened the Prison & released all the Prisoners, & Sayed his Orders were to imprison all European Spaniards & Sequester all their property, & it was understood he had done the Same at every Post as he Came along. Governor Salcedo was in Irons in St. Antonio, with General Herrera & his younger Brother, the Major & Several Others, Governor Salcedo's Secretary was shott [sic] by an officer of Captain Syce [Sáenz] for hesitating to deliver up the Keys of the Public Office. This day a Mr Chirino a respectable old Spanish Gentleman Arrived here from Nacogdoches with whom I have had a Conversation at my Own House, he Confirms Substantially the foregoing Account of Mr. Quick, & is the Bearer of letters Confirming likewise the Same, he understood from Captain Syce [Sáenz] that all was tranquil at & about Mexico Under the New Order of things, that all the European Officers and Priests were deposed, many of them had lost their lives, & all their property had been Confiscated and that in the General Provinces all opposition to the Government of the people had Ceased, that they were as much Averse to European Frenchmen as to European Spaniards, & were extremely jealous of the emmissaries [sic] of Buoneparte [sic] that they did not allow themselves to be Called Spaniards; but *Americans*. Capt. Syce [Sáenz] had Nominated Some Magistrates for a Temporary government of the place & was to leave Nacogdoches with Nearly all the people that Came with him on the 7th Inst. & return Back to whence they Came, a free Commerce was not to be Interrupted between Nacogdoches & this place & there was a general rejoicing Amongst the people on the Occasion. It is said a General Congress of delegates from the Provinces was Soon to meet at Mexico to provide for the General Welfare. It is Said that the ex Bishop of Monterey with a large Number of Priests & followers, Sat [sic] off for the United States in Order to Save themselves from the Incenced Multitude; but Captain Syce [Sáenz] by another Road Arrived at St. Antonio before them and it is Seposed [sic] they are all arrested.

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Three Million of a hardy Warlike people, Our Neighbours, having Changed their government, between us & them, there are no fixed Boundaries. Commercial nor any other regulations, through whose Country our Revenue & Laws—prohibiting the Introduction of Slaves & May be infringed—— will no doubt be Subject of Consideration of Our Government.

That Belt of Country between this Town & the River Sabine Called Neutral Ground, has become a Harbour for Thieves, Robbers & Murderers to an alarming degree. I was yesterday out with a Coroners Inquest on the Body of a Man a Citizen of the U. S. who was found Dead, who had been Robbed & Murdered by them, a few Miles from this Town.—

That this would be the case was foreseen Since that honest Industrious Settlement of people at the Adaze [Los Adaes] was broken up by Order of Our own & the Spanish Government last Summer.

I am with great respect & Esteem  
Your Obt. Hble. Servant  
John Sibley

Honble. William Eustis  
Secretary of War

[This is copied from a typed transcription published in the Southwestern Historical Quarterly. Spelling errors and oddities have been reproduced as they appear in that transcription. All spelling corrections or other single-word clarifications which appear within square brackets [] are copied as such directly from this source, except for those which include the word "sic"; these are added by me.]