Please dont delay it a moment longer than you can help, as time is old, and in absolute want of it — I've expended, with the Texas Consul, some $200 — in money to get these papers part, ~~and have~~ given it up in despair, when some friend suggested his employing me to look after the claims, and which I am doing gratuitously — Send it quick — it was good service done for Texas by a worthy but now poor man

Very respectfully yrs
B. H. Payne

P.S. I wrote to Thos. Wm Ward Esq.r in relation to this claim about a week after I enclosed them to you & Mr. Shaw — & asked him to call your attention to them. Please ask him about it.
B.H.P.

B H Payne
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