Washington May 30th 1854

J. C. Hartley Esq.

Counsellor, Galveston, Texas

Dear Sir

I am in receipt of your very esteemed favor of the 15th inst., by which I learn, in confirmation of my own opinion expressed to Com. Moore, that Genl. Dunlaps assignment to him is now of little or no value to him. But nevertheless, as Com. Moore desires it, be pleased to have the signature of Frankland proved and return me the papers with a memorandum of the charges which I will promptly remit.

From present appearances I fear that Mrs Bainigerfield has no chance of receiving back what she brought as a marriage portion to Genl. Dunlap. She was married in this City. Genl. Dunlap was then Minister resident here from the Republic of Texas. After a marriage of little over one year, on his way to Texas to attend to some important land matters, Genl. Dunlap died in New Orleans. There was no issue; but the brothers & sisters of the deceased professed great interest for the widow and it was expected some liberal provision would be made for her, nothing was done however, and she returned to her mother unprovided.

I beg now to request your attention to the claim of the heirs of A. Mellen whose Powers of Attorney I beg to enclose, and which, if not required, I beg you will return to me, as I retain no copies. The case is as follows:

The late Captain Albin Mellen was employed by the Joint Boundary Commission of the U. S. and Republic of Texas, to convey the same on board the Steamer Albert Gallatin from Sabine Pass to the 32° degree N.L. on the Sabine River. The sum stipulated to be paid to Capt. Mellen was about fifteen hundred dollars. The U. S. Commissioner paid one half of that amount. The other half