that I should immediately repair to the Saw Mill and superintend the getting out and sawing lumber sufficient to build the fortifications and barracks on Galveston, and that I should be furnished with a competent and efficient force to be placed under my command for the above purpose. Col Sommervelle coming in at the same time strongly objected, that an officer of my grade, should be employed on a duty so inconsistent with his rank particularly when he knew that my talents and science and skill in military matters would be acceptable, at that moment, to the army in the field Sea Sea. I told him I always had been, and ever would be ready to serve my country in any capacity that I could be most useful, however humble it might be deemed; that the completion of the fortifications on Galveston island were indispensably necessary to the defence of this section of country; that if the Government had no other means of procuring the lumber elsewhere (and the works could not be built without the requisite materials) I was willing to be ordered on that service. I accordingly received an order as above stated, directed to me as Lieut Colonel Macomb, Corps of Artillery, and also an order from the Secretary at War requiring Col Morgan to furnish me with 20 able bodied Mexican Prisoners, to