

Herkimo,
Diamond

...Texas had once been
ance, Mexico, the United
he Confederacy. I was
e thought that the long
history of Texas had ar-
noment, with small-town
the many voices of the
mony.

Straus was waiting in his
ated on the couch in his
nder a painting of Here-
e looked far more relaxed
nt was warranted, given
r Abbott was poised to
ession that would likely
ck's must-pass bills. But
d satisfied. He boasted
ities of the House—his
d mostly been accom-
lid the Child Protective

...the c
omy
a plan
fortu
orities
Patrick
I asked
tween business
tives. He quoted William
Lincoln's Secretary of State,
scribed the forthcoming Civil War as
"an irrepressible conflict." The preju-
dices unleashed by the election of Don-
ald Trump had poured kerosene on the
already volatile world of Texas politics.
Straus, referring to the bathroom bill,
said, "We came very close this session
to passing a sweepingly discriminatory
policy. It would have sent a very neg-
ative message around the country."

"That's still possible, right?" I asked.
"Couldn't Abbott put forward his own

