

"TO THINK OWN SELF BE TRUE, AND IT MUST FOLLOW, AS THE NIGHT THE DAY, THOU CAN' ST NOT THEN BE FALSE TO ANY MAN."

VOL. 2.

PICKENS COURT HOUSE, S. C., FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 1850.

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POLITICAL.

IMPORTANT LETTER FROM GOVERNOR BELL.

To the Senators and Representatives from Texas, in the United States Congress relative to the Santa Fe Question.

STATE OF TEXAS.
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
AUSTIN, June 13, 1850.

Hon. Senators and Representatives from Texas, in the Congress of the United States:

Gentlemen—It is with solicitude and pain that I announce to you the efforts at presents going forward by deluded men, to sever from the State a large portion of territory situated upon her Northwestern limits. This intelligence I have just received in full and satisfactory shape from the Special Commissioner, who was appointed by authority of the Legislature at its last session, leaving no doubt upon the mind of the Executive of a settled determination by the people of Santa Fe to form at once a separate State Government in utter disregard of our rightful boundary. And there is no less doubt from the statements of the Commissioner (who has executed his trust in a most worthy manner) of the inhabitants of that district having received, and are still receiving in the fulfilment of their plans, aid, instruction and encouragement from the United States forces stationed at Santa Fe, who, for some time past, have exercised civil and military jurisdiction in that portion of the State. Ungracious and harsh as this announcement sounds upon our ears, yet it comes with the full impress of truth, and brings along with it, I assure you, all the angry excitement and evil forebodings which always precede the determined spirit of an outraged people to redress their wrongs when and wherever offered. Unpleasant as it is, it does not come unanticipated. In my general message to the Legislature of December 26th, 1843, I had the honor to state in reference to that portion of territory embracing Santa Fe—"That the course pursued by the Federal Government within the last eighteen months, had been such as to give rise to the most serious apprehensions that they are disposed tacitly to yield to any effort which may be made to wrest it from us. The total silence observed in regard to the Resolutions of the 20th March, 1843, and the law passed at the same session of the Legislature for organizing the County of Santa Fe. The continuance of their civil and military government within the limits of our territory when no longer required for the purpose for which it was established, and the failure amounting to a refusal to give instructions to officers in command of that depart to recognize and respect the authorities of the State in discharge of the duties assigned them, indicate but too strongly a careless indifference to our rights, if they do not go further, and manifest a disposition totally to disregard them."

Recent events with which you can become well advised from the information which is herewith transmitted, endorse the opinions therein expressed, placing beyond the reach of speculation or doubt the disposition and views entertained by the Federal Government towards us, and exhibiting clearly the unfriendly attitude of the people of Santa Fe. Before entering upon his proper duties, the Special Commissioner referred to, received from the Executive full and ample instructions to direct him in extending a civil organization to the counties of Presidio, El Paso, Worth and Santa Fe. He was directed to explain with great

care and in a manner most conciliatory to the inhabitants there, the causes which had operated to prevent an earlier extension to them of the benefits of the Constitution and Laws of the State, and to explain also as far as opportunity allowed, the particular features of each, as applicable to their position and circumstances.

In the county of El Paso, his mission was marked with signal success, and in a short period a complete organization was effected, and there is every assurance that equal success would have attended the efforts of the Commissioner in the counties of Presidio and Worth, with a sufficient military escort, which was rendered necessary from the large number of hostile Indians who roam unrestrained through that country.

But the causes in Santa Fe, active and powerful and adverse to the just claims of our State, which worked defeat to the Commissioner, are of quite a different character, worthy of the gravest consideration, involving as they do, living and essential principles, important not only to the parties immediately concerned, but to all who are interested in the maintenance of its original meaning and purity of the integrity of a sovereign State.

This unfortunate issue between the State and a portion of its inhabitants for several years menaced, has at length assumed a definite and determined character and in my judgment calls for the immediate exercise of the force and efficacy which our Constitution and Laws were intended to confer. It was to have been calculated that difficulties arising within a State of the Union, no matter from what causes, would have been to the General Government a subject interesting enough to claim its interposition and kindest offices for their adjustment. But in this instance, instead of exercising parental care and vigilance over the interest of the youngest member of the Confederacy, she has stepped forward with the confident, supercilious air of power, erecting herself into an empire, claiming privileges and benefits pertaining to Texas from the dear bought sacrifices which she has made to obtain them, and heretofore awarded to them by the most solemn guarantees. Is this, allow me to ask, one of the boasted particular benefits of the Union? And is this a foretaste of what we may hereafter expect from a common guardian! This is truly the protection that the wolf gives to the lamb "covering and devouring."—Such a course once sanctioned would leave us recreant to the trust confided to us, leading as it would to the destruction of an important Constitutional principle; and I assert it with pride and confidence, that the State of Texas is not prepared to acquiesce in a doctrine at once absurd and dangerous. To oppose it by all proper and legitimate means, becomes her for her own security, and possessing kindred sentiments and interests with her sister States, it is alike due to their preservation to repudiate it, as a wild, extravagant and authorized assumption by the Executive Department of the Government. The slumbering patriotism of the calm and sober-minded pioneers of the country has been kindled by the wound about to be inflicted upon State pride, and in this manifest attempt at usurpation of State rights.

This effort for supremacy recently so clearly indicated by the U. States authorities at Santa Fe, can only have the unhappy effect of disturbing the harmony, good feelings and affection, which ought to exist between the confederacy and all of its members. It can exact no true homage or respect any where, and it will never find obedience here. Nor is it intended, that it shall in the least degree impair or take away the State's claim to sovereignty and jurisdiction over the country in controversy. It at least becomes us to assume a just, lofty and honorable attitude before our sister States, whose interests assimilated to our own, are likely to be affected favorably or otherwise, according as the issue may come out of the important question now to be decided. It is expected, that the State of Texas will use the necessary means to extend her civil jurisdiction co-extensive with her proper limits. Duty and policy point out this course, her citizens require it, her honor demands it, it is exacted by good faith to her creditors. Those limits have been very clearly and in the most expres-

sive manner defined by the sword, successfully maintained by the same instrument, and confirmed to us by the most enlightened nations. The solemn compact of Union must now shield them from all encroachments come from what quarter they may.

Let it not be forgotten, that chivalry and daring gave both to the Texas Revolution, which by sacrifice and valor, has been the means of adding to the United States an empire of territory. Does this entitle us to no considerations? and shall Texas now be forced to the humiliating dilemma of asking either gratuities or boons? She does not ask them. She will not ask them. Nor yet even any abatement of the severe rigors of the positions in which she is now placed by the unkind action of the Federal Government.

But she does not withdraw her confidence in the justice of the General Government, and reposing for a moment upon that confidence, she now asks of that Government no longer to intervene any obstacle to the claim of Texas to the soil and jurisdiction over all the Territory declared within her rightful boundary at the consummation of annexation, and in which was embraced Santa Fe.

The hope is still entertained that the Government at Washington will, when informed in the most positive and unqualified manner, of the fixed determination of the State to maintain integrity inviolate by enforcing its laws over every part thereof, be visited with a returning sense of right, and issue without any delay, to the officers commanding at Santa Fe, such orders as will cause immediate cessation of Civil Jurisdiction in that portion of this State; and with this view I have to request that the Honorable Delegation from Texas will immediately wait upon his Excellency the President, and respectfully represent that the State of Texas does not recognize any right or authority in the Executive or any other branch of the Government, longer to continue Civil or Military Government at Santa Fe, or any other portion of the State, and to demand that all instructions heretofore existing for the maintenance of such Government be revoked; and further, that the troops in the service of the U. States, occupying that portion of the frontier of Texas be required to employ themselves strictly in the discharge of their appropriate military duties.

If it is the policy of the Government not to aid a sovereign State with her troops in its efforts to bring under subject to its laws a refractory population, she is at least required to observe a strict non-interference. This State will endeavor properly to look to the movements of her citizens occupying the quarter alluded to, but she would willingly be saved the trouble of combating the open and the secret influences exerted there, brought about mainly, as it is understood, by the policy and directions of the Executive Branch of the General Government.

The Proclamation of Col. Monroe, commanding at Santa Fe, of the 23d of April last, would seem to establish this position beyond the possibility of a rational doubt. If, however, this individual has so far transcended his orders (which cannot be supposed) as to promulge this most remarkable Proclamation, it will be a matter for congratulation to our State and its citizens generally, as there has always been very great reluctance to view the United States in the light of an adverse claimant.

It is worse than useless, gentlemen, for me to trespass on your time and patience in bringing forward proofs to establish the boundary of Texas. Our delegation in Congress, faithful to their trusts in this respect, and able in the manner of discharging it, have convinced even the reluctant, and given firmness to the wavering. The rights of Texas to extend her civil and political organization over every portion of her territory, as proclaimed in her Law of Limits of 1836, is considered perfect, and cannot be yielded without compromising her integrity. She has passed upon her claim, looking to the principle of right as contra-distinguished to one of force, and that this arbitrament is just, it is only necessary to recur to the opinions of enlightened nations, who have already, with great unanimity, rendered a judgment in our favor.

In assuming this position, so manifestly just, it is with due deference and profound respect for the Government of the Union, and in urging with firmness and constancy our claim to the territory in question, no multiplied claims or implied threats to the

Federal Government are intended to be put forth. It is true that the powers and resources of the State must now be employed for extending her jurisdiction to her remotest limits, but no conflict with the General Government is desired or intended, and if in the record of subsequent events connected with this subject any stain shall be made thereon, it shall not fall, if possible, on the page of our State's history, but expunging from it every feature not marked by propriety and justice, we will endeavor to pass it with pride and pleasure to those who have assimilated interests and feelings with our own.

In any conflict with the Federal Government, which is not anticipated, and which all would deprecate, Texas is fully sensible of its power, dignity, and greatness, and of her own weakness. But this consideration, it is to be hoped, will never influence her counsels or her people to surrender her sovereign attributes; and though conscious of her physical weakness, with justice on her side, she is led to believe that her moral strength would be her shield.

In urging the General Government to abstain from any encroachments upon her territorial limits, Texas cannot be considered impertinent. Much toil and many sacrifices gained for her Independence as a Republic, and when she yielded her nationality to the Union, she did not expect that Union to absorb every thing valuable that was hers, for she believed it was emphatically, a Union of the power and resources of the two Republics.

To curtail her limits, is to deprive her of a portion of her wealth, to say nothing of high political considerations which cannot in these turbulent times be too much guarded. Texas honestly and truly believes that the Rio Grande to its whole extent is her rightful boundary. She carried her flag to the lower and middle Rio Grande, and actually established it there, and left untrammelled and even unaided, was perfectly prepared and would soon have conquered her boundary to its whole extent. Texas sighs for, and really requires tranquility; but if she loves peace, she hates dishonor. With the inhabitants of Santa Fe, I consider the issue is clearly and distinctly made, and if in like manner with the Federal Government, it is greatly to be regretted but it will not change our course. Texas knows her rights and will maintain them with all the means which God and nature have given her.

The Constitution and laws of the State indicate to me my duty too plainly to be misunderstood. I shall not be behind it, but will at once employ the power and resources which they confer to secure complete jurisdiction over that portion of our State, which a misguided and refractory population are endeavoring to sever.

I will not trouble you further, gentlemen, than to ask from you, as the guardians of the honor and interest of the State, at the Capital, that aid and hearty co-operation, now so necessary to secure her against the evils and sinister influences which assail her.

I cannot conclude, however, without expressing that deep feeling of profound love and devotion for the Union which is so universally felt by the citizens of our State, and I am sure that I cannot on this subject better convey the public sentiment than to reiterate the language which I had the honor publicly to express on a previous occasion. "We will always endeavor to do our duty to the Union. This is an obligation and it implies reciprocity." "Too just to invade the rights of others, we will be too proud to surrender our own."

With the highest esteem and respect, I have the honor to be, gentlemen, Your most obedient servant,
P. H. BELL.

RESISTANCE IN THE SENATE.—The correspondent of the Mercury gives us the following gratifying intelligence:

"The bill for the admission of California will not be permitted to pass the Senate without resistance, and that of the sternest and most determined character. The friends of the South in that body feel it their duty to oppose and obstruct the aggressive measures of the majority by all the means which are afforded by the rules of legislation; and by these properly applied and resolutely persisted in the passage of any measure can be delayed until the day of doom. To those who profess devotion to the South, while they are terrified at the idea of disunion, this course, no doubt, will be gladly embraced, as it will

present an opportunity of peaceful yet effectual resistance, by which they may protect the South and preserve the Union. A sufficient number of Senators have already solemnly pledged themselves to this course to render it effectual, and if the effort to admit California with her present boundaries is persisted in, you may expect a protracted session, and a struggle unexampled in our legislative history."

The Mercury, in remarking on its Washington letter, says:

"It is evident now that we can have no half-way measures. The South must defend herself, or be trodden under foot. Mr. Clay has unqualifiedly denounced the whole doctrine of State Rights and State sovereignty; has avowed and repeated over and over that the States have no right in any case to resist the legislation of Congress; that such resistance of a State is of no higher character, and to be treated by the Federal Government with no more respect, than an insurrection of a county, or an outrage upon the laws by individuals. These declarations of Mr. Clay were received with shouts of applause from the galleries, and have, so far, called forth the general approval of his friends. Consolidation, Abolition and the Bayonet are now emblazoned on the banner of the Anti-Southern party. Is it not time, then, for decisive measures?"

HIT HIM AGAIN.—The Washington correspondent of the Evening News, in speaking of Senator Foote, says:

"Mr. Foote appears to thrive with the heat, for he waxes more vigorous every day, and when he expatiates on the temerity of you South Carolinians in daring to think for yourselves, he is truly sublime. It is a pity he does not take to the stage, as such a political salamander would command almost any price. Barnum would be in ecstasies at the prospect of getting him for his museum."

TRYING IT AGAIN.—The correspondent of the Evening News, writing from Washington on Saturday says:

"There being in the House an admitted majority in favor of the compromise bill, it is expected that it will be introduced into that body on Monday, so that on its going to the Senate there will be another opportunity for certain gentlemen, if they are sufficiently penitent, to retrace their steps. All this, however, will take time, for it cannot be supposed that such a measure can pass through the House without at least a month's debate. It is now positively stated that Mr. Fillmore is in favor of the measure."

NORTH CAROLINA ELECTION.—Telegraphic despatches have been received in Washington announcing that Reid (Dem.) has gained on Manly 1,600 votes over last election.—Reid, we understand, is a Southern man out and out. Manly was a Clay compromise man. Enough said.
[Carolinian.]

PRESIDENT OF THE BANK.—At a meeting of the Directors of the Bank of the State of South Carolina, held on Monday, the 5th inst., C. M. Furman, Esq., was unanimously elected President of that institution.—Carolinian.

MANUFACTURING COMPANY.—We observe with pleasure and gratification in our advertising columns this morning, a notice of application for a charter of a manufacturing company in this place. From the character of some of the gentlemen connected with the enterprise we have the utmost confidence in the success of the scheme, and from the facilities abounding on all sides of us, there can be no doubt but that it will well remunerate the stockholders.

There are more ways of fighting the North than one. Cotton spindles and looms in every town and favorable locality will wake her citizens up to the fact that we have some resources and capital left. They will begin to understand that whilst we can justly boast of the patriotism of our citizens in repelling political wrongs, we have also within us the means of independence, in producing our own supplies. We heartily wish this and every other mode of strengthening our arms at the present time the most abundant success.
[South Carolinian.]

GREAT CAVES.—A summer tourist writing from Sharon Springs, to the New York Journal of Commerce, gives a description of two caves of great size, near Scholarie Court House, New York. One called

Howe's Cave, situated about 17 miles from the Springs, and five from the Scholarie Court House, has been explored to a depth of seven miles through limestone rock, and contains a lake, on which is a boat for visitors. One portion of this cave is so vast, that rockets have been sent up and do not reach the ceiling. The other cave is called Gebbard's and is about four miles east of the Scholarie Court House. It has been explored to a distance of five miles. This also is said to have a lake, and an apartment 315 feet in diameter. Pure white alabaster has been found in it. Howe's cave was discovered in 1842 by a Mr. Howe, who has now a hotel near it.

[From the Charleston Courier.] GOVERNORS OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Messrs. Editors:—In your paper of Wednesday, a list of the Governors of South Carolina appears, copied from the Fairfield Herald. The enumeration is correct from the year 1784, B. Guerdar, Governor; but the list is not complete, and in some respects it is inaccurate. Rutledge was not Governor in 1792. The office was filled by Mathews. Henry Middleton and not Drayton, was Governor in 1810-12. The first Congress of South Carolina assembled at Charles town, on Wednesday, 1st. November, 1775, and remained in session until 28th March, 1776. On that day the first Constitution was adopted. The 1st clause, (for there were no articles then,) provides that this Congress being full and free representation, &c., shall hereafter be called the General Assembly of South Carolina.

The 2d provides, That the General Assembly and the Legislative Council shall out of their own body elect by ballot, a Legislative Council of 13 members, &c.

The 3d provides, That the General Assembly and the Legislative Council shall out of their own body, or among the people at large, elect a President and Commander in Chief, and a Vice President of the Colony. 1 Stat. 130.

Under this clause, John Rutledge was chosen President, (his duties were those of a Governor and he was commonly so styled,) and Henry Laurens was elected Vice President.

The corrected list of our Republican Governors, as they were styled, in contradistinction to the Royal Governors, will then be as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| John Rutledge | 1775-6 |
| Rawlins Louides | 1777-8 |
| John Rutledge | 1779-1780-81 |
| John Mathews | 1782-3 |
| Benjamin Guerdar | 1784-5 |
| William Moultrie | 1785-7 |
| Thomas Pinckney | 1787-9 |
| Charles Pinckney | 1789-92 |
| Arnoldus Vanderhorst | 1792-4 |
| William Moultrie | 1794-6 |
| Charles Pinckney | 1796-8 |
| Edward Rutledge | 1798-1800 |
| John Drayton | 1800-2 |
| J. B. Richardson | 1802-4 |
| Paul Hamilton | 1804-6 |
| Charles Pinckney | 1806-8 |
| John Drayton | 1808-10 |
| Henry Middleton | 1810-12 |
| Joseph Allston | 1812-14 |
| D. R. Williams | 1814-16 |
| Andrew Pickens | 1816-18 |
| John Geddes | 1818-20 |
| Thomas Bennett | 1820-22 |
| J. L. Wilson | 1822-24 |
| R. J. Manning | 1824-26 |
| John Taylor | 1826-28 |
| S. D. Miller | 1828-30 |
| James Hamilton, Jr. | 1830-32 |
| R. Y. Hayne | 1832-34 |
| George McDuffie | 1834-36 |
| P. M. Butler | 1836-38 |
| Patrick Noble | 1838-40 |
| J. P. Richardson | 1840-42 |
| J. H. Hammond | 1842-44 |
| William Aiken | 1844-46 |
| David Johnston | 1846-48 |
| W. B. Seabrook | 1848-50 |

* The writer of this has seen in the records of the Senate, the original speech of John Rutledge to the Legislature. In that day, addresses were delivered to the two Houses, instead of messages; according to the custom still preserved in Great Britain. The Governor's speech is a document of great strength and eloquence; and if presented to the world could not fail to add the reputation of an eloquent orator, to the fame won by its author as an eminent jurist and most ardent patriot. It may be in my power to lay before your readers some extracts from this paper, which I am induced, has never been seen, but by his contemporaries; and a few who are fond of rummaging into those dust-covered memorials of the past.

W. E. M.