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DOCUMENTS

Accompanying the President's Message of the 3d Jan. published in our last.

COLONEL M'KEE TO MR. EUSTIS.

Fort Stoddard, Dec. 5th 1810.

Having on the 21st ult. taken the liberty of addressing you on the subject of the disturbances in this quarter, and having no acquaintance with any member of the present executive, I have presumed to inclose to your care a despatch from Governor Folch to the Secretary of State. I have also inclosed a hasty translation of Governor Folch's letter to me, which with some other considerations, has induced me to proceed immediately to the City of Washington, for which I leave this place in two or three days, and will proceed with the least possible delay to Knoxville.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN M'KEE.

GOVERNOR FOLCH TO COLONEL M'KEE.

SIR,

Since the conversation I have had with you respecting the disturbances, which at present afflict this province, I have thought of addressing myself directly to the executive power of the United States, through the medium of their secretary of state, proposing to treat for the delivery of the province in more positive terms than those I employed in the letter that I wrote to his Excellency Governor Holmes, because as our difficulties every day increase, the necessity of hastening their conclusion increases also. I have believed also that it might be conducive to the better exit of this negociation, that my dispatch should be entrusted to a person who could give to the Government any information that it ought to possess in order that it may deliberate with the brevity, which is necessary; considering that you sir, are in a situation to fulfill this object from having been an eye witness of all that has passed in this part of the province and the adjacent country, you can give information respecting the alarm which reigns among the inhabitants of the influence, which the French agents in Louisiana exercise in these disturbances, and the risk which that province runs of being involved in the disorders which have had their birth in Florida, as well as the fatal consequences which may follow if the evil is not stopped in its beginning, and whatever else can be said on the subject.

In order to avoid accidents and delays which it is not easy to foresee, I will deliver to you duplicates of the dispatch which I addressed to his Excellency the Secretary of State, in order that you may transmit one of them by the mail, and by this means to give early information to the government of the affairs on which it has to deliberate.

The satisfaction, &c. (which he had in a personal acquaintance, &c.)

(Signed) V. FOLCH.

Mobille, 2d of Dec. 1810.

GOVERNOR FOLCH TO MR. SMITH.

SIR,

I will not detain myself in giving to your excellency information relative to the letter which I directed to his excellency Gov Holmes, being persuaded it will be in the hands of your excellency long before this; but I will add to its contents for your government, that I have decided on delivering this province to the United States, under an equitable capitulation, provided I do not receive succour from the Havanna or Vera Cruz during the present month, or that his excellency Marquis Someruelos, on whom I depend, should not have opened directly a negociation on this point. The incomprehensible abandonment in which I see myself, and the afflicted situation to which this province sees itself reduced not only authorise me, but force me to have recourse to this determination, the only one to save it from that ruin which threatens it. The U. S. are also authorised to accept it, as the disturbances which now afflict this province so near to them must increase every day—they cannot but have an influence on their tranquility, an object which merits the first care of every government.

The inhabitants of Baton Rouge may figure to themselves many motives which may in their conception justify the determination they have adopted, but they cannot produce even a single one which can make tolerable the tyrannical, illegal, and unjust obstinacy with which they insist that the other districts of the province should subject themselves to their will. The United States which profess the exercise of equity, cannot exempt themselves from taking part with the party unjustly oppressed. In this belief I recur to their executive through the medium of your excellency, supplicating him, that he will be pleased to send orders to the commandant at Fort Stoddard, that he should assist with the troops which he has under his orders for the purpose of forcing the party under the command of Reuben Kemper, to retire within the districts of Baton Rouge intimating to him that if in future he should repeat his incursions on the district of Mobille and Pensacola, the troops of the United States joined to the Spanish troops will force to keep them back.

These districts have the more reason to expect from the rectitude of the U. States, the assistance which I ask, as the party which Kemper commands has been recruited, armed, and provisioned, within the limits of their sovereignty. At the same time if my proposition is accepted, orders may be given authorizing some person to meet with me for regulating the evacuation of the province and what ought to precede it.

I conclude, &c. V. FOLCH.

Mobille, 2d of Dec. 1810.

MR. MORIER TO MR. SMITH.

Washington, Dec. 15th, 1810.

SIR,

I deem it to be a duty incumbent on me considering the strict and close alliance which subsists between his Majesty's Government and that of Spain, to express to the government of the United States through you the deep regret with which I have seen that part of the Presidents Message to Congress in which the determination of this government to take possession of West Florida is avowed.

Without presuming to discuss the validity of the title of the United States to West Florida, a title which is manifestly doubtful, since according to the President's proclamation it is left open to discussion, but which has nevertheless been brought forward as one of the pleas to justify the occupation of these provinces, may it not be asked why that province, could not have been as fairly a subject of negociation and adjustment in the hands of the Spaniards, who possess the actual sovereignty there, as in the hands of the Americans, who, to obtain possession, must begin by commiting an act of hostility towards Spain.

But it may be said that the Spanish forces in Mexico, in Cuba, or in Pensacola, are unequal to quell the rebellious association of a band of desperadoes who are known by the contemptuous appellation of land jobbers; allowing as much (which you will agree with me sir, is allowing a great deal) would it not have been worthy of the generosity of a free nation like this, bearing as it doubtless does a respect for the rights of a gallant people at this moment engaged in a noble struggle for its liberty; would it not have been an act on the part of this country dictated by the soundest ties of good neighborhood and of friendship which exist between it and Spain to have simply offered its assistance to crush the common enemy of both, than to have made such interference the pretext of wresting a province from a friendly power, and that at a time of her adversity.

For allow me, sir, to enquire how can the declaration in the President's proclamation, that in the hands of the United States, that, that territory will not cease to be a subject of fair and friendly adjustment, be made to accord with the declaration in his message to Congress (implying permanent possession) of the adoption of that people into the bosom of the American family? The act, consequently, of sending a force to West Florida to secure by arms, what was before a subject of friendly negociation, cannot I much fear, under any palliation, be considered as other than an act of open hostility against Spain. Whilst, therefore, it is impossible to disguise the deep and lively interest which his majesty takes in every thing that relates to Spain, which would I am convinced induce him to mediate between Spain and the United States on any point of controversy which may exist between them, with the utmost impartiality and good will towards both parties, I think it due to the sincere wish of his majesty to maintain unimpaired the friendship which at this moment happily exists between Great Britain and the U. States, to say that such are the ties by which his majesty is bound to Spain that he cannot see with indifference any attack upon her interests in America; and as I have no doubt, that the government of the United States will attribute this representation to the most conciliatory motives, I am induced to request in answer to it such explanation on the subject as will at once convince his majesty, s government of the pacific disposition of the United States towards his majesty's allies, the Spaniards, and will remove the contrary impression which I fear the President's Message is likely to make.

I have the honor to be, &c.

J. P. MORIER.

MR. MORIER TO MR. SMITH.

Mr. Morier presents his compliments to Mr. Smith and begs the favor to be informed when he may expect an answer to the letter which he had the honor to address to Mr. Smith on the 15th inst.

Mr. Morier at the same time, hopes that Mr. Smith, concurring in the opinion that it would be desirable that his majesty's government should as soon as possible after the receipt of the President's message, be furnished with the explanation which Mr. Morier has requested in the above letter on the occupation of West Florida, in the name of the U. States, will readily excuse the solicitude with which he again presses this subject upon the attention of this government.

Washington, Dec. 22d, 1810.

MR. SMITH TO MR. MORIER.

Department of State, Dec. 28th, 1810.

SIR,

Taking into view the subject and circumstances of your letter of the 15th inst. I have in acknowledging it only to remark to you, although it is sufficiently evident from the face of the documents before the public, that no hostile or unfriendly purpose is entertained towards Spain, the only friendly power known to the U. States in the transaction, yet our functionary at London has been enabled to give to your government whatever explanations may comport with the frankness and the spirit of conciliation which have been invariably manifested on the part of the United States.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. SMITH.

JOHN PHILIP MORIER, Esq.
Charge d'Affairs, &c. &c.

SPEECH OF GOV. LANGDON.

TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

My fellow-citizens by their free suffrages have thought proper to choose me their chief executive magistrate for the present year. I feel with great sensibility the honor done me by this mark of their attention and confidence, which demands my grateful acknowledgments. As I have accepted the office, I shall by Divine assistance exert myself, with the limited talents I possess, to promote the interest of our state, and that of the U. States.

Gentlemen—I have had great expectation, for some time past, that I should have had it in my power at this time to congratulate you on the adjustment of all differences, and that a good understanding had taken place between our general government and the nations of Europe; but in this I am disappointed.

The unwarrantable insults and depredations daily committed by the belligerents, upon the persons and property of the citizens of the U. S. are almost beyond bearing.

The patience and forbearance of the general government have been sufficiently tried: but I shall not say much on this melancholy subject, as it would be needless, and perhaps improper for me, if my abilities were equal to it, to hazard an opinion upon our intercourse with the nations of Europe. The foreign relations of our country are confided to the general government of the U. States, whose wise proceedings, amidst the revolutions that have taken place in the world, have hitherto, under Providence, preserved the peace of our nation. The measures taken by the Executive of the U. States have conduced to this happy circumstance; which calls upon us, to give thanks to that Being, who rules in the armies of Heaven above, among the inhabitants of this lower world.

Gentlemen—Permit me to repeat what I have said heretofore, that the difference of political sentiments among our citizens is much to be lamented.—It would be a happy circumstance if we all could be prevailed upon to yield to each other in every reasonable way, and unite our hearts and endeavors to promote the general welfare of our common country.

The difficulties and perplexities that our general government has to contend with at this eventful moment, would seem to demand the assistance and support of every virtuous and patriotic citizen; but it is very humiliating to observe that there are so many among us who appear inimical to, and oppose the government of the United States, which I consider to be the freest and the best that the world now produces, and under which we now enjoy great prosperity and happiness, notwithstanding the cruel and unreasonable embarrassments that our commerce has experienced. And it is truly astonishing to me that this opposition to our own government is made at this time, when we behold before us the nations of Europe, with whom we have been mostly connected in commercial concerns, and heretofore thought the most favorably of, falling into ruin, and in the greatest distress.

Gentlemen—As you are convened at this time agreeably to the constitution of the state, to deliberate and determine upon the important affairs thereof? and as you come from different parts of the same, you of course must be best acquainted with the wants and circumstances of our fellow-citizens.—It will be expected that your attention and patriotism will be called forth in passing such wholesome laws and taking such measures, as will best promote the welfare and interest of the state.

The unfinished business of the last session will naturally claim your attention.

The militia of the state are in as good order as may be expected under our state regulations. I hope this important business will soon be taken up by Congress, and that a general arrangement of the militia throughout the states will take place, for the better support and encouragement of this body of our citizens, who are the natural defence of our country.

The encouragement of agriculture and manufactures, which have of late greately improved, calls for our particular attention. Increasing the articles of hemp and flax would be of great utility.

The improvement of the breed of our sheep and the increase of their numbers, that we may have a sufficiency of wool, must, I think, be considered of very great importance; and every establishment for the purpose of manufacturing the same should be encouraged by the state.

The building of the state prison is progressing agreeably to a law passed the last session, and will require a considerable sum of money to complete it.

The state of the Treasury will be laid before you, by which you will be able to judge whether it will be necessary or not to lay a tax the present year for the completion of the prison and other purposes.

Whatever further I may have to lay before you during the session shall be communicated by message.

I shall, gentlemen, with great pleasure concur with you in all acts and resolves which may be passed, and that shall be considered upon due deliberation to promote the happiness and general welfare of the state.

JOHN LANGDON.

Concord, 7th June, 1811.

LEGISLATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Answer of the Senate to the Governor's Speech.

May it please your Excellency,

The Senate congratulate you upon your re-election to the office of Chief Magistrate of this Commonwealth—It is undoubtedly the sacred duty of rulers honored with the confidence of their fellow citizens, and selected by them as the guardians of their rights, to be firm in protecting, and zealous in promoting their prosperity and happiness. From the long established and high reputation of your Excellency for undeviating patriotism and pre-eminent talents, our fellow citizens have the highest assurance, that the measures of your administration will be such as to fulfil their just expectations; and the Senate assure you, that in effectuating this desirable object, you may rely upon their constant cordial co-operation.

From the impartiality and moderation manifested by all branches of the government during the year past, hopes were entertained, that party spirit, so destructive to all friendly intercourse between citizens of the same community, and by the unhappy influence of which our liberties may eventually be jeopardised, would be allayed, and that a rational confidence would thereby have been created in the rulers of our state government. The Senate sincerely regret that these expectations have not been generally realized, and that any of our fellow citizens, either from a deadly hostility to the administration of our general government, or distrusting the patriotism of those who administered our state government the year past, have by measures extraordinary in their nature, and dangerous in their tendency, endeavoured to excite resistance to laws constitutionally enacted, and have called upon our fellow citizens to elect to office, men who would aid in these nefarious projects. The constitutional right of assembling, and in a firm and dignified manner, by petitions, addresses, or remonstrances, of applying to our rulers for the redress of wrongs done them, and of grievances they suffer, is not denied; but no constitutional right is given to the citizens of assembling and anathematizing their rulers and the measures and laws of their government, and of declaring to the people that the laws are tyrannical and unconstitutional, and "if persisted in, must and will be resisted."

A justifiable resistance to the execution of laws made by the constituted authorities of a government, presupposes such a depravity, usurpation and rottenness in the government, as will justify even its utter subversion. When the distinguished citizens of our metropolis, "of the first talents & grades in society," and "in high offices of government," to whom the good people of the Commonwealth have heretofore been taught to look for correctness in principle and practice, by any measures or for any purposes whatever, have inculcated sentiments and advanced principles which in their nature and tendency destroy all rational confidence in the measures and in the officers of our government, and which may excite insurrection and rebellion, and destroy the bonds of our Union, it became the imperious duty of your Excellency to guard the peaceable citizens of the Commonwealth against their baleful influence.

The conflicts of the two great belligerents in Europe have of late years affected the whole world, and their aggressions upon our neutral rights have been such, as to call for measures from our government, as novel and various in their nature, as were the evils against which they were intended to guard. While our national rulers are struggling for the preservation of peace, and our neutral rights, it is the duty of every citizen to give them his support in all their reasonable endeavours to uphold the rights of the nation abroad, and to foster its best interest at home, and the Senate assure you, sir, that they have a firm confidence in their patriotism, talents and integrity, & from the recent election in this state, they infer that their sentiments are in unison with those of a great majority of the people of this Commonwealth.

Your Excellency's able and lucid exposure of the dangerous tendency of the Resolutions passed by the citizens of the metropolis receive the cordial approbation of the Senate; and while the elective franchise remains, they have a firm confidence that the people of this Commonwealth, cannot be excited by any consideration whatever to resist the execution of laws constitutionally made.

Your feeling picture of the horrors of a civil war, and pathetic description of the many local, political civil and religious advantages, rights and privileges enjoyed, by the people of this country, cannot but bring conviction to the mind of every one of the imperious necessity of preserving our peace at home, and of being united in the support of whatever measures the general government may adopt to prevent a foreign war.—But should our government be compelled to take part in a defensive war, the riches and resources of our country, the valor, and patriotism of our citizens, are sure guarantees of our final success, let the conflict be with what nation it may—The Senate accord in the sentiments advanced by your Excellency, respecting "continuing in office individuals who sanction resistance to law"—and we are fully of opinion, that duty and honor forbid any executive to continue in office, men, who abuse the influence of their public stations by employing them to excite unreasonable animosities in the minds of their fellow citizens towards those who constitutionally administer their government.

It is a subject of regret, that the metropolis of Massachusetts, once considered the "Cradle of American Liberty," should at this time, in consequence of the influx of foreigners, and the declared malcontents of the national and state governments, have become the echo of foreign opinions, in opposition to the principles of our revolution, the laws and the constitution of our country.