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## DOCUMENTS.

Accompanying the Message of the President, transmitted to Congress on Wednesday the 5th inst. From the Secretary of State to Governor Claiborne. Department of State, October 27, 1810.

SIR, From the enclosed Proclamation of the President, U. S. you will perceive his determination to take possession of the territory therein specified, in the name and behalf of the United States; the considerations which have constrained him to resort to this necessary measure, and his direction that you, as Governor of the Orleans Territory, shall execute the same. Of this Proclamation, upon your arrival at Natchez, you will, without delay, cause to be printed as many copies, in the English, French and Spanish languages, as may be deemed necessary, and you will cause the same to be extensively circulated throughout the said territory. You will immediately proceed by the nearest and best route to the town of Washington in the Mississippi Territory. From the Secretary at War you will receive an order to the officers commanding the several frontier posts to afford you such assistance in passing the Wilderness and in descending the Western Waters as you may require. And, as despatch is very desirable, you are authorized, in case your horses should fail to procure others at the public expense. After having made at Washington the necessary arrangements with Gov. Holmes and with the commanding officer of the regular troops, you will without delay proceed into the said territory, & in virtue of the President's proclamation, take possession of the same in the name & behalf of the U. S. As the district, the possession of which you are directed to take, is to be considered as making part of the Territory of Orleans, you will, after taken possession, lose no time in proceeding to organize the militia, to prescribe the bounds of parishes, to establish parish courts, and finally to whatever your legal powers applicable to the case will warrant, and may be calculated to maintain order, to secure to the inhabitants the peaceful enjoyment of their liberty, property and religion, and to place them as far as may be, on the same footing with the inhabitants of the other districts under your authority. As far as your powers may be inadequate to these and other requisite objects, the Legislature of Orleans, which is understood will soon be in session, will have an opportunity of making further provisions for them, more especially for giving by law to the inhabitants of the said Territory a just share in the representation of the General Assembly; it being desirable that the interval of this privation should not be prolonged beyond the unavoidable necessity of the case. If contrary to expectation, the occupation of this Territory on the part of the United States should be opposed by force; the commanding officer of the regular troops on the Mississippi will have orders from the Secretary at War to afford you, upon your application, the requisite force, and should an additional force be deemed necessary, you will draw from the Orleans Territory, as will Governor Holmes from the Mississippi Territory, militia in such numbers, and in such proportions from your respective territories as you and Governor Holmes may deem proper. Should, however, any particular place, however small, remain in possession of a Spanish force, you will proceed to employ force against it; but you will make immediate report thereof to this department.

You will avail yourself of the first favorable opportunities that may occur to transmit to the several governors of the Spanish provinces in the neighborhood copies of the President's Proclamation, with accompanying letters of a conciliatory tendency. To defray any reasonable expenditures which may necessarily attend the execution of these instructions, the President authorizes you, having regard to economy, to draw for a sum not exceeding in any event 20,000 dollars. From the confidence which the President justly has in your judgment and discretion he is persuaded that in the execution of this trust, as dependent as it is important, your deportment will be temperate and conciliatory. Such a line of conduct towards the inhabitants is prescribed as well by policy as by justice. You will, it is expected, be fully sensible of the necessity, not only of communicating every important event that may occur in the progress of your business, but of transmitting a letter, whatever may be its contents, by every mail to this department.

I have the honor to be, &c. (Signed) R. SMITH. By the President of the United States of America.

A PROCLAMATION. Whereas the Territory South of the Mississippi Territory, and Eastward of the river Mississippi, and extending to the river Perdido, of which possession was not delivered to the United States in pursuance of the treaty concluded at Paris on the 30th, of April, 1803, has at all times, as is well known, been considered and claimed by them, as being within the colony of Louisiana conveyed by the said treaty in the same manner that it had in the hands of Spain, and that it had when France originally possessed it.

And whereas the acquiescence of the United States in the temporary continuance of the said Territory under the Spanish authority was not the

result of any distrust of their title, as has been particularly evinced by the general tenor of their laws, and by the distinction made in the application of those laws between that Territory and foreign countries; but was occasioned by their conciliatory views, and by a confidence in the justice of their cause; and in the success of candid discussion and amicable negotiation with a just and friendly power.

And whereas a satisfactory adjustment, too long delayed, without the fault of the United States, has for some time been entirely suspended by events over which they had no control; and whereas a crisis has at length arrived subversive of the order of things under the Spanish authorities, whereby a failure of the United States to take the said territory into its possession may lead to events ultimately contravening the views of both parties, whilst in the mean time the tranquility and security of our adjoining territories are endangered, and new facilities given to violations of our revenue and commercial laws, and of those prohibiting the introduction of slaves:

Considering moreover, that under these peculiar and imperative circumstances, a forbearance on the part of the United States to occupy the territory in question, and thereby guard against the confusions and contingencies which threaten it, might be construed into a dereliction of their title, or an insensibility to the importance of the stake: considering that in the hands of the United States it will not cease to be a subject of fair and friendly negotiation and adjustment; considering finally that the acts of Congress though contemplating a present possession by a foreign authority, have contemplated also an eventual possession of the said territory of the United States, and are accordingly so framed as in that case to extend in their operation to the same: Now be it known, that I, JAMES MADISON, President of the United States of America, in pursuance of these weighty and urgent considerations, have deemed it right and requisite, that possession should be taken of the said territory, in the name and behalf of the United States. William C. C. Claiborne, Governor of the Orleans Territory, of which the said territory is to be taken as part, will accordingly proceed to execute the same; and to exercise over the said territory the authorities and functions legally appertaining to his office. And the good people inhabiting the same, are invited and enjoined to pay due respect to him in that character; to be obedient to the law; to maintain order; to cherish harmony; and in every manner to conduct themselves as peaceable citizens, under full assurance, that they will be protected in the enjoyment of their liberty, property and religion.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed and signed the same with my hand. Done at the (U. S.) City of Washington the twenty seventh day of October A. D. 1810, and in the thirty-fifth year of the independence of the said United States.

(Signed) JAMES MADISON. By the President, R. SMITH, Secretary of State.

Extract of a letter from Governor Holmes of the Mississippi Territory, to the Secretary of State, dated, OCTOBER 17th, 1810.

"The enclosed letter I have been requested to transmit to you."

To the Hon. Robert Smith, Secretary of State for the United States.

SIR, The convention of the state of Florida have already transmitted an official copy of their Act of independence, through his Excellency Governor Holmes, to the president of the United States, accompanied with the expression of their hope and desire, that this commonwealth may be immediately acknowledged and protected, by the government of the United States, as an integral part of the American Union. On a subject so interesting to the community represented by us, it is necessary that we should have the most direct and unequivocal assurances. of the views and wishes of the American government without delay, since our weak and unprotected situation will oblige us to look to some foreign government for support, should it be refused to us, by the country which we have considered as our parent state.

We therefore make this direct appeal through you, to the president and general government of the American States, to solicit that immediate protection, to which we consider ourselves entitled; & to obtain a speedy & favorable decision, we offer the following considerations:—1st. The government of the United States, in their instructions to the envoys extraordinary at Paris, in March, 1806, authorised the purchase of East Florida, directing them at the same time to engage France to intercede with the cabinet of Spain, to relinquish any claim to the territory which now forms this commonwealth. 2d. In all diplomatic correspondence with American ministers abroad, the government of the United States have spoken of West Florida as a part of the Louisiana cession. They have legislated for the country as a part of their own territory, and have deferred to take possession of it, in expectation that Spain might be induced to relinquish her claim by amicable negotiation. 3d. The American government has already refused to accredit any minister from the Spanish Junta, which body was certainly more legally organised, as the representative of the sovereignty, than that now called the regency of Spain; there-

fore the United States cannot but regard any force or authority emanating from them, with an intention to subjugate us, as they would an invasion of their territory by a foreign enemy. 4th. The Emperor of France has invited the Spanish Americans to declare their independence, rather than remain in subjugation to the old Spanish government; therefore an acknowledgment of our independence by the United States could not be complained of by the French, or involve the American government in any contest with that power. 5th. Neither can it afford any just cause of complaint to G. Britain, although she be the ally of Spain, that the U. States should acknowledge and support an independence; as this measure was necessary to save the country from falling into the hands of the French exiles from the Island of Cuba, and other partisans of Bonaparte, who are the eternal enemies of Great Britain.

Should the United States be induced, by these or any other considerations, to acknowledge our claim to their protection, as an integral part of their territory, or otherwise, we feel it our duty to claim for our constituents an immediate admission into the union as an independent state, or as a territory of the U. States, with permission to establish our own form of government, or to be united with one of the neighboring territories, or a part of one of them, in such a manner as to form a state. Should it be thought proper to annex us to one of the neighboring territories, or a part of one of them, the inhabitants of this commonwealth would prefer being annexed to the Island of Orleans, and in the meanwhile, until a state government should be established, that they should be governed by the ordinances already enacted by this Convention, and by their further regulations hereafter.

The claim which we have to the soil, or unlocated lands, within this commonwealth, will not, it is presumed, be contested by the United States, as they have tacitly acquiesced in the claim of France or Spain for seven years, and the restrictions of the several embargo and non intercourse laws might fairly be construed, if not as a relinquishment of their claim; yet at least sufficient to entitle the people of this commonwealth (who have wrested the government and country from Spain, at the risk of their lives and fortunes) to all the unlocated lands. It will strike the American government that the monies arising from the sales of these lands, applied, as they will be, to improving the internal communications of the country, opening canals, &c. &c. will in fact be adding to the prosperity and strength of the federal union.

To fulfil with good faith our promises and engagements to the inhabitants of this country, it will be our duty to stipulate for an unqualified pardon for all deserters now residing within this commonwealth, together with an exemption from further service in the army or navy of the United States.

A loan of 100,000 dollars is solicited of the American government, to be reimbursed at 3, 6, and 9 years from the sales of public lands. This loan may be made by the Secretary of the Treasury immediately, without committing the government or making it known to foreign ministers at Washington.

In order not to embarrass the cabinet of the U. States, and to receive first, through their own confidential agents, their wishes and views with respect to us, it is deemed prudent to defer the departure of our envoy, already named, who will be dispatched immediately on receiving information that such measures will meet the approbation of the United States.

We pray you to accept the assurances of our respect and high consideration.

By Order of the Convention. (Signed) JOHN RHEA, President. Baton Rouge, Oct. 10, 1810.

[Here follows the declaration of Independence of West Florida which appeared in the Minerva some time ago.]

Mr. Smith to Governor Holmes. Department of State, November 15th, 1810.

SIR, I have received your letter of the 17th of October, enclosing the memorial of the Convention of West Florida. To repress the unreasonable expectations, therein indicated, in relation to the vacant land in that Territory, it is deemed proper to lose no time in communicating to you and to Governor Claiborne the sentiments of the President on the subject.

The right of the United States to the Territory of West Florida, as far as the River Perdido, was fairly acquired by purchase, and has been formally ratified by Treaty. The delivery of possession has, indeed, been deferred, and the procrastination has been heretofore acquiesced in, by this government from a hope, patently indulged, that amicable negotiation would accomplish the equitable purpose of the United States. But this delay, which proceeded only from the forbearance of the United States to enforce a legitimate and well known claim, could not impair the legality of their title, nor could any change in the internal state of things, without their sanction, however brought about, vary their right. It remains, of course, as perfect as it was before the interposition of the Convention. And the people of West Florida must not for a moment be misled by the expectation that the United States will surrender for their exclusive benefit what had been purchased with the treasure and for the benefit of the whole. The vacant land of this Territory, thrown into common stock with all the other vacant land

of the Union, will be a property in common for the national uses of the people of the U. States. The community of interests upon which this government invariably acts, the liberal policy which it has uniformly displayed towards the people of the Territories (a part of which policy has ever been a just regard to honest settlers) will nevertheless, be a sufficient pledge to the inhabitants of West Florida, for the early and continued attention of the Federal Legislature to their situation and their wants.

These observations will apprise you, Sir, of the sentiments of the President, as to the propositions in the memorial in relation to the vacant land in West Florida, and will enable you to make, when necessary and proper, suitable explanations to the people of that Territory. You will, however, keep in mind that the President cannot recognize in the Convention of West Florida any independent authority whatever to propose or to form a compact with the United States. I am Sir, with the highest respect, your most obedient servant, (Signed) R. SMITH.

His Excellency DAVID HOLMES, Governor Mississippi.

## Legislature of North Carolina.

SKETCH OF DEBATE On the bill prescribing the manner in which the public printing shall in future be regulated. (CONTINUED.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Tuesday, December 4.

Mr. Love said, it seemed a little extraordinary that the friends of the original bill should appear to direct their efforts, not so much against the office of public printer, as against the printer himself. Gentlemen had stepped forward and said that the salary was too high; and the amendment proposed to reduce it down to what they thought the true value of the services. He, for his own part had wished to obtain information from a disinterested source; but this had been opposed: and he had now agreed to come down to the terms of gentlemen themselves. But he no longer wondered at the reason which induced gentlemen to oppose an examination of the subject.

The gentleman from Wake (Mr. Seawell) wished to know how he had now found out that the salary of public printer was too high. He had got his information from the letter which had been introduced by the friends of the bill. The writers of that letter had said that 900 dollars was the value of the work, and he was willing to fix it at that sum, when they might come forward if they pleased. The gentleman from Wake (Mr. S.) had now been ingenious enough to find out that the salary of public printer was too high. It was, however, somewhat remarkable, that the gentleman had remained eight or ten years in the legislature before his ingenuity had made this discovery. During all that time there was nothing amiss. Now, it appeared that the legislature had been paying an exorbitant salary. Be it so; he was willing to reduce it; but he would not agree to part with the office. The office had been established at an early day, no doubt for good purposes and from honest motives—and until he could observe some bad effect resulting from it, he would not willingly give it up. He thought it unnecessary to say more, as he believed every gentleman had his opinion made up.

Mr. Wilson thought the course pursued in relation to the present subject not a little extraordinary. When the proposition was first brought forward, the great object with the gentleman seemed to be economy; now it was the expulsion of party spirit from the house. On either of these two grounds, he felt himself obliged to support the amendment and oppose the original bill.

The three grounds on which the bill was supported, appeared to be these:—that it would promote economy—that congress had adopted the method of letting out the printing to the lowest bidder—and because, taking the power of appointment from the legislature would do away party spirit.

He would feel himself justified in opposing it on these very grounds. Economy, he was willing to acknowledge, should be consulted. It was particularly important in a republican government. But to derive from it any desirable benefit, it ought to be regulated within the bounds of reason. If the legislature consulted this principle, it ought to be done in such a way as not to inflame individual spleen. When they found that this was the case they should set their faces against it; and the bill appeared to him calculated to excite such feelings. Gentlemen had admitted that they could not tell what the printing was worth, and contended that there was no means of ascertaining its real value; because, although there were several printers in the place, they might not agree upon the subject. He, however, had derived information from a quarter on which he could rely, which convinced him that the price fixed in the amendment was too high. He made this declaration, and feared not the frowns of his constituents. He believed they sent him there to act from his own judgment, and he should follow no other guide.

It certainly was the duty of the house to consult economy; but in doing this they should not violate justice. Although they even might obtain their work to be executed for less than it was worth, it was consistent with their dignity to give the real value.