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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Gentlemen of the Senate,
and House of Commons:

Two years ago I issued my first message to the General Assembly of North Carolina amid the stirring scenes of war, fondly trusting that I might greet the next convocation of the people's representatives rejoicing in the grateful prospect of peace and independence. That hope, like most of the short-sighted desires of man, God has not seen proper to cause us to realize. After two years of fierce and consuming war, waged with all our energies, and attended with all its inseparable calamities, social, political and physical, we meet to-day, gentlemen, but to continue these arduous labors which bore as heavily upon your predecessors and myself. Whatever may be the result, I can but hope that our co-operation may be as sincere and tempered with as much forbearance. I proceed then at once to give you a statement of the condition of our affairs and to suggest such remedies for whatever may be wrong as my observations and experience may have enabled me to recommend.

With sincere gratitude to the Giver of all good, I announce that the crops of the past season were very fair, and in some localities excellent. Notwithstanding partial failures of the corn crop here and there, it is estimated that there is an ample supply of the staff of life to prevent not only starvation, but even any actual suffering, if it can be placed within the reach of the poor.

Since the adjournment of your predecessors, the enemy have encroached none upon our territory, except by the recapture of the town of Plymouth, and the consequent evacuation of Washington; events greatly to be deplored. The Western border is, however, subject to constant raids, and the situation of the inhabitants is distressing in the extreme. Murder by lawless men, many of them our own citizens, acting or pretending to act under commission from the enemy, swarm from the mountain frontier; murdering, burning and destroying. Totally regardless of the laws of civilization, they have inaugurated a system of cruelty, at which humanity shudders. I have written to Gen. Breckinridge, and urged him to take such steps as may be in his power to stop such proceedings, but I do not yet know what may be the result. Nor is the interior of the State entirely free from the disorders naturally to be expected from a state of continued war. Deserters representing almost every State in the Confederacy infest the swamps and mountains of many counties; stealing, plundering and in many instances murdering the inhabitants. In some places they muster in such force as to almost amount to a suspension of the civil authority, aided and protected as they are by their relations and friends. All of my efforts to abate the nuisance by offers of pardon having proved fruitless, I see no remedy for the evil, but to outlaw them, and drive them from the State by the strong hand. If my control over the Militia for this purpose were unrestrained, I am confident I could easily rid the community of this pest. I also recommend that the law against harboring, aiding and sheltering desertion, be amended so as to facilitate the making of the proof required to convict, and that it be made the duty of all civil, as well as military officers to assist in their arrest under such penalties as will enforce obedience. Too much importance cannot well be attached to this subject, since it has become not only of great moment to the well being of the army, but also to the security of society and the execution of the law.

I feel quite ashamed also to add that a number of the Home Guard in certain interior counties, holding both civil and military offices, actuated either by treason or cowardice, or perhaps both, have recently deserted and fled to the enemy. I earnestly recommend that you take such steps for the punishment of such a crime by confiscation or otherwise as may deter others from such cowardly and degrading

treason. There should be no more trifling in this matter. Those who seek the aid of our enemies should share the fate of enemies. The blood of our dead heroes, as well as the living, who carry their lives in their hand every day, demand that the punishment awarded by all civilized communities to treason should be meted out to traitors. If there is to be no punishment for this kind of treason, loyal men are entitled to know it. Whenever we quietly suffer treason to attain a greater immunity from dangers and hardships than patriotism we may expect the cause to perish.

I regret to say that the blockade running operations of the State are pretty well stopped. The regulations imposed by the Confederate Government, in defiance as I think of the act of Congress to which I have heretofore adverted, have operated so injuriously as to compel me in a measure to withdraw our vessels from the trade. After losses by detentions, the surrender of cargo, specie, &c., of not less than two hundred dollars in gold, I regret also to have to announce the loss of the Steamer Advance during the month of September. This noble vessel, the pride of the State, and benefactor of our soldiers and people, was captured by the enemy after she had successfully made her way through the blockade squadron in consequence of the seizure of her foreign coal for the use of the cruiser Tallahassee, compelling her to put to sea with North Carolina coal. This being unsuited to her furnaces and machinery rendered her incapable of making more than half her usual speed, and left behind her a dense volume of black smoke, by which she was easily followed and captured. So obviously is her loss attributable to unwarranted seizure of her coal that I trust you will memorialize for compensation. The unwise policy of making our only remaining seaport a resort for our cruisers cannot be too strongly condemned. It has doubled the stringency of the blockade, was already caused the loss of many valuable steamers, and will ultimately provoke the utmost efforts of the enemy to capture Wilmington. It is no exaggeration to say that the Advance alone in solid benefits has been worth more to our government than all the cruisers we have ever put afloat. Why it should be the policy of our government to compel the State to quit the importation of supplies for the common benefits and then pursue a course with our armed vessels so well calculated to crush all importations whatsoever is to me inexplicably strange. These cruisers sail forth with the coal seized from steamers engaged in bringing us supplies of vital importance, thus ensuring their capture, destroy a few insignificant smacks, which only serve to irritate the enemy, and then steam back into Wilmington to seize more coal, bringing down upon the inlet a new swarm of the enemy's gunboats.

Where our supply of shoes is to come from this winter I do not know. I have an abundant supply at the Islands, but have now no means of getting them in. I trust you will again instruct our representatives in Congress to ask for a repeal of these regulations. This done, our remaining steamers could soon bring in the many valuable supplies we have bought abroad. The act of Congress authorizing the President to impose regulations upon commerce expressly provides "that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to prohibit the Confederate States or any of them, from exporting any of said articles on their accounts." What policy so urgently requiring the States to be forced by executive construction out of the benefit of this proviso, influences our government, I have not been able to learn. The construction is that if a State owns the vessel out and out, the restrictions shall not be imposed, but if she owns a part or merely charters the entire vessel for the voyage, then she must surrender half her cargo space to the government, and give the band to return, &c. The allegation that private ships should not be allowed to escape restrictions by selling a part interest to the State is only specious. My application to

the actual interest of the State in the Collier line of steamers, and asking only to have that interest exempted, was peremptorily refused. It seems to me, therefore, in the absence of any solid reason for the action of the government, that wisdom and true policy demand the repeal of the laws authorizing the impositions of these regulations, and that every possible inducement should be held out to the States to exchange their great staples for supplies for the common benefit.

Fortunately of clothing and blankets we still have an abundance. A full exhibit of our operations in the Quartermaster's Department, including this subject, will be found in the report of Adj. Gen. Gatlin, which goes herewith, and which I commend to your consideration. From this it will be seen that not only have the army and the people been supplied with indispensable articles without loss, but with actual profit to the State, notwithstanding the fears of some to the contrary. It has not been our aim to make money, but to supply the necessities of our people and army for simply cost and charges, which has been done. In regard to insinuations which have been indulged against this enterprise, I can only say that I challenge the strictest investigation. Much has, perhaps, been done that ought not, and many losses have been sustained which no living man could prevent in so reckless and dangerous a trade, and many impositions have been practiced upon us that were unavoidable on account of our unrecognized and defenceless condition abroad. But a fair investigation, will, I think, satisfy even the man who is opposed to furnishing a soldier a pair of shoes and a blanket, unless the State were to make money by the transaction, that all these benefits have been conferred without loss and even with a handsome profit.

It has seemed a little strange that there should be found among us any to object to this enterprise, even should it have occasioned the loss of money. It is certainly a very narrow-minded view of the subject to regard it as a matter of dollars and cents. The saving of life and health, and the cheerfulness of spirit imparted to our soldiers, and the comfort added to our people by the introduction of indispensable articles not obtainable in the Confederacy, is invaluable. No money estimate can measure these benefits. A debt abroad, it must also be remembered, is quite a different thing from a debt created at home. Both are to be redeemed in gold at the face value of our bonds, but for the one we received gold value, and the other Confederate value, so to speak. Take one of our State bonds for \$1,000, issued here for example, and one of our cotton warrants sold abroad for the same sum. For the first we receive seventy-four dollars only, specie value, according to the calculation of the Treasurer, whilst for the last we receive one thousand dollars of specie value. The last bond nobody grudges to redeem. Again, had we been condemned to rely upon our State for clothing, blankets and shoes; the same quantity of very inferior articles could have been obtained, if at all, only by the seizure of almost every pound of wool and leather in the State, greatly enhancing the price and the public distress. It would appear, therefore, to every candid mind, not only indispensable to import those articles, but also economical in every sense of the word. The simplest way after all to look at it would be to consider what has been imported, and ask if it was indispensably necessary, and if so, could it have been obtained at home, and if so, at what price?

You will perceive the great difficulty of rendering a simplified statement of the account, owing to a part being a specie and a part a Confederate currency transaction. This, with the constant fluctuations in the value of money and exchange has rendered such a statement almost impossible. It is believed, however, that the accompanying statement of Major John Devereux, marked A, presents as fair and simple an exposition as can be given. By this it will be seen that including ships, cotton, and exchange, we have a balance in our favor in

specie of \$126,957:30, and on the currency account a balance of \$4,852,567:50.

The following amounts have been expended for the benefit of the State, for part of which special appropriations would have otherwise been made, and which this department has the right to account for as profits, viz:

Clothing issued to State Troops,	\$650,000 00
Paid into the Treasury,	391,102 92
Ordnance and Ordnance stores,	493,870 45
Clothing issued Surgeon General's Department,	35,000 00
State Bonds; (sale of Advance,)	460,600 00
Medicines furnished Surgeon General,	170,993 00
Supplies furnished Deaf and Dumb Asylum,	20,550 00
Stationery furnished Secretary of State,	23,691 20
	\$2,146,197 57

There is also in the hands of and due to Major Dowd of the Clothing Department, the sum of \$2,672,990:00 which if so ordered can be made available to the Treasury for the current fiscal year. My intention was to buy cotton, tobacco, &c., for exportation so as to make the ships cargo inward by the cargo outward without any connection with the Treasury, but probably it would be better to divert it to this purpose to aid in avoiding an increase of the public debt, and depend upon the proceeds of the supplies on hand to furnish the means for exportation. This sum added to the above will, when paid into the Treasury, extinguish the original appropriation of \$2,340,000 leaving a balance of \$2,495,187, which with the articles on hand, estimated at prices paid by Confederate Quartermaster General, which are far below the market price, will I conceive constitute the net profits realized.

It is proper to add that I have reason for believing the estimate for funds abroad to be far below the truth, and that there are large quantities of shoes, cards, cloth and blankets, iron, bacon, &c., bought and paid for yet abroad, which do not come into this calculation.

Under authority conferred by the last Legislature, I have re-appointed our former agent, Mr. John White, who has gone to Europe with instructions to wind up our business there and forward as soon as possible, such statements as will enable us to make a partial statement with the public auditor. Until this is done we cannot show positively how the accounts stand, and these statements are furnished merely for your information.

For a statement of the condition of our finances and the indebtedness of the State, I refer you to the report of Mr. Worth, our very efficient Public Treasurer. Being well adapted by talents and experience to the conduct of financial affairs, I am generally content to abide by all his suggestions in that regard. I am sorry, however, that I cannot yield the same assent to his advice as to military affairs, and the method of conducting the war.

I can see great propriety in the retention by the State of a small military force in time of war, and very little in transferring absolutely all her physical power to other hands. The time has already come when, to say the best of it, the assertion of a right as pertaining to a sovereign State is worth more if backed by some show of physical power to enforce it. Neither can I regard it as in any wise anomalous that the State should employ her militia in trying to arrest the numerous bands of deserters who infest the country, robbing and murdering the citizens and in some instances compelling a strong force to be under arms to protect the sittings of the courts. The anomaly, if any there be in the case, might certainly be found in the Government permitting these outlaws to set the civil authorities at defiance, pillage and murder at will, until loyal citizens flee for life, and not undertaking to prevent it, because such prevention would increase the State taxes! As a matter of course it is expected that the Confederate government will ultimately assume all military outlays necessarily incurred by the States for that defence of themselves which it is unable to render. But even if it should not, I submit we must be protected nevertheless; and the objection that it