

LETTER FROM HON. JOHN A. GILMER.

CORRESPONDENCE.

RALEIGH, N. C., August 8th, 1865.

Hon. John A. Gilmer, Greensboro, N. C.

My Dear Sir:—Old party associations and sympathies suggest this note. The impression seems to prevail in the public mind that you are ill-disposed towards the National and State governments. Remembering your past conduct as a public man—the intense love which you formerly bore to the Union of the States—the denunciations and persecutions which you patiently endured for your gallant defence of the same, in the national councils, when the voice of almost every order of its champions from the South had been hushed, I have hesitated to believe that this impression could be justified by anything you might have said or done.

[That that my impression is correct and that of the public wrong, and desire to know from yourself. For the gratification of your many friends in this State, I desire permission to publish your reply.

With sentiments of high regard, I am, very respectfully, Yours obedient servant, WM. H. BAGLEY.

MR. GILMER'S LETTER.

GREENSBORO, N. C., Aug. 8th, 1865.

WM. H. BAGLEY, Esq.

Dear Sir:—Years of the 31 would have been answered sooner but for a short absence from home. The impression that I am ill disposed to the national and State governments, which you say prevails in the public mind, is certainly erroneous, and without the least foundation. An honest reference to, and review of my political life, will satisfy all fair minded men of the fallacy of this impression. Until after some of the hostilities between the two sections commenced, I continued to address the people in favor of the Union, and for adjustment and peace. Had as many champions as were the South then appeared, and as hotly fought with me in the same cause, we would have had no war.

During the four years that I was in Congress, the country's history will attest my anxiety and exertions to calm the public mind, and to avoid the rupture which has proved so disastrous to the South. In my speech in the House of Representatives on the 26th of January, 1861, after addressing myself as best I could to the various issues that were then most fearfully threatening the peace, prosperity and happiness of the whole country, and more especially as I believed, my own section, I concluded as follows, to wit:—

"Now, Mr. Speaker, I have presented these considerations, hoping thereby to get us in proper frame of mind and disposition to work for the peace of this country, because I desire to do my duty, and my whole duty, while I am in the Union; and if I am forced to go out of it, I may be also enabled to do my duty there. I tell you, that if, in spite of all the efforts of wise and good men, the State from which I come declines to dissolve her connection with this government, my duties are, and will be, with her. I know that when that great rupture comes, which will divide the people of the North and South hereafter, and which will be the God of battles, for which I look with most fearful apprehension, and which will follow that will end only in the destruction of all the great interests of all sections of the country. Whenever that event comes, I know my duty, and whether I have the nerve to be there myself or not, I know that such will be my duty, and that it will also be my duty to devote to the service my means, myself, and my children. Whenever that struggle comes, you will find North and South, that the men, who have sought most to preserve the Union, who have been the last to give it up, will be the first men to be found in the rank and file on both sides the bloody contest, their means most liberally and freely devoted to helping and maintaining the great, terrific, and bloody struggle, and they will enter it on either side for victory or death; and if they fall in their efforts for the first, they will be found with their backs to the field, and their feet to the foe.

I want gentlemen North and South to mark my words: when these things come, when this bloody strife ensues, as it certainly will unless this spirit of division can be checked; when, mark you, this country shall be laid waste; when all our channels and communications of trade shall be broken up; when the shipping in our ports shall be destroyed; when our institutions of learning and religion shall wither away or be torn down; when your cities shall be given up for plunder and for slaughter; when your sons and your sons, your neighbors and your neighbors, shall be carried from this bloody field of strife; and our mothers, our sisters, our wives and our daughters, shall assemble around us, and with weeping eyes and aching hearts, say: "Could not you have done something, could not you have said something, that would have averted this dreadful calamity?" I want to feel in my conscience and in my soul that I have done my duty. (Suppressed applause.) I want you, my men of the North, to be able to say that, upon a more abstract question, that upon a question of no practical importance, you have not held out and refused to yield for the sake of giving peace to the country? I ask you, again, if you cannot give up this mere abstraction? For with all due respect, I can never carry the feelings of the man, North or South, who, when that day of butchery and destruction shall come, will feel in his heart that he stood out on a mere point of etiquette; that he had yielded a matter of no practical importance to him, or his constituents, all trouble could have been avoided. I ask, gentlemen, North and South, if they will not unite in settling these abstract questions, and give peace to the country?"

For the exertions which I made in Congress for peace, for the Union, for the constitution, and for the enforcement of the law, as you truly say, I was not only denounced and persecuted with unusual bitterness, but in social intercourse was slighted and regarded as a sympathizer with abolitionists and a traitor to the South. But few then displayed courage or zeal for me or for peace.

All this I endured, as you say, patiently, because in my conscience I felt satisfied that I was struggling for the very best interests of all the States, and especially for the Southern States, where I was most reviled and abused.

Before leaving Washington in March, 1861, it is well known by many that I appeared in private to President Lincoln to see his very best exertions and all the powers of his office to avoid bloodshed, to give time for reflection, and to wait the result of the sober second thought of the people, then excited and misguided. I urged him, that if compelled to take action to maintain and execute the law, he would not proceed further than by the use of our navy to blockade completely all the ports of the seceded States, from

Charleston to Galveston inclusive. This advice Mr. Lincoln received so kindly that I did hope he would have pursued it, and try whether the seceded States on reflection, and when for a season left to themselves, would not call conventions and return again to the Union. I represented to him that this course would give further time to the people to review the conduct of the precipitators, and adjust and compromise the causes of difference. This advice I know was respected by many of Mr. Lincoln's political friends, and by them declared judicious. Although differing with the President, I know I had his confidence, because he tendered to me a seat in his Cabinet. And when I left Washington on the 5th of March, 1861, I still had hopes for peace and the Union, and so I declared in many addresses to the people in my own section on my return home. I felt satisfied that if hostilities could be suspended for a reasonable period, no other State would secede, and many, if not all, that had seceded, would return. But strenuous efforts were made to defeat the policy which I was endeavoring to put on foot. War was precipitated and blood shed at Charleston. The whole South and the whole North were thrown into a blaze, the result of which all now know, and which the South now so severely feel.

The Legislature instantly called her Convention, and also passed an act as follows:— "Be it enacted, etc. That treason shall consist only in levying war against the State, or in adhering to its enemies, giving them aid and comfort, or in establishing, without the authority of the General Assembly, any government within its limits, separate from the existing government, or in holding or exercising in such usurped government any office, or professing allegiance or fidelity thereto, or assisting the execution of the laws, under color of authority from such usurped government; and such treason, if proved by the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or by confession in open court, shall be punished with death." (Signed 11th day of May, 1861)

Death was enacted for all the advocates of the Union in North Carolina after that date. The people of all the counties in the State, elected their delegates to the Convention, by whose unanimous vote the State was declared out of the Union, but this was not until all her surrounding States had gone.

All this having occurred I conceived it a duty to yield to, and obey the laws of my own Legislature. But not simply for this, or the idea that I should be for my country, right or wrong—or to avoid the criticism, if the South was conquered, that it would have been otherwise, if I had done my duty—not for the purpose of escaping trial and death, but because I did verily believe that if the Southern States, although they had been led to act so rashly and so unadvisedly, were conquered, ruin to them would be the result. This I said in many conversations and in some speeches, and urged the people to stand together until terms of peace could be agreed on, honorable to them, and by which they could live; and notwithstanding the errors and blunders of the Executive, to stand united until reasonable and safe terms of peace could be agreed on; for which no one was continually and constantly more anxious than myself.

Under the hope that something would turn up by which I might in my position be able to aid in securing a peace, I became a candidate and accepted my election to the last Confederate Congress. My colleagues will attest to the exertions which I made, while for a brief period in this Congress at Richmond, to prevail on the President to consent to the sending of commissioners to try the efficacy of negotiation. The journal shows the proposition which I thought ought to be made to the Government of the United States, to begin, at least, the subject of negotiation for peace. A full detail of my labors whilst in Richmond in this direction, (too long to go into this letter), would remove from the minds of all such impressions as you mention. And it is known to all how I fell in the respect and confidence of the friends of the President, when I voted against laying on the table Governor Foote's resolutions, proposing to refer to a committee, to inquire whether Congress could not do something to secure peace on fair and honorable terms.

I was always for any proposition that seemed to me likely to secure negotiation; always preferring that proposition, which promised most for success, and which would avoid angry disputations and wranglings among our own people, under the belief that a united and brave people, even in negotiation, would be more respected, and stand the better chance.

In and out of Congress I opposed all the measures of the administration which I considered rash, oppressive, or calculated unnecessarily to create dissatisfaction and division among the people—among these I reckon the attempt to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus*. Those who served with me will attest with what success.

I held no place or position in the army. The only aid which I gave in the contest, other than that which I have stated, consisted in my labors to put down all oppression, to secure justice and fair play to all, to relieve the needy, and distressed, to feed the hungry and to clothe the naked, to remove the sufferings and wrongs of all in my power, to soothe and soothe the many agonies and lacerations of the war, and to advise against all cruelties and acts of rashness.

I first argued and remonstrated against the war, and endeavored to avert the consequences, and the only regret I have in this, is that so very few came to my aid, in season either in Congress or out of it. When the country was precipitated and fully committed to the war I ventured to advise and say what I considered would be the consequences if conquest ensued. For this war, before God and my country, in my confidence and in my soul, I feel guiltless.

This brings me to the point in which you desire more particularly to hear me. I am for peace and order—I am for the Federal government and for the State government, and am for getting the same into operation as speedily as the same can be prudently done, and on the terms proposed. We are powerless. We are in a state of submission. I have yielded, (and in a manner satisfactory to my slaves, and to the government trust,) to the emancipation required. True, I should have preferred other terms. But to talk of this is now useless and of no place, and in my opinion it is unwise to think of or suggest any further resistance—I am opposed to a further rebellion. Let us strive, by willing and ready submission, to secure amnesty and a modification and other laws. Let us keep the peace, and let us brotherly kindness among ourselves, and banish forever all heart-burnings growing out of past differences of opinion. Let all those who have been in the past, who should honestly unite in putting the management of our affairs into the hands of our wisest and best men, and ask the blessing of Providence on their deliberations and labors. Let our united exertions be directed to the elevation of our material, social, and moral condition of the State, rather than wrangle about petty differences; and in due season, with God's blessing, all will be well with us again. Let us be honest ourselves, secure industry and fair dealing among and with all, white and black; and get back to the good old times, when the farmer's grain was safe in his pen or the crib without the aid of locks or bolts, and the stock safe in his pasture—when all could lie down at night and soundly repose under the full confidence that they would rise in the morning and find

nothing disturbed, but we have charity for each other, and love our neighbors as ourselves. Give proper care and attention to moral and religious culture—give up war to useless disputations—give every man his own and do hurt to no one, and I feel confident that in a few years we shall have a State improved, rather than ruined or injured. I am a friend to the State government and of the Federal government, and shall sustain President Johnson in his efforts to bring peace and order out of confusion and war. His efforts in the last Congress in which we served together, and more especially his speech of the 5th and 6th of February, 1861, of which I distributed many thousands, show that he loved his country and his whole country.

Yours truly, JOHN A. GILMER.

DIED.

In Beaufort, N. C., on the 6th July, after a short illness, Mrs. Helen J. Davis, in the 37th year of her age. The deceased was born in the city of Philadelphia, where under pious parents she was brought up in the fear of God, and being very early instructed in the principles and doctrines of christianity, she was led, when but a little girl, to give her heart to God, and to unite with the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which Church she continued a faithful and useful member, a bright light and example to others, until called to join the Church triumphant in heaven. In the Spring of 1857 she was united in marriage with Allen Davis Esq., of Beaufort, at which place she has since resided. Being endowed by nature with high mental faculties, and having a mind highly cultivated, she was eminently qualified for all the relations in life; and as the writer of this remembers the many virtues and graces which clustered around her bright character; and as he thinks of her, as he has often seen her in the happy family circle, the light and joy of that circle, and the holy devotion of her heart; (evined in the expression of her calm and happy face), he feels that he is unable to render that tribute due to one so lovely, and feels how great is the loss to her grief-stricken husband, the family circle, the church and the community. Faith in Christ, hope in immortality, and the bright prospect of a reunion in the spirit-world, are the only consolations now left to the bleeding heart of a devoted husband. The last words of holy triumph, which were heard from the lips of the deceased, were, "Lord Jesus, receive my Spirit; I am willing to die."

"And calmly, brightly, that pure life Melted from earth away; No cloud it knew in its parting strife, No sorrowful decay."

PASTOR.

RALEIGH MONEY MARKET.

Corrected daily by JOHN G. WILLIAMS & CO., Brokers and Dealers in Exchange. BEVERLY RAJES. Gold \$1.40; Silver 1.25. Old N. C. Bonds 70 with all the coupons on since May, 1861. Detached coupons 35. New York Exchange—Small discount. N. C. Bank Notes—Bank of N. C., Cape Fear, Charlotte, Farmer's, Minors and Planters', Merchants and Roxboro 30. Lexington, Thomasville, 25. Wadesboro, Wilmington, and Commerce 20. Commercial, Greensboro Mutual, 15. Washington, Fayetteville, Clarendon and Yanceyville, 12 1/2 to 15. Virginia and Southern notes 10 to 30. Northern Bank notes 50 to 90.

RALEIGH MARKET.

Revised and corrected by JORDAN WOMBLE, Grocer and Commission Merchant for all kinds of Country Produce. August 14, 1865.

Table listing market prices for various commodities such as Flour, Corn, Bacon, Lard, Coffee, Sugar, and other goods.

MISS FLORANCE MARTINDALE WILL open a School for small children, at her former residence, on the 15th of this month. Terms: Fifteen dollars per session of five months, on 9th.

SOUTHERN BOOKS.

STERLING, CAMPBELL & ALBRIGHT, PUBLISHERS, AND Dealers in Books, Stationery &c., GREENSBORO, N. C.

CONFESE publish "Our Own" Series of School Books, consisting of Primers, English Book, Readers, Arithmetic and English Grammar; also Bingham's Latin Grammar and Cæsar. We offer our Books to Teachers and Bookkeepers on as moderate terms as are offered by publishers in any part of the United States.

HUGHES & DILL, COMMISSION AND SHIPPING MERCHANTS, NEW BERN, N. C.

P. F. PESCUÉ Has just returned from the Northern States with stock of FRESH AND PURE MEDICINES, FRENCH BRANDY, BOURBON WHISKEY, PORT AND MADEIRA WINES, PAINE'S OILS, VARNISHES, BRUSHES OF ALL KINDS, PERFUMERY, AND TOILET ARTICLES, WINES, DOWN GLASS, SPICES, FLAVORING EXTRACTS, TRACTS & DYE STUFFS, WHICH HE WILL SELL LOW FOR CASH. Constantly receiving additions to his stock. No 7 1/2.

A. KLINE, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALER IN FANCY AND STAPLE DRY GOODS, CLOTHING, BOOTS & SHOES, HATS & CAPS, WATCHES AND JEWELRY. BEST IMPORTED WINES & BRANDIES. Groceries &c. &c. Corner of Fayetteville and Harget Sts. No 3 1/2 BALTIMORE, N. C.

New Map of North Carolina, FINELY EMBELLISHED, SIX BY EIGHT FEET. THIS IS THE LATEST, LARGEST and very BEAUTIFUL Map ever published, and is neatly mounted on rollers. The Map can be had only at Store, the balance of the on the edition being in our hands. Price, (Expressed to any point) \$1.00. BRANSON & FARRAR, Raleigh, N. C.

FOARD & CUNNINGHAM, FORWARDING AND Commission Merchants, (Near old County Wharf.) NEWBERN, N. C. Jno. P. FOARD, W. H. CUNNINGHAM. City packages especially for one month and send bills to this office.

DR. WILLIAM LITTLE OFFERS his professional services to the citizens of Raleigh and vicinity. Office at Col. George Little's. No 12-606W

Silks! Silks!! Silks!!! FROM GERMANY AND FRANCE. 500 YARDS JUST RECEIVED BY HENSHAW & THORBURN, FAYETTEVILLE STREET, RALEIGH.

ALSO A LOT OF CRAPE MORETZ, MOZAMBIQUE DE LAINES, CALICOES, &c., with a variety of other styles of Ladies' Goods.

ALSO GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS, HATS, CAPS, BOOTS AND SHOES, CROCKERY, KEROSENE LAMPS, GLASS WARE, &c.

ALSO PAINTS, OILS AND BRUSHES. A large lot of LUBIN'S EXTRACTS, SOAPS, &c., &c., &c. No 11-1m

ALSO TO MECHANICS. WE HAVE IN OUR STOCK BUGGY AXLES, SPRINGS, RIMS, SPOKES AND HUBS, BANDS, PATENT DASH LEATHER, ENAMELED CLOTH, OIL CLOTH, CLIPS, TACKS AND NAILS; CARPENTERS AND SHOEMAKERS' TOOLS AND TRIFLAGE, LOCKS, HINGES, SCREWS, TACKS, BRADS, NAILS, &c., AXES, HATCHETS, HANDSAWS, CHISELS, AUGERS, &c., COFFIN PLATES, HANDLES, &c.

ALSO, a superb stock of HOUSEHOLD FURNISHING GOODS and HARDWARE, arriving by every steamer from New York to Newbern. Look for the sign "HARDWARE" and the number 44 Fayetteville St., Raleigh. D. T. CARRAWAY, With Bart & Lewis.

CAL. OR BRANSON & FARRAR AT 24 1/2 for Books, Stationery, &c. Such goods as are ordered will be obtained if to be had in the United States. They also act as agents for the purchase and sale of such things as may come in their line of business. Produce, etc., will be taken in barter for goods. BRANSON & FARRAR, No. 47, Fayetteville Street, Raleigh, N. C. June 27, 1865. 21-1/2.

NEW & HEDDLER. FROM RALEIGH TO PETERSBURG. THROUGH IN ONE DAY. Leave Raleigh at 10 a. m., reach Petersburg at 4 a. m., reach Gaston at 11 a. m., reach Newbern at 10 a. m., and reach Raleigh at 7 p. m. P. N. DUNN, Supr., R. & G. R. R. A. M. DUNCAN, Supt. Petersburg R. R.

U. S. MILITARY RAILROADS. Merchants' City and Goldsboro', and Goldsboro' and Raleigh Lines. Leave Raleigh for New Bern at 11.30 a. m. For Weldon City at 4.00 p. m. RETURNING. Leave Raleigh for New Bern at 10 p. m. Leave Weldon City for New Bern at 3.30 a. m. WILMINGTON AND GOLDSBORO' LINE. Leave Raleigh for Wilmington at 2.10 p. m. Leave Wilmington for Raleigh at 4.30 a. m. J. D. VAN DYKE, Supt.

DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL OF TRAINS. Mail Train leaves Raleigh 13 o'clock at night. Arrives at Greensboro 5.40 a. m. Salisbury 1.15 p. m. Winston 5.30 " " Pulaski leaves Raleigh 1.15 " " Arrives at Salisbury 7.00 " " Raleigh 10.30 " " M. T. L. Line, Charlotte. Arrives at New Bern 10.30 " " " Greensboro 2.40 " " " Raleigh 11.15 " " Freight Train leaves Charlotte 6 o'clock p. m. Arrives at Salisbury 9.55 " " " Greensboro 2.40 " " " Raleigh 11 " "

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, FREEMEN & ABANDONED LANDS, Washington, July 23rd, 1865. Circular No. 11. Instructions to Assistant Commissioners & other Officers. Each Assistant Commissioner will be careful in the establishment of sub districts, to have the office of placement of some party of access for the people of the sub district. He will have at least one agent, either a citizen, military officer, or enlisted man, in each sub-district. This agent will be thoroughly instructed in his duties. He will be furnished with the proper blanks for contracts, and will institute methods adequate to meet the wants of his district in accordance with the rules of this Bureau. No fixed rates of wages will be prescribed for a district, but in order to regulate fair wages in given individual cases, the agent should have the minimum rates for his own guidance. By careful inquiry as to the class of an able-bodied man when the pay went to the master, he will have an approximate test of the value of labor. He must of course consider the entire change of circumstances, and be aware that the laborer has a due protection against seizure and extortion. Wages had better be secured by a lien on the crops or land. Employers are desired to enter into written agreements with employees, setting forth stated wages, or securing an interest in the land or crop, or both. All such agreements will be approved by the nearest agent, and a duplicate filed in his office. In case there should be no agent within reach, the nearest postmaster will forward the duplicate of contracts direct to the Assistant Commissioner for the State. Attention is especially called to section 4 of the law establishing the Bureau with regard to settling, apart from every male citizen, whether refugee or freedman, &c., and the same arrangement is recommended, where it can be effected, between private parties. Already many farmers have rented lands to freedmen and refugees. This course is a recognition of the general principle in the law. In order to enforce the fulfilment of contracts on both contracting parties, the Commissioner of the Bureau lays down no general rule. The Assistant Commissioner must use the privileges and authority he already has. Prohibit courts, military commissions, land courts, where the freedmen and refugees have equal rights with other people, are open to his use. In the great majority of cases his own arbitration, or that of his agent, or the settlement by referees, will be sufficient. No Assistant Commissioner, or agent, is authorized to take any compulsory unpaid labor, except for the legal punishment of crime. Suffering may result to some extent, but suffering is preferred to slavery, and it is some degree, the necessary consequence of crime. In all serious cases the officer should never forget that non-payment for slavery, like apprenticeship without proper consent, or peonage, (i. e., either compelling the people by debt, or confining them, without consent, to the land by any system,) will be tolerated. The Assistant Commissioner will designate one or more of his agents to act as general superintendents of schools (one for each State) for refugees and freedmen. This office will work as much as possible in conjunction with the State officers who may have school matters in charge. If a general system can be adopted for a State, it is well; but if not, he will at least take cognizance of all that is being done to educate refugees and freedmen, secure proper possession to schools and teachers, promote method and efficiency, correspond with the benevolent agencies which are supplying the field, and all the Assistant Commissioners in making his required reports. Surgeon J. W. Hobbs, Chief Medical Officer of the Bureau, will have the general supervision of medical matters connected with refugees and freedmen. The Assistant Commissioner will instruct the medical officers, if they have instructed their officers, to make the medical department self-supporting as far as possible. All public interests of a character calculated to create discontent are reprehensible, but the Assistant Commissioner and his agents must explain, by constant reports to the Bureau, the principles, laws, and regulations of the Bureau to all parties concerned. It is recommended to the Assistant Commissioner, to give up in writing a careful summary to be published and privately read by agents throughout their respective districts.

W. WILKES, Engineer and Superintendent.

G. O. HOWARD, Major General, Commissioner.