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Extracts from the MESSAGE of his Excellency CHARLES PINCKNEY, to the Legislature of S. Carolina, now in Session at Columbia.

"In the present situation of things, it is essential to your peace and security, that the laws respecting the government of slaves should be carefully revised, and any means in your power used to enforce more strictly the performance of patrols, for the purpose of preserving order; and other regulations, established to prevent their being clandestinely carried off. Every exertion in my power has been used; and hitherto I have been tolerably successful in answering the ends intended by the law. There are, however, additional regulations, which appear to me indispensable, for affording to the owners of this species of property, the security they have a right to expect: These are to oblige all vessels to stop at the port, and produce a pass from the executive—that no pass for a slave leaving the state should be legal, unless signed by his owner, in the presence of some notary or magistrate; and to prevent owners from concealing the offences of their slaves, the justices and freeholders who try them, shall, on oath, fix the real value of those who are convicted, which shall be paid by the state.

"It may be well known to you, that during your recess, many attempts have been made by the inhabitants of some of the West India islands, who asserted they were ignorant of your laws, to introduce their slaves into this state. Very painful and disagreeable circumstances attended the execution of the law in many of these instances; but it was strictly carried into effect. The danger of suffering, on any pretence, either free persons of colour, or slaves, to be introduced from these islands, is so extremely great, that I would recommend it to you immediately to pass a law, making it a capital offence for any owner or master of a vessel, hereafter to import any slave or person of colour from any island in which an insurrection has taken place, and to frame your laws upon this subject in the most strict and guarded manner.

"As most of you are planters, and deeply concerned in giving all the security and protection in your power to this species of property, I am sure you will excuse the anxiety I feel in recommending the subject to your early and earnest attention. As they are the instruments of our cultivation, and of the first importance to our wealth and commercial consequence, in the present uncertain and eventful state of things, there can be no subject which calls more powerfully on you for attention, nor none to which I think you will more promptly apply.

"In justice to the many applications I have received, or to myself, I cannot omit again recommending to you, as a sacred duty, which ought, in my judgment, long since to have claimed the attention of the legislature, the establishment of public schools in the different counties and districts in this state.

"The education of the people in a free state requires more the attention of the public, than in any other. Your government is, as it ought to be, wholly elective, and springs from the choice of its citizens. The electors of your first magistracy, and the members of the national and state legislatures, are chosen immediately by them; they compose your juries, and are the great and natural defence of the country. On their good sense, and the propriety of their choice, depend the ability of your rulers. The decisions in your courts of justice, and the safety of the state: How essential is it then, that they should be sufficiently enlightened to determine for themselves, upon the conduct and talents of the men they are to choose, and the great duties they are to perform. By these means, not only your elections, but every legal assemblage of the people, for the purpose of expressing their opinions on important national questions will be conducted with the moderation, which is ever the result of information and good manners. The factions which have too frequently been the bane of republican systems will be avoided, and the people impressed with a proper sense of the blessings they enjoy, will ever be ready to defend and protect them.

"Be assured that general information is the only solid foundation upon which true republicanism can ever rest. It is always the characteristic of a free people, while a deplorable ignorance too frequently prevails in the dominions of the despot. In a land of freedom, like this, where no distinctions are known, but those of merit and talents; where individuals are daily promoted in consequence of their own qualifications, and without regard to the merit of their ancestors, it is certainly the duty of the state to aid in affording to all the benefits of education. You will thus not only be enabled to acquire for the public, the services of its most promising citizens, in whatever situations they may be found, but you will introduce

generally among the people those manners which can alone preserve the republican form. There ought always to be an attention to the manners suited to the nature of our government, by education and early discipline. Without them all the exterior of civil establishments, all the laws we may enact, will not be able for any length of time, to keep our citizens in order. Experience has shewn, that manners, as they progress, will ultimately prevail against them. To render a government permanent, it is as necessary the citizens should know how to obey the laws, as their rulers to execute them; for the laws must depend upon, and be subservient to, the manners of the people; and these will not degenerate while education and early discipline hold them fixed and permanent.

"You will, no doubt, at the present session, completely provide for funding the remainder of your public debt, on principles calculated to do justice to all your creditors; all being equally entitled to your attention, and to the same provision for their just claims. Many of these, which still remain unprovided for, have existed since your revolutionary war, and it is incumbent on the honor and justice of the legislature, they should no longer continue in that neglected state. On the subject of taxes, it will become you, to be particularly attentive. At no time, perhaps, has it more seriously claimed your tenderness and care. Your citizens have now not only to provide for the usual expenditures of their state government, but are called upon, in consequence of the exigencies of the union, to pay, in addition, a considerable direct tax; and this at the time, when, from the uncertain state of things abroad, and at home, the prices of freight, insurance, and imported articles, are astonishingly increased, while one of the principle staples of your country is, from these reasons, become of little value, and consequently a great part of your agricultural interest involved in distress.

"These are always the inevitable inconveniences of every war, however necessary; and to your wisdom it is reserved to devise the best means of alleviating them. I have directed very particular statements to be made by the treasurer, of every account respecting his department, including the magazine guards, and all the contingent expenses of government, and the contingent fund: all the vouchers of which are in the treasurer's possession, and of which he is directed by me to make a special statement. There is a small sum received by myself for expenses, and some contingent expenses, which will be regularly accounted for.

"It now becomes my duty to state to you, that having in the month of May received official intelligence that there would be no accommodation with France, and that from preparations in some of their islands, hostile designs were conceived to exist against the Southern states, I immediately ordered the brigades on the sea coast, to hold themselves in readiness to act at a moments warning; and proceeded to the residence of col. Sear, who had been for some years appointed by the legislature engineer of the state, whom I took into actual service, and gave him such directions as the alarming state of things appeared to require. From thence I hastened to the seat of government, and issued to the major general and brigadiers of the upper division, and the remaining brigadiers of the lower division, orders to hold the whole of their cavalry, artillery, and one half of their infantry, in readiness to move when directed, accompanying the order to the major general, and brigadiers with a confidential letter explaining the reasons.

"From the accounts I had received, such defensive preparations appeared to me as indispensable. The conduct of the French republic was very different from what we hoped it would have been at the last session; they had neither received, or taken any notice of the solemn embassy which had been sent by our government, but still continued their depredations on our commerce. The repeated application of our envoys for a negotiation, on terms which, have, on their publication, appeared to be the most just and reasonable, remaining unattended to, and no hope appearing of avoiding a war, Congress proceeded to pass acts for equipping a naval armament, and raising a considerable permanent army, in addition to the existing force—for authorizing the president, of his sole authority, whenever, in his opinion, danger of war or of an invasion was imminent to raise an additional army—to authorize the capture of French privateers on our own coast—to dissolve all the treaties of commerce and alliance, and consular conventions, which have since 1778, existed between France and the United States, concerning aliens, and on the subject of sedition.

"This was the state of things in the close of July last; a state not at all contemplated by our legislature at their last adjournment. They were then confident

in their expectations of an honourable and amicable adjustment of differences; and warm in their hopes that justice and moderation would govern the French republic in their negotiation with our envoys, they made no provision for war, except in an order to purchase some ammunition, and to direct the importation of a few thousand stand of arms.

"In this situation, and supported by a precedent, a few years since, when there existed a great danger to the state, not so pressing indeed as the present, but still so considerable as to require immediate exertions, a similar meeting was recommended to one of my predecessors, not to endanger the safety of the state by delay, but to take instant measures for its defence; and whose proceedings were unanimously confirmed by the legislature.—I found it my duty to convene such gentlemen of the legislature, as could be assembled, to deliberate with them upon the measure necessary to be taken, and how far it would have been proper, at that season, and circumstances as we were, to have called the legislature, even in the event of war being declared.

"They were unanimously of opinion, that at that inclement season, when it would have been so dangerous to the health, and inconvenient to the interests of the members to attend—when it would be the means of removing so many officers at a distance from their commands, and as they were to meet so soon as November, it would be highly unnecessary and improper, to summon the legislature, even if war was declared: That if they were to assemble it would only be to strengthen the executive, and enable him to make such provision as would be sufficient to meet all the exigencies that would probably occur before their regular session in that month.

"That the members assembled, amounting to nearly forty, would take upon themselves, as had been done upon a former occasion, and in instance above-mentioned, to recommend such measures of defence as might immediately be gone into, for placing us in the best possible state of preparation, and for furnishing our quota of the 80,000 militia, drafted by order of congress, with every thing requisite to enable them to take the field. That they would pledge and bind themselves to the treasurer, to indemnify him, that the money advanced for these pressing and necessary services, which admitted of no delay; your envoys having applied for their passports, and war being, at that time, every moment expected, should, if not provided for by the legislature, be paid by them.

"Convinced, that it is the duty of the government of the United States, to fortify our ports and harbours, it was determined that the sum of seven thousand pounds should be advanced for the purpose of complying with such acts and resolutions of the legislature, as authorized advances for the objects herein after mentioned, and for those supplies to the militia in every part of the state, which the alarming situation of our public affairs rendered inevitable. There are, at this moment, 3500 of our militia drafted by order of congress, from every part of the state, and who are ordered to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moments warning. To provide our citizens with tents to shelter them from the inclemencies of the season. With ammunition waggons, camp utensils and medicines for their comfort and assistance while in the field, are the indispensable duties of a government, whose object it is to attend to the wants and conveniences of all its citizens; and particularly of those, who are to become its defenders.

"By resolution of the legislature, of the 19th of December 1794, founded on the governors message, respecting Fort Mifflin, in Charleston, it was provided that a house should be built, within the fort, for the person residing there, and that a laboratory should also be there built for the use of the Charleston artillery, and that our senators and representatives be requested to apply to congress, to reimburse the expense of constructing and completing the same: a part of the above sum has been expended to comply with this resolution, and another to repair and provide an arsenal for the reception of the arms directed to be imported at the last session, and such as the United States have sent, or may hereafter think proper to send for the use of this state; the building before used for this purpose, being totally unfit until repaired, which has since been done under the inspection of the state engineer. The repair of our arsenal for the reception of our state arms, you must at once perceive was indispensable; as until that was done, there was no place to lodge or secure them.

"There is one additional charge for the purchase of gunpowder for the use of the state, which was recommended to me by the gentlemen who assembled, and which was to take place whenever the appearances of war grew stronger, or there was any prob-