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Daily Appeal.

LETTER FROM GEN. HOUSTON.

HOUSTON, November 26, 1860.

GEN. HOUSTON—Dear Sir: We, the undersigned, feeling a deep interest in regard to the crisis which now impends the country, and our fear lest our liberty, property and prosperity, are desirous of having your opinion in regard to the best course to pursue in this important period of our history. We fear too hasty action may prove delusive, and in pushing too much an expression of opinion may prove fatal to our interests. Let us hear from you at your very earliest convenience.

Respectfully, etc.,

R. H. WATKINS, P. W. KITTRELL, SANFORD GIBBS, ROBT. E. ASCHER, JAS. L. SMITHER, W. H. SCHOOLFIELD, G. M. BAKER, GEO. TWEN, WM. E. ASCHER, and others.

Messrs. R. H. Watkins, P. W. Kittrell, and others:

GENTLEMEN: Your letter asking my views respecting the present crisis in our political affairs is at hand. At present, I can reply but briefly, and shall confine myself to the single fact, that this is a time when truth should be plainly spoken by every lover of his country.

I recognize among you, names of men of all parties. Some of you are old and tried friends and citizens of Texas. To such especially, I look with confidence now when the majority is agitated and troubled in judgment. Hear the troubles of the republic: Hear you the friends of constitutional liberty. Having seen the throes of our revolution, having shared in its vicissitudes, and borne a part in building Texas into the Union, I trust that you, in common with patriots of these times, will ask some more weighty reason for overthrowing the Government that has been authentic, yet have given and that while others are carried away by the impulse of the moment, the men of experience will be calm and decided.

You hoped that an opposite majority would have been rallied on, to replete in the triumph of some one of the conservative candidates for the presidency. But the issue was for which the sons of Texas was destined, has arrived. I should have had additional cause of gratification, but such is not the case. On the contrary, I am regret and deplore the election of one, whose sole claim to the confidence and support of the whole country, must be the efficient character with which the Constitution invests them.

In remembering the many evidences which a portion of the southern people have presented of their willingness to dissolve their association of affiliation and intercourse upon the rights of their southern brethren, I and not the least surprised at the indignant response now offered by southern men. I clearly that if Mr. Lincoln and his party in power, will strictly adhere to the Constitution for our rights, the people will not hesitate to maintain them. It will be well if the issue should be made to a sectional sentiment, as far as to interpose between the federal authority and the constitutional rights of a state, yet the effort will now, insured by a spirit of patriotism and nationality, retrace their steps. Upon a citizen of their own section, and one of their own party have been conferred a responsibility which he cannot avoid. As the Chief Executive of the nation, he will be sworn to support the Constitution and execute the laws. Should he, in the month of March, under the unconstitutional statutes contrary to the rights of the States. Elected by that party, it is but natural that the conservatism of the latter will watch him narrowly, long and demand at his hands a rigid enforcement of the federal laws. Should he meet the severe resistance which other Executives incurred, it will be his duty to call with the conservative masses of the country, and the conservative sentiment of the South, to defend our rights, and by allowing the laws to be enforced, add to opportunity the complaint that he must be limited from power. From the moment of his inauguration, there will commence an "irepressible conflict" different from that which the party of Mr. Lincoln is heard rounding will be an "irepressible conflict" between the Constitution, which he has sworn to support, and the unconstitutional enactments and aims of his party which have placed him in power. He has declared the logistics slave law is constitutional. In the enforcement the conflict is with the South alone.

I need not suggest to you, that in the time shall come when we must choose between a breach of our constitutional rights and resistance, I shall be on the latter; and if I, who have held the position of Vice President of the United States, feel it my duty to pledge life, fortune and sacred honor in the defense of my rights, I cannot, I do not, hesitate to pledge the remainder of my life to the cause. I recognize again the blessings with which we had parted. Let us pause and ponder well before we take any action outside of the Constitution.

Very truly yours,

SAM HOUSTON.

CHANGE AND MISFORTUNE.

BY DAVID OPTIC.

CHAPTER I.

"Well, Mary, I'm going to do something now," said Mr. Peter Prudent, as he seated himself at the breakfast table.

"What are you going to do now?" asked the wife, though not with that exhibit on of interest which would have been expected under such circumstances.

"I have taken the agency of a large insurance company in New York. I am going to open an office, and am satisfied that I shall make my fortune in a few years."

"I hope you will," replied the lady, though she appeared to be rather incredulous.

"I know I shall; there is not the great of a doubt about it. The company is strong, the company will give me very liberal, and I can't help making a good thing of it. Now, Mary, if you want a piano you can take one.

"Perhaps I may be able to do that, I think."

"Perhaps you had better wait until you have realized some of the success for which you hope."

"There is no doubt in regard to that; I wouldn't give anybody anyone to guarantee me three thousand dollars a year, and you will see that I shall realize it. As I said, I can save at least two thousand dollars.

"Certainly, if you can only get it to save from. You never made more than seven or eight hundred in a year; and most of the time since we were married, you have made less income."

"But it will right now; I have always been unlucky. Whatever I turned up a coin now, and all I have to do is to take the money. If I had got this chance five years ago, I should have been a rich man now."

"I wish you had been in it yet, Peter," replied Mary, with a very incredulous smile.

"Why, pshaw, Mary!" asked the enthusiastic husband, apparently much hurt by the doubts of his wife in regard to his success.

"I have seen too many of these things before."

"What do you mean by that?"

"Why, you have changed your business so many times in so many years! And each time there was condition your fortune was already within your grasp."

"Why, I was simply mistaken in those cases," answered Peter, who could not deny that he had often before built strong hopes upon fortunes unfounded.

"Why you said you mistaken in this instance?" suggested the lady.

"It is nearly impossible that in this case I can be mistaken; I have figured up the affair on little more than a dozen times, and I am dead sure I am right this time."

"Well, I hope you are Peter."

Peter, charmed at the incredulity of his wife, proceeded to demonstrate the practicability of making a fortune out of the agency he had accepted. I will not trouble the reader with elaborate calculation he made to convince Mrs Prudent of the feasibility of the plan and certainty of the success.

"I have only reckoned what I regard as certain. I expect my income will be large, and I think my fortune will be made in a short time."

"But suppose your income is not so large as you expect."

"I don't think you want to believe in my good fortune, Mary," replied Peter, a little cross.

"I am sure I do."

"Then, why don't you believe?"

"Because I think it is a foolish calculation," said Mary.

"Foolish, Mary?"

"Certainly. I have heard you talk so before. I hope your calculations may prove correct."

"Well, wait, Mary, and you will find I am right."

"I hope I shall. What are you going to do with your present situation?"

"I am going to give it up. I gave notice to Mr. Simpson this afternoon to that effect."

"I am afraid you will come to grief."

"Come, come, Mary, don't be so obstinate."

"I am not obstinate. What did Mr. Simpson say?"

"O, he was very sorry to have me go, and even offered to raise my salary, if I would remain."

"Should think you would, Peter."

"Think I would! Couldn't do with him for big money, when I can make three times as much."

"Why hundred is more than you ever got before."

"That's true; but I can do better."

"Perry in Jacob Greene's, he has fifteen hundred, and the house he lives in, and his money and all besides, I know."

"Jacob is a lucky dog."

"He was married at the same time we were, and he was not nearly as lucky than you, then."

"He is a lucky fellow. As for me, I have always been unfortunate."

"Whose fault was that?"

"Why, what do you mean? I know of—I have been unlucky, that's all."

We will tell his story, and there for may decide whether that was all, or not.

CHAPTER II.

Mr. Prudent's business career had been an eventful one, as he said, perhaps. He had passed through many changes, which had in most instances been in a pecuniary sense. When he was married he was the recipient of a salary of twenty-five hundred dollars, which was shortly afterward raised to six hundred. He was approximately offering his time to go into business with a partner, he abandoned his salary, and he was left to shift for himself. He was lucky. In one year he failed, and was glad to return to a salary of five hundred again. For two or three years he kept this position, and then made another venture which he was sure would yield him a fortune. He was unlucky. The adventure was a failure, and again he was thrown back upon a pittance. Several times, in this manner, he had given up good situations and plunged into schemes of doubtful promise.

He had but little firmness, but little stability, and his judgment was not usually reliable. He was a man who, if any object was to be gained attained, with the greatest ease, he was sure to mar for many years to come; but the hope of becoming suddenly rich had taken possession of his brain, he could only think of realizing his income by realizing the fortune of modest hundreds, as in those days.

Perhaps, too, as his wife had often pointed to Texas, he was at a specimen of progress in the world. Peter is ambitious to be rich, he had only got ahead of Jacob, he would ask no greater glory in this world. Now he had lately expected to put him in the shade.

The time came, and Peter opened his office, published an advertisement setting forth the advantages of insuring in the new company, and entered with prodigious satisfaction upon his new career.

"Well, Peter, how do you get along?" asked Mary, after he had been in the business about a week.

"Fair rate, my dear."

"Do you still think you shall make a thousand dollars a year?"

"I have no doubt of it."

"How many policies have you issued this week?"

"Three."

"Only one?"

"That is doing well, when we consider that it is a new company, and that I am new in the business."

Mary shook her head, and felt sure that Peter was going through the performances he had undertaken several times before. She felt but little in view of the overbearing influence, which she was in the habit of exercising over her husband. He was positive a fortune was in store for him, and he clung to his delusion with renewed ardor.

Another week passed by, and Peter, by unremitting exertions, had obtained three or four more policies. He was elated. He felt sure that success was at hand. The time should come, he said, when the world would know that Jacob Greene was not the only lucky man.

"Mary, I have been thinking of what you said about my being unlucky, and I don't see why I should think I am unlucky. Now, I'm sure I shall make a fortune in this business."

"Why, Peter, what has put that into your head?"

"Why, I have been thinking over the matter, and I don't see why I should not. I have been unlucky in the past, but I don't see why I should be in future."

"Perhaps you had better wait till you have realized some of the success for which you hope."

"There is no doubt in regard to that; I wouldn't give anybody anyone to guarantee me three thousand dollars a year, and you will see that I shall realize it. As I said, I can save at least two thousand dollars."

"Certainly, if you can only get it to save from. You never made more than seven or eight hundred in a year; and most of the time since we were married, you have made less income."

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