

MISSISSIPPI ADVERTISER.

BY SMITH & CHAPMAN.]

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MISSISSIPPI PORTFOLIO

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1845.

The Mississippi Advertiser

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ADVERTISEMENTS, first insertion [ten lines or less] One Dollar; for each subsequent insertion, Fifty cents. The number of insertions must be specified on the face of the advertisement, or they will be published until ordered out, and charged the usual rates above stated.

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No paper will be discontinued only at the option of the publishers, unless the order be accompanied by the money.

LETTERS on business connected with the office must be Post paid to ensure prompt attention.

THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

Mr. Calhoun to Mr. Shannon.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, Sept. 10, 1844.

Sir: There can be no longer any doubt that Mexico intends to renew the war against Texas as on a large scale, and carry it on with more than savage ferocity. The loan she has authorized, and the expensive preparations she is making, by land and sea, are sufficient proofs of the former, and the orders of the commander of the army of the north, General Woll, issued the 20th day of June last, and the decree of Santa Anna, general of division and provisional President of Mexico, on the 17th day of June, 1843, of the latter. The decree makes the general-in-chief of divisions of the army and the commandant of the coast and frontier responsible for its exact fulfillment. It was under that responsibility, it would seem, that General Woll, to whom the Texian frontier was assigned, issued his order of the 20th June. After promising that the war was renewed against Texas, that all communications with the government of Mexico, of whatever condition, who shall have communications with it shall be regarded as a traitor, and as such, be punished according to the articles of war, the order announces, in its third article, that "every individual who may be found at the distance of one league from the west bank of the Rio Bravo will be regarded as a favorer and accomplice of the usurpers of that part of the national territory, and as a traitor to his country, and, after a summary military trial, shall be punished accordingly." And, in its fourth article, it also states, "that every individual who may be embraced within the provisions of the preceding article, and may be rash enough to fly at the sight of any force belonging to the supreme government, shall be pursued until taken or put to death."

In what spirit the decree of the 17th of June which the order is intended exactly to fulfill, is to be executed, the fate of the party under general Santa Anna, at Tabasco, affords an illustration—where they were arrested under it, and executed without hearing or trial, against the indignant remonstrances of the Texian and Spanish ministers near the government of Mexico, who in vain invoked the voice of humanity, the sacred obligations of the constitution, and the sanctity of treaties, in behalf of their countrymen who were executed under this illegal and bloody decree.

If the decree itself was thus enforced in time of peace on subjects of friendly powers, and against the remonstrances of their ministers, some faint conception may be formed of the ferocious and degrading spirit in which the order of Gen. Woll is intended to be executed against the inhabitants of Texas, and all who may in any way, aid their cause, or even have communication with them; it was under a decree similar to that of the 17th of June, 1843, and issued by the same authority on the 30th of October, 1835, but which was not so comprehensive in its provisions or so bloody and ferocious in its character, that the cold blooded butchery of Fannin and his party, and other Texian prisoners, was ordered by Santa Anna in his invasion of 1835.

That decree was limited to foreigners who should land at any part of Mexico, or arrive by land, being armed, or having hostile intentions, or who should introduce arms and munitions of war, to be used at any place in rebellion, or placed in the hands of its enemies. As savage and outrageous as its provisions were, by order of Gen. Woll, intended to carry out that of June, 1843, goes far beyond. It embraces every individual who may be found at a line drawn three miles east of the Rio del Norte, without distinction of age or sex, foreigner or citizen, condition or vocation. All of every condition whether they resist or surrender, are to be treated as traitors, and all who flee, to be shot down. The war is intended in short to be one of utter extermination. All that breathe are to be destroyed or driven out, and Texas left a desolate waste, and so proclaimed to the world by Mexico, in advance of her projected invasion.

The next question which presents itself for consideration on the statement of facts, shall we stand by and witness in silence the renewal of the war by Mexico, and its prosecution in this blood-thirsty and degrading spirit? In order to answer it fully and satisfactorily, it will be necessary to inquire first into her object for renewing the war at this time.

There can be but one; and that is, to detach the annexation of Texas to our Union. She knows full well that the rejection of the treaty has but postponed the question, and she knows that Congress adjourned without finally disposing of it; that it is now pending before both Houses, and actively canvassed before the people throughout the wide extent of our Union; and that it will in all probability, be decided in its favor, unless it should be defeated by some movement exterior to the country. We would be blind not to see that she proposes to effect it by the projected invasion, either by conquering and subjecting Texas to her power, or by forcing her to withdraw the proposition for annexation, and to form some other political connection with some other power, less congenial to her feelings favorable to her independence, and more threatening to her and our permanent welfare and safety. Of the two latter is much the more portable. She once attempted conquest, but signally failed, although the attempt was made under the lead of her most skillful and renowned general, at

the head of a well-appointed army, consisting of her best-disciplined and bravest troops, and while Texas lay yet in her infancy, without a Government, almost without means, and with an insupportable population.—With this example before her, she can scarcely hope to succeed now under a leader of less skill and renown, and when Texas has settled down under a well established Government, and has greatly increased in means and population.

It is possible she may be overruled; but to expect to hold her in subjection with her present population and means at the distance of more than twelve hundred miles from the city of Mexico, with a difficult intermediate country, destitute in a great degree of resources, would be extreme folly. The very attempt would exhaust her means and leave her prostrated. No, the alternative is to drive out the inhabitants and desolate the country, or force her into some foreign and unnatural alliance; and this, the ferocious and savage order of Gen. Woll shows, is well understood by Mexico, and is in reality, the object of her policy.

She will stand by and permit it to be consummated, and thereby defeat a measure long cherished, and indispensable alike to the safety and welfare of the United States and Texas! No measure of policy has been more steadily longer pursued, and that by both of the great parties into which the Union is divided. Many believed that Texas was embraced in the cession of Louisiana, and was improperly if not unconstitutionally, surrendered by the treaty of Florida in 1819. Under that impression, and the general conviction of its importance to the safety and welfare of the Union, its annexation has been an object of the constant pursuit ever since. It was twice attempted to acquire it during the administration of Mr. Adams—once in 1823, shortly after he came into power, and again in 1827. It was thrice attempted under the administration of his successor, Gen. Jackson—first in 1823, immediately after he came into power, again in 1833, and finally in 1835, just before Texas herself made a proposition for annexation in 1837, at the commencement of Mr. Van Buren's administration, which he declined, not however on the ground of opposition to the measure. The United States had previously acknowledged her independence, and the example has since been followed by France and Great Britain. The latter, soon after her recognition, began to adopt a line of policy in reference to Texas which has given greatly increased importance to the measure of annexation, by making it still more essential to the safety and welfare, both of her and the United States.

In pursuance of this long cherished and established policy, and under the conviction of the necessity of acting promptly, in order to prevent the defeat of the measure, the present administration invited Texas to renew the proposition, which had been declined by its predecessors. It was accepted, and, as has been stated, is now pending. The question now recurs, shall we stand quietly, and permit Mexico to defeat it, without making an effort to oppose her? Shall we, after this long and continued effort to annex Texas, now, when the measure is about to be consummated, allow Mexico to put it aside, perhaps forever? Shall the "golden opportunity" be lost, never again to return? Shall we permit Texas, for having accepted an invitation to renew her claims, to be a critical moment, to join, and consummate a measure essential to their and our permanent peace, welfare, and safety, to be desolated; her inhabitants to be butchered or driven out, or, in order to avert so great a calamity, to be forced against her will into a strange alliance, which would terminate in producing lasting hostilities between her and us, to the permanent injury and perhaps the ruin of both?

The president has fully and deliberately examined the subject, and has come to the conclusion that honor and humanity, as well as the welfare and safety of both countries, forbid it; and that it is his duty during the recess of Congress to use all his constitutional means in opposition to it; leaving that body, when it assembles, to decide on the course which in his opinion, it would be proper for the Government to adopt.

In accordance with this conclusion, the President would be compelled to regard the invasion of Texas by Mexico, while the question of annexation is pending, as highly offensive to the United States. He entertains no doubt that he had the right to invite her to renew the proposition for annexation; and she, as an independent State, had a right to accept it, without consulting Mexico or asking her leave. He regards Texas, in every respect, as independent as Mexico, and as competent to transfer the whole or part of Texas, as she would the whole or part of Mexico. To go on further back, under the Constitution of 1824, Texas and Coahuila were members of the federation formed by the United States of Mexico—Texas with Coahuila forming one State, with the right guaranteed to Texas by the Constitution to form a separate State as soon as her population would permit. The several States remained in their rights and equally independent of each other until 1835, when the Constitution was subverted by the military, and all the States which dared to resist subjugated by force, except Texas. She stood up manfully and bravely in defence of her rights and independence, and she gloriously and successfully asserted on the battle ground of San Jacinto in 1836, and has ever since maintained. The Constitution of 1824 and her independence, and her valor and her sword have maintained her. She has been acknowledged to be so by three of the leading Powers of Christendom, and regarded by all as such, except Mexico herself. Nor has she ever stood in relation to Texas as a rebellious department or province, struggling to obtain independence after throwing off her yoke; much less as that of a band of lawless intruders and usurpers, without Government or political existence, as Mexico would have the world to believe. The true relation between them is that of independent States, the weaker of which has not successfully resisted, under fearful odds, the attempts of the stronger to conquer and subject her to its power. It is in that light we regard her, and in that we had the right to invite her to renew the proposition for annexation, and to treat with her for admission into the Union, without any further justification to Mexico, or violating any obligations, just or otherwise, between us and her. Nor will we honor, any more than our welfare and safety, permit her to attack Texas while the question of annexation is pending. If Mexico has thought proper to take offence it is we, who invite a renewal of her proposition, and not she who except it, who ought to be held responsible; and we, as the responsible party, cannot, without implicating our honor permit another to suffer in our place. Entertaining these views, Mexico would make a great mistake if she should suppose that the President would regard with indifference the renewal of the war which she has proclaimed against Texas. Our honor and interests are both involved.

But another and a still more elevated consideration would forbid him to look on with indifference. As strong as are the objections to the renewal of the war, those to the manner in which it is to be conducted are still more so. If honor and interest forbid a tame acquiescence in the renewal of the war, the voice of humanity cries aloud against the manner of conducting it. All the world has an interest, that the rules and usages of war, as established between civilized nations in modern times, should be respected, and are in duty bound to resist their violation and to see them preserved. In this case, that duty is peculiarly ours. We are neighbors to the nearest to the scene of the proposed atrocities, most competent to judge, from our proximity, and for the same reason, enabled more readily to interfere. For this reason, also, our sympathy would be more deeply wounded, by reviewing the mingled scenes of misery which would be sent themselves on all sides, and hearing the groans of the suffering; not to mention the dangers to which we would be exposed in consequence, on a distant and weak frontier, with numerous and powerful bands of Indians in its vicinity.

Many things are said to the contrary with which it is proclaimed war will be waged, it is the bold fiction, regardless of the semblance of truth, to which the Government of Mexico has restored, in order to give color to the decree of June 1843, and the orders of General Woll. Finding nothing in the conduct of the Government or people of Texas to satisfy their bloody and malicious wishes, they assumed, in warring them their last words, the Government or community as Texas, that the individuals to be found there are lawless intruders and usurpers, without political existence, who may rightfully be treated as a gang of pirates—outsiders from society—and, as such, not entitled to the protection of the laws of nations or humanity. In this assumption, and excepting the Government of Mexico, the universally admitted fact, that the colonists of Texas, instead of being intruders and usurpers, were invited to settle there—first under a grant by the Spanish authority, to Moses Austin, which was afterwards confirmed by the Mexican authority; and subsequently by the grant from the State of Texas and Coahuila, which was authorized by the Constitution of 1824.—They came there as invited—not invited for their own interests, but those of Spain and Mexico—to protect a weak and helpless province from the ravages of wandering tribes of Indians; to improve, cultivate and render productive, wild and almost uninhabited wastes, and to make that soil which was before worthless. All this they effected, at great cost, and with much danger and difficulty, which nothing but American energy and perseverance could overcome—not only united by Mexico, but in despite of the irremediable caused by her interference.

Instead of a lawless gang of adventurers, as they are termed, invited to settle in Texas, the invited colonists became in a few years a portion of the members of the Mexican Union, and proved themselves to be the descendants of a free and hardy race, by the bravery and energy with which they met the adventures of the Constitution of 1824, and successfully preserved their independence. In doing this, they gave a still higher proof of their descent, by establishing a free and free institutions, and yielding ready obedience to the laws of their own country. Under the influence of these causes, they have enjoyed peace and security, while their industry and energy, protected by equal laws, have widely extended the limits of cultivation and improvement over their beautiful country.—It is such a people, living under free and well established Government, and on whose soil a fertile foot has found rest for the last eight years, who have been recognized and introduced as one of its members into the family of nations, that Mexico has undertaken to treat as a lawless bandit, and against whom, as such she has proclaimed a war of extermination, and to make that soil which he gave to his descendants, by establishing free institutions, and yielding ready obedience to the laws of their own country, and under the influence of these causes, they have enjoyed peace and security, while their industry and energy, protected by equal laws, have widely extended the limits of cultivation and improvement over their beautiful country.—It is such a people, living under free and well established Government, and on whose soil a fertile foot has found rest for the last eight years, who have been recognized and introduced as one of its members into the family of nations, that Mexico has undertaken to treat as a lawless bandit, and against whom, as such she has proclaimed a war of extermination, and to make that soil which he gave to his descendants, by establishing free institutions, and yielding ready obedience to the laws of their own country, and under the influence of these causes, they have enjoyed peace and security, while their industry and energy, protected by equal laws, have widely extended the limits of cultivation and improvement over their beautiful country.—

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