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Munah Letterpress

Executive Department
Austin, March 22^d. 1864.

Genl. E. B. Nichols

Sir,

Your favor by
Mr. Sawyer, and others by mail, have
been received - I regret that you and
Maj. Bryan did not come to Austin -
The urgency of my letters for you to
come was founded upon good reasons.
You have left me uncertain as to
when I shall see you. You force me
to write what could have been better
arranged and explained in a con-
versation. I will merely mention
my reasons for desiring to see you,
and leave explanation for the future.

My main plan for procuring
Cotton from the Planters, the State
having one half must be rigidly
adhered to for the future. No departure
from it will be allowed, unless it yields
equal advantages to the State.

Mr. S. R. H. do not interpret
their undertaking as you do, nor as I do
and by their interpretation I can't abide

One great inducement offered by them
The rapid transportation of cotton by
night and by day - exists no longer.

If the agreement with Alexander, Mc
Carthy & Co., is the same as proposed
by Mr. Alexander to me at Houston, -
fifty dollars on each bale - not on
one half - expounded, it is all right -
if it is not thus, it is not right.

The contract ~~with~~ with Messrs. Alexander
through Judge Presley, is not right.

All the cotton we desire can be obtained
in that section of the State on my plan?

This contract will poison that whole
region of the State, if she ships from
Eggle Top to foreign markets, each
ship for herself, not for individuals.

This special contracting will break
down the operations of the State, and
deprive it of that moral force in
the community which would be secured
by a uniform plan - appealing
especially to the producer. The

Commissioner of the State will have
enough to do to take charge of the
cotton and manage the interests of the
State. The 7th ch. Com. is a thing

by the Legislature, will be used in payment for cotton, and only when it has reached the point of delivery upon the Rio Grande, where the division between the State and the Vendor takes place.

It is useless to discuss the question of the 6 per. ct. or the 7 per. ct. Bonds, as quibblers may excite apprehensions and fears as to the 6 per. ct. Bonds.

The State and Confederate Authorities must harmonize in their action with reference to cotton -

If they do not, the fault shall not be with me, nor with those acting under me, if I can prevent it. The State, when she has purchased a sufficient amount of cotton, must withdraw from the market.

I wish to know, therefore, how much has been contracted for by the State, so as to see what she will realize upon it. We must not purchase too much cotton at one time, as our plan is put into operation, and bagging and rope introduced, we can purchase all the cotton desired and as fast as it can be carried off from the State.

Conciliation, and not factionness, must be exhibited toward all those acting under Confederate Authority; and the State will thus be enabled, in the midst of confusion and trouble, to execute her own liberal policy towards her citizens, her own public interests, and, at the same time, greatly assist the Confederacy.

There is confusion and disaffection growing out of the tendency of the plan proposed by the State, in the manner in which it is being executed, to place too much in the hands of a few, and to create the appearance of speculation. This must be promptly arrested and broken up. You now, Colonel, can see the reasons of my great desire to see you. You will excuse the pointedness with which I have expressed myself; so it grows out of a sincere desire to do what is the policy of the State, as to secure the greatest public benefit. In this, and all other things pertaining to my public conduct, I am determined to know.

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nothing but the interests of my
country, and the equal rights of
our Citizens.

Thus actuated, if I fail,
I shall not be ashamed; unless it
be for the want of wisdom and
moral firmness, to carry out what
I believe to be right.

When shall I see you?

Your Obedt. Servt
S. M. Mervin