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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS.

To the honorable the President and members of the Legislative Council of all Texas.

GENTLEMEN.—Called upon to discharge the duties of the supreme executive of the free and sovereign State of Texas, I commence the task, not without mistrust of my abilities; but relying chiefly upon your support, and the indulgence of an intelligent and well disposed people, I am inspired with confidence, and cheered by the hope that our united efforts to promote the public good, will not prove unavailing.

I trust that there is not one of your body insensible to the many dangers that threaten, surround, and overhang our adopted country; that there is not one who does not feel the importance of the great trust confided, and who is not aware of the heavy responsibilities which necessarily devolve upon us.

In the onset, in the very beginning,—ere one error is committed, or one act performed, I call upon you to summon to your assistance moral courage, to throw around you the impenetrable shield of honesty, to march onward in the pathway of duty, and undauntedly to meet the dangers and obstacles which chance or design may throw in your way. If we cower or sink beneath the task, shame and disgrace await us, and ruin irretrievable, our adopted country. Contemplate the task before you; the dangers to be encountered, and the obstacles to be removed or surmounted, and decline the task, or make a beginning with a fixed determination faithfully and fearlessly to perform your duties. I trust take the liberty to admonish you, because no common duties devolve upon you. You have to call system from chaos, to start the wheels of government, clogged and impeded as they are by conflicting interests, and discordant materials; without funds, without the munitions of war, with an army in the field contending against a powerful foe: these are the auspices under which we make a beginning.

2. Our country is now involved in war: our foe is far superior to us in numbers and resources. Yet, when I consider the stern materials of which our army is composed, the gallant and heroic men that are now in the field, I regard not the disparity of numbers, but am satisfied that we could push our conquests even to the walls of Mexico.

I earnestly recommend that you adopt the most prompt and energetic measures in behalf of the army, that you forthwith provide all the necessary munitions of war, so that the army may not be cramped or impeded by remissness on the part of government; and that you be careful to select agents of known skill and science, to purchase artillery, and other munitions.

3. Another important matter will require your immediate attention. Our seaport and frontier towns are unprotected,

and exposed to the mercy of the enemy. The policy of having them well fortified must be obvious to all. I therefore recommend the organization of a civil and topographical engineer corps, and the commencement of the work of fortification and defence without delay.

4. I recommend the granting of letters of marque and reprisal, by doing which we can not only prevent invasion by sea, but we can blockade all the ports of Mexico, and destroy her commerce, and annoy, and harass the enemy more in a few months, than by many years' war carried on within our own limits. My own mind is satisfied that the whole of our maritime operations can be carried on by foreign capital and foreign enterprise. Already applications for commissions have been made; they are willing to take the hazard, and we should afford them every encouragement.

5. Provisions have already been made for the organization of a corps of rangers; and I conceive it highly important, that you should place a bold, energetic, and enterprising commander at their head. This corps, well managed, will prove a safeguard to our hitherto unprotected frontier inhabitants, and prevent the depredations of those savage hordes that infest our borders. I conceive this very important at this moment, as it is known that the Mexican authorities have endeavored to engage them in a war with us.

6. Volunteers from foreign countries are daily reaching our shores, and enlisting in our cause. These gallant and chivalrous men are actuated alone by the noblest motives: no sordid or mercenary considerations have induced them to leave their homes, and share our fate. Let us, then, act with becoming generosity; and unmasked, give valor its reward. I recommend this, not only that the world may know what are the inducements which Texas holds forth to the brave and enterprising, but in order that it may be now settled, and not hereafter become the cause of dissatisfaction.

7. Some of our red brethren of the Cherokees, Shawnees, and other of their associate bands, are located on certain lands, within our limits, to which it is generally understood that they have a just and equitable title. They have lately been interrupted in their title, by surveys and locations within the limits they claim, which has created amongst them great dissatisfaction. I, therefore, recommend that you second the measures of the late Convention, in this matter, and never desist until the object contemplated by that body be carried into effect.

8. I recommend the employing of agents for foreign countries; that they be clothed with special powers, and that they be sent to different points, with a view of procuring for Texas all the aid and assistance

that a generous and sympathising world will bestow.

9. I would also recommend the establishment of a tariff, and the appointment of revenue officers to collect imposts and tonnage duties. And also a collector, for the purpose of collecting all sums due the government on lands or other sources.

10. I would now call your attention to the post office department, and would recommend the appointment of a post master general. The appointment made by the previous council I highly approve; and trust under your care, that this department will flourish, and extend its benefits to every section of our country. I further recommend an express department, to continue during the war.

11. No time should be lost in the organization of the militia, nor in the local civil organization of the different jurisdictions of Texas, in conformity with the plan of the provisional organization of the government.

12. You will find it necessary to appoint a treasurer, and perhaps other officers, which you may hereafter find requisite.

13. It will also become your duty to select some place as the seat of government, at which to hold your regular sittings, during the continuance of the present form of government. In the doing of this, you will throw aside all local partialities and prejudices, and fix on that point possessing most advantages, and the best calculated to forward our views, by giving promptness and energy to our united action. I, therefore, deem it unnecessary to make further suggestions on that subject, and will only add that a council-hall, together with other offices for the different departments of government, is indispensable.

14. I have now, gentlemen, touched upon all the matters of importance that have presented themselves to me. Doubtless many have escaped my observation, which you will detect. I will, from time to time, present such other matter for your consideration, as may occur.

Again, permit me to remind you of the necessity of acting with energy, boldness, and promptitude; that the welfare of thousands depends upon your actions. Your country possesses immense resources, if properly developed: it is for you to bring them fairly forth, to quicken and enliven the energies of the body politic, and make Texas the Eden of America.

I conclude, gentlemen, by expressing the hope that the supreme Ruler of nations will smile upon your councils; and that, by our united efforts we will be enabled to place Texas in a situation to become what the God of nature designed her to be, a land of liberty and of laws; of agriculture, and of commerce; the pride and support of our lives, and a legacy of price unspeakable to posterity.

HENRY SMITH.

San Felipe, Nov. 16, 1835.

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