

Jacksonville July 2^d 1846

Dear Judge

Though we do not agree on all questions of Domestic Policy, yet as we have always been friends, & I may add, attached to the interests of our country, I take the liberty of presenting some views on questions of foreign policy which may become worthy of your attention.

Until within the last few days I have never believed in the probability of a War with Mexico. The address recently received of the resumption of Pandey & the grounds he has taken in reference to the annexation of ~~the~~ Texas had been to believe that we will have War with Mexico. You, who are nearer the fountain of correct information can judge best of this. I look upon war with Mexico as more than probable. Upon this supposition I now address you.

Such a war if it occurs, should be short energetic & successful - all of which can be accomplished by the concentration of the proper energies of the Govt on this object.

You know sagaciously in the conviction that we ought to have California - by purchase if it can be procured peaceably - but if war is brought on by the folly of Mexico, then it should be taken by arms. Other provinces of Mexico are more easily penetrated, but if California is taken it will not be surrounded by our Govt. To do this there is the choice of an Expedition by Sea or Land. The first is too expensive, if solely relied on. Though it might successfully aid a Land Expedition. The true method of Attack is by a Land Expedition.

To make an Expedition of this kind successful, it should start from the Western boundary of

Mexico by the 1st or 5th of June (some of these
troubled). The route taken should be by Santa Fe,
Piedra that city & the adjacent country, leave a
detachment to keep it in subjection, & hasten on
to St. Francisco & Monterey by the route of Puebla
de los Angeles, & thence Northwardly to the other
settlements in California. The Detachment
should all be mounted, with some loose horses
for mounts, - A portion (at least half) should
be armed with rifles, sabres & pistols. - The remain-
der I would advise to be armed with muskets -
for I have great faith in a musket in the hands
of a soldier who will use the bayonet. Native
Mexicans or Indians will ever stand a charge
properly sustained by Infantry. - The Infantry would
be mounted for facility & rapidity of motion, but to do
duty on foot in actual engagement. - There should
also accompany the Detachment a small pack
& few light field pieces, from 5 to 10.

The number to compose the Expedition should
be from 1500 to 2500. This force though small if properly
organised & commanded, could overcome all resis-
tances which could be brought against it by the
Mexicans & Indians in the region of Country through
which it would pass. It must be composed of
picked men who are accustomed to manage
guns, horses, & cattle, & who know something of Indian
life. - Whilst it should not be so small as to make
resistance which would not be shown to a
large force, still it should not be so large that
it could not be supplied with provisions -

To supply the provisions & carry the ~~expense~~
of the work, there should be provided a number of
sheep carts or waggons, drawn chiefly by cattle,
and as the provisions were consumed from the

waggons, the cattle should be reserved for
beef. - The ammunition, & whatever baggage was
indispensable, should be drawn by mules, which
stand the journey better than horses, & their places
could easily be supplied on the route.

Although the trip would be a long one, yet the
outfit of the Expedition would not be costly, as they
could not carry a large quantity of provisions with
them, & as they ought to supply themselves with
provisions from the Buffalo of the prairie, & from the
droves of cattle which are to be found in abun-
dant in Mexico & which could be driven with
the army for its supply. - And at Santa Fe & the
few other places grain might be procured for bread.

There need be no fear in my judgment, but
that ammunition waggons & field pieces can be readily
transported along the proposed route. The transportation
of heavy ordnance was by Buonaparte across the
Alps, & by Mc Donald across the Rocky Mts. that
such things are possible; & Capt Fremont, by the
great distance he transported his Howitzer has
proven that field pieces can be carried across
much worse routes than would have to be ~~crossed~~ ^{passed} by
this Expedition. - From Santa Fe to Puebla de los
Angeles, there is a track annually frequented by traders.

In case of the successful result of the Expe-
dition, of which I make no doubt, it would be neces-
sary to fortify Monterey & the Bay of Francisco. For
this purpose many ordnance should be sent by
sea, & a Squadron would cooperate advantageously
with the Land Expedition.

In the present condition of Mexico, very few if
any troops could be sent to California, as the distance
from the City of Mexico to Monterey is about 2000 miles.
When hostilities are once taken, it could be easily

Maintained so that neither Mexico or Great Britain could successfully disturb it -

Power to treat with the Indians should either be given to the Commanding Officer, or to a Civil Officer who would accompany the Expedition, & further power should be given (on account of the remote situation of the country) to establish a Provisional Government -

I would further suggest that another Expedition in connection with this, might very well & very profitably act conjointly with it. That if that & corps of similar size to the one proposed, should accompany the Expedition to Santa Fe & from thence make an incursion into the provinces of Chihuahua & Durango - leaving the provinces of Tamaulipas & Coahuila to be attacked from Texas. The provinces of Chihuahua & Durango, as well as those south of them, contain abundant supplies to sustain an army, & an attack from ⁱⁿ that quarter would act as a useful diversion to restrain the forces of those provinces from resisting any attack which might be contemplated on the City of Mexico. And these troops could be united with the troops that would enter from Texas if their junction was desirable -

If there is ~~to be a war with~~ a probability of a War with Mexico, & more especially if there is to be one with both England & Mexico, it appears to me that troops & the material furniture should be collected at Jefferson Barracks, & the Western frontier in time, so that the Expedition could start in the Spring. If it does not, & war ensues, we may expect to find Mexico putting California into the possession of England, from alograssh it will be much more difficult to wrest it -

I have said nothing about any expedition to

to Oregon, as I have not taken into the account,
that we are to have an immediate war with
England. But in such an event the Govt will
doubtless take steps to defend our rights in that
territory.

I still hope we will have peace, & if it is
possible to pursue it without honor it should be done.
War is no pastime, & many good men will be
sacrificed ere peace can be restored, if war
takes place with any power. But I really anti-
-cipate that the foolhardiness of the Mexican Govt
de facto will precipitate us into an ~~un~~expected
war. Should it be so, I expect to be in it somewhere.
Should within the Expedition to California, or by
Santa Fe to Chihuahua & be determined on, I
should like to be with ~~them~~ it. Young & all
your colleagues, as well as all who know any, are
acquainted with my fondness for arms, & my inter-
-mediate knowledge of all descriptions of frontier life.
If our country needs men in the field, I think
I could make myself useful to her in some
capacity. But whether I go or not, it does
seem to me from much reflection on the subject,
& a thorough examination of all the sources of infor-
-mation to be found within my reach, that in case
of a war with Mexico, there should be an Expedition
fitted out to seize California.

I could write a great deal more on the reasons for
this opinion, & the details necessary to carry it out, but
it is unnecessary unless there is a probability they would
be deemed useful.

As you have taken pains to inform yourself in refer-
-ence to our Western relations, & can appreciate the
spirit in which this letter is written, I have hesitated
on your patience. Respectfully Yours,

John J. Hardin

How do you like it?

Hardin, Hou. J. J.

2 Feb. 1846.

Jacksonville M
July 5th 1846

Dear Major

Since I wrote to you
two days since, further advice has reached
us here of the insult offered to our
Govt by Mexico in its conduct towards
Mr Sidel on Minster - That war will
be the result from the position of the
usurping Govt of Mexico, seems almost
certain - The attention of the community
is being aroused to the subject, & such an
issue is expected - I send you a copy
of the Wisconsin Republican, merely to
show you the tone of the Wing press in
the West - I hear no one who expresses
a different opinion -

If Mexico does not give
every explanation & satisfaction which
our Govt should demand under the
circumstances, then there is no resort, but
to take up arms - In the mean time,
 whilst our Govt is demanding these explana-
tions (if she ever does prove under the circum-
stances to do so) I suppose, of course, ^{operations} ~~operations~~
will be taken for offensive ^{operations} ~~operations~~, &
raising troops &c.

Should a war occur with England
or Mexico, you have hitherto made me
express my desire & intention of taking
a part in it - Whenever there has been a
call for troops I have tried not always in
~~some times~~ the different capacities at
different times, of private, Brigade Major
& Command -

~~Should there be an occasion~~
in As you have been in my staff
~~or hitherto~~, & therefore as well as from
our former relations as friends, I can rely on
your treating me with justice in this
matter, Should there be an occasion
in which you deem my services can
be of any avail to the Government in a
Military capacity, you are authorized
to present them for the control of the
Govt -

I feel conscious, that if there is a
call for troops, you will be exceedingly annoyed
by requests for posts of all kinds - But as
I have held office in the Militia ever since I
have been of age, I have felt it to be my
duty to place my self at the service of
the Country, if I can be useful -

Though not agreeing with the Administration
in all points of domestic policy - I yet ~~ack-~~
~~knowledge~~ am yet in our foreign relations, I
acknowledge no fealty to any party but the
our Country, & believe it to be the duty of all
true patriots to strengthen the hands of the
Govt by every possible means against all
aggression & insult from foreign nations -

If I had a ^{desire} of service I would prefer a campaign
through Santa Fe to Sonora & California, believing
I could be most useful in such an Expedition

Without waiting to learn the results
of the action of Congress on this subject & acting
on my convictions of probabilities & duty, I have
thus ~~before~~ made a tender of my services - I
have chosen to do it through you, as you
can best make them known to the Govt if
any ~~then~~ are wanted, and I have not chosen
to do so through my immediate Representation
in Congress, because aside from other considerations,
the manner in which he has recently acted
towards me in endeavoring to prevent my
reappointment to Congress, would prevent me
from making the request of him -

If desirable you will confer with Messrs. Cotten &
McDonald of the Senate & John H. Henry (who is my cousin) of the H. of Reps.

Also, I feel confident, will do all in their power to give
me a position which I could fill satisfactorily to their
Committee -

Yours truly,
John J. Hardin

John J. Hardin
Jacksonville
Feb 11/66

John A. Douglass M.
Washington City
D.C.



P.S. If this process with Mexico, ~~such~~ like many
another has been before ~~ends~~ in legislative & diplomatic
snafus, you can turn this & my former letter, & they will
only serve to show you, that though differing in some
details, yet I still have some confidence in you -
J. J. H.

Windsor M May 14th 1846

Dear Judge

I suppose that just at this time you are in the midst of Military movements in Congress touching the Mexican war.

The news has awakened some interest, tho' not so much excitement as ~~the~~ I anticipated, and as the news of war usually makes - The attention of our people is not devoted towards Texas or Mexico, near the Gulf very much - ~~Kansas~~ People here seem to think that the Southerners will want to engross that job -

But there is very considerable anxiety to ~~see~~ learn whether Congress will order a corps to march to California via Santa Fe on such an expedition as I once sketched off to you - Since I heard from Genl Taylor & the certainty of the war, I have given out that I would go to California if the Govt would only order out a corps for that purpose -

There is a very general desire throughout the country amongst old as well young men to embark in such an expedition - Many of the very best men in the country - Merchants -

Members of the Legislature, Congress
& forums are all anxious to join
such an expedition - I believe I
could ~~raise~~ 2000 men in a few
days to go start ^{for} that trip -

By all means such an expedition
should be ~~put out~~ started immediately,
say by 15th June or 1st July - California
can be reached by before winter - &
Santa Fe & California being thus
taken would be held ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~fact~~ to
undoubtedly ~~no~~ in part for the ~~expenses~~
of the war - I suppose Napoleon
will raise a portion of the troops
for such an expedition - It would be
an advantage to our troops from this
State if we the commander could
come from Illinois, - ~~rather~~ ~~summer~~ ~~before~~
~~than~~ ~~be~~ ~~afforded~~ ~~if~~ Whosoever may
command, if he is a gentleman, &
a competent soldier, I will go along,
if I can do so -

We do not anticipate a call on
Illinois for troops to aid Genl Taylor - If
a call should be made, I trust it will
be immediately filled - But it is not

to be denied that there is much
more fear of the yellow fever, than
of all the Mexican forces that are now
assembled, ~~persuading~~ ~~the~~ ~~country~~,
especially, as to the danger of going
from this Northern climate at this season
of the year, to so Southern a latitude.

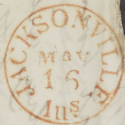
But if troops are wanted to go
to Santa Fe, or to California or
for both - you may depend upon any
number being raised - So also if there
is to be an expedition via Santa Fe
to Chihuahua & thence South or
Southwest for quantity -

Great interest is felt to
see how Congress will act - They
should act promptly & energetically -
It will have a good effect ~~abroad~~ ^{at} ~~home~~ ^{abroad} &
inspire confidence at home - A tam-
-ing, hesitating policy, will destroy
the robust & spirit of the people -

Congress should show that in case
of actual war all party feeling is lost
in the general determination to uphold
the arms & honor & rights of the nation.

Yours truly

John J. Hardin.
Hon S A Douglass. 3



FREE

Hon S A Douglass
Washington City
D.C.

May 1846
Wm
Mr Wm
Mr Wm
Mr Wm

Bradstown
Virginia, May 20th 1846

Dear Judge

Your letter of the 2^d May
reached me in this place yesterday -
I am now attending court, & ^{am} soon irre-
sistibly watching the news by the boats
from Monterey than the business of
court - We have just heard of the
killing down of Monteros, & the sacrifice
of our troops in their encounter with
the Mexicans, & it has begun to instil
warlike feelings into our citizens -

Since I heard of the outbreak
in Mexico, I have been making
arrangements to raise a corps for the
California Expedition, on which I have
my heart very much set - It strikes
me that this is the most propi-
ous time to manure California to
our Government - No time however is
to be lost in raising & dispatching
the troops on that expedition - If the
summer is past it will be too late to
send troops in the fall to California -
If we can get off by 1st to 10th July it will
do, but we should start sooner -

In several counties active
& good men have promised me to raise
companies, if there is a call - Col Mather
- of Oxford, Harkness a merchant of Jacksonville,
Harris of Minard, Hillpatrick of Scott,
Isaac Plaster of Cap, & sundry others
will raise companies - I have no
doubt but that I soon can get

as many men as the Government
will ^{allow} to go - In two weeks at
furthest I expect to organize any corps
authorized to be raised in this state, for that
expedition - If ^{the} a volunteer
corps is ordered to be raised ^{to hold themselves in readiness} I ^{long} shall organize a corps of Mounted
men, & you ~~are~~ ^{can} depend on
a force of from 1000 to 2000 men being
raised annually to go wherever called
on as a mounted force - of course we
want to go to California, or Santa Fe,
but I will ~~take~~ go South if neces-
-sary - I presume however that
Kentucky Tennessee & the South Western
states will expect to monopolize the
attack on Mexico by the Gulf - and as
there will be but few troops from the
North West in that quarter, the
forces raised in this state would prefer
service in another quarter -

We are very impatiently waiting
for news from Washington, nothing
having reached us from that place -

For the expressions of your willing-
-ness to aid in procuring me a place
in which I may be useful to our
country in this war, I am under
many obligations to you - I think I
can rely on my old friends brethren &
Montgomery of the Senate, as well as many
of our fellow members in the last
Congress to aid in procuring me

to have a position where I may
be useful - What position that
may be, I shall leave to yourself & my
other friends in Washington -

As we do not wish other
states to be ahead of us, in raising
troops, you will confer a favor by
advising me in advance of what will
be done, or is likely to be done & long as,
towards raising troops, & the manner of
raising them -

For an efficient & sturdy
organization of a corps to march to Califor-
-nia, there should be stationed at St Louis
an officer of the Government, or agent
with very necessary powers, to facilitate
the arming & equipping of the corps - It
would be best & cheapest for the Govt
to let the volunteers furnish their own horses,
& the Govt should only furnish ~~at~~ a
few horses for servants on the route.

The military spirit which has
been stirring so long, seems to be
moving very much - I have taken
steps to plan my Brigade in thorough or-
-ganization & I have applications constantly
for leave to join my ~~present~~ command -

Will not an expedition be organized
to march make a descent on Vera Cruz
take the Forts there & march ~~thence~~
the city of Mexico? That would be a glorious
expedition -

Yours truly

John Hardin

P.S. The Mrs. Muffage & the passage through the house
of the Bill to raise 50,000 more has just reached us -
This is right - & acting properly - Still I don't
authorize the California Exposition - Will it require a
separate Bill? Men must be enlisted for
that exhibition for 18 months or 2 years -



Dear

S A Douglass

Washington City

D.C.

Dear

Mr. J. Gardner
Beardstown
Ills
May 1876

I have seen of the last meeting
already reported to accompany the conference
exhibition, that were paid a sum -

Springfield Nov, 25th 1866
Dear Judge

I am indebted to you for your favor of the 15th Inst which reached me at Jacksonville this morning - Leaving there I go to see the Govr I have now on the subject, & reached this place this morning when I found the opinion on the Govr for 3 Regts as you state - I have talked with every body, made a speech to the Volunteers, wrote out my Proclamation, copied it for the paper, & ~~for~~ intend finishing up on your Excellency -

In the first place, what does the ~~law~~ 5,000 volunteer law mean in this? Who are to elect, or appoint the Generals of Brigades & Division? You mention that they are to be elected by the laws of the State, but they are to be bound as to the Govt by Regts - Where in the service of the Govt ~~shall~~ how are Brigades & Division officers to be appointed? By striking out the word of the Pres to appoint, it seemed to be the intention of Congress for these officers to be chosen as similar officers are chosen by in the States? Is this the

interruption given the law of the War
Dept. The Gov has written to Gen
Marey on the subject. I wish you
would see or write to him about the matter.
It is proper that these officers should be
appointed as they are in the States -

I do not expect the Pres would appoint
one to such a post, but I think Sweeney
ask for this place in leaving the selection
of the Genl officers to the Volunteers -

I hear that Baker &
Simples both desire to command this
Brigade from Ills. Simple has written
to the Gov in this sense. He does not think
he has any power in the matter -

Broas I hear is for Baker. Simple
is to be at home in a few days to take
care of his interests. How give me a
fair shake, & if I don't give them
a fair fall I will owe you a bushel
of apples -

Baker has written him to raise a
Regt to begin on. But they don't want to
go with him. Simple is unpopular,
also with those who stand under him
in the Black Hawk war -

William & my other friends will write I know
to have this law construed as was intended -

In the 2^d place - We are grievously
disappointed in not having that Mexican
is to have all the troops raised there to go to
Santa Fe - ^{headquarters} We think Ills has a right to
half this force - 5000 men could be raised
in a few days to start there. I am
raising ~~now~~ a Regt with the intention
of turning in that direction if the Govt
will authorize it - See if we can't go -

The men can be mounted in a week or less -

You are right in desiring to
represent me this campaign - Baker &
group is representing himself - Should I
go out you can always find a camp stool
& platoon in my tent if you visit a

The news of Genl Taylor's victory
dawns us greatly - but many think
it will lead to the speedy close of the war -
I doubt this - Is it the determination of the
Govt to throw an imposing force into Mexico
by Tampico or Vera Cruz - If so, that
will be worth looking after -

No protest called for or thought of
in Illinois this year -

I should be glad to hear from you
often -

Yours truly

John J. Hardin



FREE

Am A Douglass

Washington City

D



June 2/1846

Yours Affection

Jacksonville May 31st 1866
Dear ~~Genl~~ Major -

Contrary to all the
predictions of the croakers who infect
my community, & who at that time seem
to have a holy horror of Yellow Fever,
Illinois is doing her duty in raising
volunteers -

On my return from Springfield I
notified the Battalion here that I
would call for volunteers on yesterday - I
made them an address & in an hour
we had 65 volunteers enrolled, mostly
from the country - I know of so many
others going, ^{with the} that I expect to form
another company in this place next
Saturday -

Yorn old friend Col Weatherford came to see
me at midnight after I returned from Springfield,
& returned to Franklin (15 miles) before day to
begin to raise a company - I heard a
report of his speech to the boys at
Franklin -

"Boys", said he, "the D - & Mergers
have come out on to our side of the River
& killed some of our men - They must
be driven back & by J - G -
you must all go" -

A man who has then says they all
saw down their names but the very
old men - Certain it is he will
get one or more companies -
Scott will furnish over two companies -
a Regt. - Pike has not yet acted but
my information satisfies me I will
get two or three companies from them.
Harris the Democratic nominee for Senator
in Missouri is raising a company to go
with me - Smith of ~~Massachusetts~~ ^{Massachusetts} is raising another - Rolfe of Springfield
another - Green is also in the field -
I believe we can raise about one
quite easily - I shall hear from Quincy
that the Buffum will go, & Pittman &
Gibbs both have written to me that
Pittman will raise another company -

You know it is our business season
& it is more difficult to raise men at this
season & to go to the Gulf than on any other
service - But they turn out here wonderfully.

Illinois will not be behind her sister.
Owing to our having few large towns it is
more difficult to get men together & they
consequently act slower than in the cities;
but you may assure the President
& Secretary of War, ~~and~~ & General Scott of this.

to commanders, that we will be
ready to at the appointed place to stand
up to any service -

I have raised my men to march through
the Yellow fun to the city of Mexico -

I shall have no trouble in getting a
Regt. - The prospect is I shall get two or
three, & then what is to be done?

I wish you would inquire whether
a Regt. will be permitted to embrace more
than 10 companies?

If you can have the time of march
write me - Tho' it is hatter to go through
the upper part of Texas, yet it will take
months to get into Mexico & wear down the
spirit of the men - By Tampico, ^{a sea route} is the
route -

There is a good deal of ~~something~~ ^{rumor} here
because we can't send any men to Santa
Fe or California - Thousands will go that
route if they have the chance -

Can't Congress accommodate the applicants
by authorizing the enrollment of a few Regiments
of officers not to rank up than Majors?
Also some odd Battalions of ~~infantry~~ ^{artillery}?
I will promise to have one filled in of each
filled in double quick time -

I go to Springfield in the morning & will

Write you from there -

If we are to go through Texas into Mexico
best provision for us to mount our men.
Horses are plentiful & cheaper here than
any where else in the Union -

Yours truly
John J. Gardner

Major S. A. Douglas, Jr.
Washington City

DC

March 16 1861

General

Meracian

Yale Hall
etc

Write me what is going on - about
military matters - have you noticed we
don't read a tackle any thing about them
now - uniforms! - Who is going? When are we going?
When did Taylor whip them last, are the odds of the day.

Springfield Jan 3^d 1846

Dear Major -

We have heard nothing definite from Matamoros or Washington for some days & am getting impatient -

Here we, of the Militia, are busy again & getting ready for the campaign -

Returns from contractors are coming in fast, & some from unexpected quarters - I feel satisfied that the whole requisition will be filled up by the middle of next week - & that there will be an overplus of 15 or 20 companies - I sent you got the President & Secy of War to you that if the requisition is now then filled that they will never authorize Regt - It can easily be raised - or rather it will be raised before it is known they will not be wanted -

Mr Clinchard wrote me on the 22^d ult that it was in contemplation to send the Illinois troops on an expedition against the Eastern provinces of Mexico, probably by the Gage's Route from Fort Gibson - If this is done the troops should be mounted - They should also be sent to Fort Gibson on the Arkansas or to Independence Missouri by steam boat - This would ~~not~~ keep the troops fresh, & would not cost more than the transportation of the troops & baggage & supplies ~~the~~ across the country - I can assure -

The requisite number of mounted troops can be raised in ten days after the order is received.

If ~~the~~ troops from Illinois are to be sent against any of the Eastern provinces of Mexico it should be known to them in time so that they can be in readiness. A change of course & of disposition of troops, as mounted men instead of Infantry, will make a change of men in ~~recruiting~~ in some instances. But all vacancies can be readily supplied.

If the troops from this state are not to be advanced into service abroad then ~~since~~ we should also know it. Thousands want to go in the fall. - I have always ^{since the receipt of the organization} said I preferred in number ^{over} about 1st July for the City of Mexico.

We are looking for should

I Sample -

Companies are situated as follows -

Madison Co 2 - Shelby 2 - Macomb 1 - Macon
St Clair 1 - Fayette 1 -

We know of the organization of 18 other companies in the center of the state, & many counties in the center not heard from -

We have our difficulty to overcome in this state - We have no funds at command to get out the troops - Having neither Banks, or large cities to aid in getting out the troops ~~are~~ are liable to some inconvenience in getting out volunteers in a hurry - I do not know what the Song of War can and us, but think in might by giving a general order to the

Company of Supplies at St Louis to
furnish the Illinois troops with such
things as an company & make for the troops -

I have seen a letter from the Company
of Supplies at St Louis to the Gov in which
he states that no orders have been received
thru to furnish the volunteers with
trunks. This is an important item, &
as trunks are to be furnished by the Gov, the
War Dept will receive no few left handed
blessings if this is not speedily attended to -
Can not this be suggested to the War
Department without trouble by you -

We are all anxious to have
you soon as we will be needed.

Yours truly

John J. Hardin.

Major S. S. Douglass }

P.S. have you adjourned long? & go along
with us?

N.B. Since writing above - I have seen the Dir to authorize the
Pres to appoint the Genls. If it happens & yourself & Mr
Command may think it advisable you can may know my
name to the President. I wish to continue in service during
the war & no longer - Do as you think best. I have
written to Mr. Command on this subject -



Major S A Douglass M.L.
Washington City
D.C.

June 11 1846
Curtis

Yours friend
Merrill
M.L.

Jacksonville June 14th 1866

Dear Weyor

I have been so busy, writing letters, making war orders and answering questions that I have not annoyed you with a letter for some days. Our troops will begin to rendezvous at Altam in 4 or 5 days. Baker's Regt is filled up from the central portion of the state. He boasted largely of his influence with the President, Genl Scott &c & claimed to have greater privileges from the Secy of war & other officers in the getting equipments &c, than is allowed to the Gov, or than can be exercised by any other officer of the state. It was also said he was to go a different route from the other troops. These ~~ideas~~ reports flew abroad, & has enabled him to fill his Regt readily. I believe it will all turn out to be a trap to his men in the long run in expenses, but that is for future consideration -

My Regt will be filled from Major Scott's Cap. Adair, Pike, (Curtain & far) and then Richardson of Selway Co, Newby of Brown,

Regt of Fulton, Mr. Ke of New have
written or advised me that they will join
my Regiment ^{with their companies.} A company from Chicago &
another from Galena is also expected to join
my command. It ~~then~~ is therefore probable
that I will have a battalion over my
command - If so I will get a place for
some of your friends - most probably
Richardson of Selwyn.

Shields is trying to get the command of a
Regiment ~~about~~ ^{about} ~~there~~ ^{there} I expect will succeed.
I feel confident I can get along well & please
- with him - Who will command the
other Regt is uncertain.

I stand to St. Louis tomorrow to see
about the supplies for my men - tents, camp
equipage &c. - The Govt is rather behind with
these articles.

By the way a word of ~~be~~ a few of instances
to you Mr. Co. - A volunteer is allowed but
\$5 per month - This is too little - The officers are
well enough paid - But the volunteers will absolutely
be brought in debt in many cases - They have
to supply themselves with clothing - Now the
cheapest jeans uniform which can be got with
the trimming & making will cost ten (\$10) dollars.

Then they must have another kind of clothes
to take with them - a butcher knife to eat
with - shoes or boots & other indispensable
articles which cost money - In addition
this the War Dept or its companions have
decided that a Blanket is a part of a
volunteer's clothing, & they expect to furnish
that - This will cost the volunteer from \$2.50
to \$3.00. for a good tolerable blanket - There is
scarcely a single volunteer who ~~can~~ will be
equipped under \$12 when his outfit makes
clothes, & most of them will have to expend
\$20 to have what is necessary - Now the
War Dept ~~to~~ considers the law ~~that~~ allowing
~~for~~ clothing to the volunteers, thus - They allow
\$3.50 per month in lieu of all clothing - So that
if we are discharged in a month, we get but
\$3.50 for all our outlay - And any way it can
be fixed the clothing will cost nearly ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~much~~ ^{much}
as what is allowed even if we are in
service a year - Now thought to be
two ^{\$12} dollars allowed for clothing at first, & then
\$3.50 per month would supply most of the
men with the other necessary clothing after
we are started - But the decision that a
Blanket is clothing is absurd & outrageous
unjust. Pants ought to be set down as clothing also.

then coffee - coffee pots, plates, knives, forks & spoons, or
anything else to eat with, are furnished by Govt.
These are ~~voluntary~~ ^{voluntary} luxuries I suppose for
volunteers. If soldiers use these
luxuries they must pay for them out of their
wages - which are \$8. per month & \$3.50 for
clothing - \$4.50 - altogether - When volunteers
reach the line of Rendezvous & find the Govt. don't
supply the articles he needs, he is compelled to purchase
them of merchants who have to make their
profits out of him, & also their living expenses
into service, & also their living expenses
into service. Their pay comes to that amount of
money - of course they charge a
small profit - Nearly every man will start
with a month's pay in debt - some more.
This is unavoidable under the regulations of the
War Department - Now if I have a friend in
company, tell him to aid in rectifying this
injustice to the private soldier - The officers
have funds enough - but the private soldier
is not sufficiently paid ^{by the Government} & can't afford to. Tell
them too, there are men in the ranks who
deserve to fill, and some of whom will be afterwards
the highest officers in the nation - The volunteers
do not expect or wish to make money out of the
Government, but they have a right to demand
that their reasonable necessities be supplied while
in the service of the Government, & that they be not
discharged with a debt incurred for necessities
furnished which ought to be supplied by the Govt.

Yours friend

John J. Hardin

Jacksonville 2d June 18th 46

Respected Madam -

You will excuse the freedom of a stranger in addressing you, on account of the subject on which he writes -

I shall have the command of a Regiment of Illinois Volunteers in the Mexican campaign. From having had some experience in the management of men, I am convinced that moral ~~and~~ ^{and} influences are of the greatest assistance in controlling soldiers -

There seems to be no provision made for the appointment of chaplains to the Volunteers; at least it is doubtful who has the power of making an appointment if one can be made -

You are acquainted I presume, with the Rev James Gallahue, for many years a distinguished preacher in East Tennessee, & who has since wandered out into the far West. He belongs to the same denomination ^{of Christianity} with which you & myself have the privilege of being connected - He is very popular as a preacher in this state & has a very general acquaintance throughout all the western states. If he

is appointed Chaplain, he will go with us to Mexico. He has been in Texas, & his admiration for it, & his gentleness as a preacher & a man admirably qualify him to accompany the expedition -

Is it asking too much of you to request his appointment as Chaplain from the President, if it is within his gift? Or at least that he would sanction the appointment, if it is made by the Commander of a Regiment -

If the Regulations of the War Department prevent the appointment of Chaplains, could you better exercise the influence which your character & position give you, than by requesting that an order be made by that Department for authorising the appointment of Chaplains -?

It is not proper to place so many thousand men, entirely beyond the control of all religious influences. The moral and religious sentiments of the community should march with us from our homes, & in no way can this be so effectually promoted as by the appointment of Chaplains to the army -

I have addressed you on this subject, instead of writing directly to the President, because I feared a letter to him would be lost amidst the multiplicity of business ⁱⁿ ~~into~~ which he is immersed, and because I knew that all monuments for ~~discouraging~~ ^{discouraging} moral restraints amongst armies, and softening the ~~barren~~ ^{barren} unavailing horrors of war have been fostered by the beneficent hand of woman -

Should this be deemed worthy of an answer in any way, my friend Judge Douglass of Illinois, will know where a letter will find me. If any thing can be done towards appointing Mr Gallagher I wish to advise him prior to my departure from this State -

Trusting that you will pardon the freedom of this letter,

I have the honor to remain

Yours most Respectfully,

John J. Hardin

Mr President Polk }

Mr James T. Polk
Washington City
D.C.

Jacksonville Ills

June 13th 1846

My Dear Sir

I am going to Mexico & will command a Regiment, & would have a higher command if the Illinois volunteers could confer on -

You officers of the Navy will have nothing to do but lounge around Madros, running down trading smacks. No honor or credit can be had in that service -

This war ought to bring some other fruit beside that of threshing the Mexicans. The plan of the campaign will take the army & its detachments through to some of the best parts of the continent, where there is an untilled field ~~for~~ of service for the labor of the geologist, mineralogist, & meteorologist - Why cannot a corps of scientific men be organized to accompany the expedition? It certainly ought to be done. It will cost the Govt very little & be of great interest & advantage to all men of letters,

as well as add to the honor & dignity of the
~~entire~~ enterprise - No one is fitter to
well, in my opinion, to head such a corps
as yourself. Ask for the organization
of such a corps, & come & join us - I have
written to Robert D. Owen of Indiana &
Judge Douglas of Illinois on this subject. If
you think proper confer with them -

I would suggest David Dale Owen
to be appointed Geologist -

You & your corps (if you should organize
one) would be most welcome to be attached
to my command - If you come along, you
shall find quarters with me, & all my
power & influence to assist you in promoting
all manner of scientific or valuable
investigations - If you want to come &
can't arrange it otherwise, you can be appointed
Instructor, or assistant to my command -
This can be arranged at the War Office -
I should be most happy to have you with me -

You see that I take it for granted
that your learning does not prevent you

from riding on horseback, & that you
would not disdain prosecuting scientific
research even in the midst of undisciplined
militia -

I should be glad to hear your
views ^{on} this subject -

Yours truly,

John J. Hardin

Lieut. Manny West

Sunt Mary U.S.N.
Washington City
DC

Atton June 16th 1846

Dear Mayer

Yours of in answer to my letter of the 25th has reached me yesterday just as I was getting onto the stage to come to this place. I did not read it until I was on my way -

I am gratified at the interest you have taken to advance the comfort of the volunteers, - & especially, especially, ~~these~~ these. I am pleased to hear that Genl Taylor is to have the command in the field - This will give general satisfaction in the West & with the army -

If we were permitted to mount my Regt I should be much pleased to go to Chihuahua. We could march there, take the country, & then win Genl Taylor in time to participate in the fall campaign - But if we are to go on foot, it will be a very serious & slow trip, and I fear would wear out the spirits of the men without enabling them to see an engagement - It seems to me folly to send footmen to catch the Mexicans about Chihuahua who all go on horseback -

For this reason I am at present
inclined to ~~go to~~ join your company.
presuming he will march to the highlands
of Mexico during the hot months - Besides
I would like to be with the main army, unless
I was certain of being as a detachment
that would see service -

I am exceedingly pleased with
your the expression of your determination
to join my command - and at any, and
at all times, ~~and~~ you will be most
welcome at my quarters -

Wentworth, Warren, & Richardson want
the command of Battalions under me -
All the companies north of this which do
not join Baker will wish to be in
my Regt - There are 14 or 15 - This will make
a Regt & a Battalion - How they will
be arranged I can't certainly say, until
all the companies rendezvous here - This
will be in 10 days - I feel
confident I can arrange it so as to give you
the command of a Battalion, with the title
of Lieut Colonel - I do not however yet
positively - I must first see Warren &
Wentworth, & if I can arrange it with

them will send you them - But as
we just going this morning to St Louis
I will not see them before Saturday 23 -
They will write to have you with us -
Richardson I think will join Howard's
Battalion & be united with a battalion
from Mc Donnells district - who will
command that Regt is uncertain -

Be assured I will deal freely & liberally
with you, & wish it will win you friends &
popularity, (which you don't want to lose) you
shall have a command - In the mean time
be looking over Scott's Infantry tactics, &
also "Jomini's art of War" "Boutan on po-
-sitions", & such other good military works
as we will read to bring with you -

Should I find here partly strong oppo-
-sition from Morrison & Bejall of St Louis -
The Regt will be probably composed from Randolph
Pary, Warburton, Clinton Madison & Leland &
in the evening - - Baker takes care of
the Missouri River except any Pragers & 5 off
more the officer of all north of this with the
exception of his Regt - Baker I hear already
has trouble with his companies, owing to the
false expectations which they say were
held out to them to induce them to join

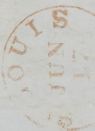
his Regt - - - - - Mercers Company from
Baltimore are here - a few others will come in
this week - all must wait - I regret some
good companies have to be rejected - Mercers have
noted above they enlisted for 6 months only -

J. J. Hendrick
Alton
Ill
June 1846

D.C.

Washington City

Wm. J. A. D. Gray



I will visit you again as soon as I can
see how matters stand - I have no doubt I
can get ^{off} ~~any~~ the volunteers can give - As yet I
seem to have no enemies - yours truly
J. J. Hendrick

[June 25, 1846]

3

To The President of the United States.

We the undersigned Members of the Constitutional Convention, of the State of New York, respectfully request, that Capt. Robert Hugunin of Sackett Harbor, in this State, be appointed a Master in the Navy of the United States.

Capt. Hugunin served with credit in that Capacity during the War with Great Britain; and since the Peace has been distinguished for his enterprise and energy in private life; and as having contributed more, perhaps, than any person now living, to build up the Commercial prosperity of our Northern Lakes.

We believe Capt. Hugunin to be eminently qualified for the Station he desires, and that he has peculiar claims upon the favorable consideration of the Government.

Albany June 25th 1846.

Yonah Sanford	John Tracy
J. D. Hutchinson	Rosalis J. Hofer
Daniel B. Halsey	Alpheus J. Greene
Bishop Perkins	Eliza W. Sheldon
J. L. Riker	Samuel H. Kingsley
Frederick Clark	J. T. Harrison
L. S. Chatfield	Morse Wadsworth
A. W. Banforth	Comptee D. White
S. J. Tilden	Abel Huntington
"	Orris Mark
Mrs. Leslie Russell	Joseph R. Flinders
William Taylor	D. James Blum

W. H. North

W. G. Angel
A. W. Ward

William Hotchkiss =
L. M. Cook

A. A. Pratt

Rufus Parish

Jas. T. Powers

Henry Warren

C. P. Kingsley
Alex. P. Vacke

Robt. Doxson

Abra. Wittick

Chas. F. Kirkland

C. M. McMeie

Abraham Bull

Amos Bascom

H. T. Brayton

Moses Faygon

Enoch Strong

R. P. Moulton

W. Thimble

John L. Stephens

"

Harry Barker

Thomas B. Seaw

Benjamin Stanton

W. L. Stonor

Remondell L.

Eliza B. Smith

H. Gardner

David John Shaw

Citizens of Albany
for Opp. of Master

Nov 1846

Deletion

3

[1846] 4
Ston June 28th 1846

Dear Judge

I hope you will not think, because I have not mentioned to you, that I have forgotten you in the midst of the military confusion which prevails here - I have been here several days, having travelled in various directions since I wrote you from St Louis. Things are beginning to assume a more definite shape now.

It has been conceded on all hands that I should have a Regt. - Therefore, there has been much talk of as a candidate for Colonel in the north. - ~~It is for~~ The following companies will be part of my Regt. -

Matthiessen	Wagon	{	W. L. Dickey	Labell
J. P. Roberts	"		Mower	Lock
Montgomery	Scott		Fry	Green
Wagon	Adams		Richardson	Schuyler
Low	- J. Darrif			

From Gen Schuyler & J. Darrif they have not yet notified the Gen of their desire to join the Regt, but their officers tell me they will do so to day.

There is another company from Lock, but as some little ^{feeling} ~~feeling~~ exists between the Lock companies, I am not certain whether they will join us, but presume they will.

It is proposed to make another Regt, as follows
Madison 3 companies including 2d Regt. St. Clair Co
monroe 1 - Perry 1 - Washington 1, Monroe & Latham
Bond or Pulaski - - Morrison, Bisfall,
J. D. Wood, & J. D. Whiteside are candidates for
Colonel - - Bisfall has the best chance I
think - - The other counties will form the
other Regt - - Foreman & Stephenson of Jefferson
County & Co are spoken of for Colonel -
27 companies are in & generally have a full
armament of from 75 to 80 muskets -
There are 45 companies fighting now about not
getting in -

Matthews, Crow, Wanner, Dickey & Holton
& Richardson are spoken of as candidates to
command a Battalion - but all in the last feeling
& are on every puffing his claims - Richardson
says he will go for you & I think he will induce
some of the others to withdraw in your favor -

I consulted with Shields, who advised me to
talk about your joining us to the officers
with some of whom I have spoken on this
subject - all seem pleased with your joining
us, & some will take an active part, if it is
advisable to get you a command - But it is
understood your name will not be used if
there is opposition of a serious character, & nothing
will be done which can injure you - - The Regts
will be organized in a day or two, & then you
can learn better -

|| We have the bricks of the camp in my
Regt & calculate to make it "the crack
Regt" - No man ever saw better material
for an army. ~~There~~ ^{Some} ~~men~~ ^{men} of the
Lieut. Hawkins of the U.S. Army is here to assist in
drilling - Many of the companies are making good
progress, & but most are undisciplined of course -
We will be compelled to remove from this as soon
as the Regts are organized so as to get a place
to drill - I will probably go to Jefferson & Hancock

There is a numerous shout of execration at
the idea that Great Britain should act as
mediator between us & Mexico - To permit the
nation whose interests clash most with ours
in reference to Mexico to be the mediator
would be submitting to national degradation -
We want respect of England has to give it
to us - Such at least is the unanimous
explosion here - ||

We are all in the dark, with
reference to the time when we are to
start South - The route you designate
in your last letter, to Chihuahua is
different from what I expected - It seems
to me that it will take an endless
time to make the route on foot -

Yours friend
George Warden

[1846]



FREE

Hon S A Douglass
Washington City
D.C.

Ms. A. 9. 2. 5. 1. 8. 4. 6.
Newman

1846

Ms. A. 9. 2. 5. 1. 8. 4. 6.
Newman

Dear Sir

Hyde Park Duches County
June 27th 1846

I have received your two letters, "the decomposed
by the report," of my old friend Mr Holmes which is as ex-
= celsely clear succinct and able exposition of the entire
subject and coincides with my recollections as well as
my intentions while in the Department

He has viewed the subject as a Statesman and
Patriot and I hope how many reap benefit from his
admirable report

You refer to having exhibited some of my late letters
to you to the committee as though it may have caused me
some disquietudes This is not the case They express my
feelings and opinions frankly and sincerely and I have
no objections to their being seen by all mankind

Should you at length squeeze some letters remain-
= ing from Congress I shall view it as a greater triumph
of energy and perseverance than your success in beating
sitting hump

Yours friend & friend

To David Meyer Esq
Washington

(Signed) J H Paulding

How Stephen A Douglass

Dear Sir

I have the pleasure to transmit to you
the above copy of a letter from Mr Paulding in relation
to the report made by the Board Comed in my case before
Congress I also enclose you one of the Report which I
beg of you to read And also solicit your friendly
support to its consummation

I have the honor to be
Yours most Obedt

David Meyer

David Myerle
Hyde Park
N.Y.
June 1846

Dear Sir

After your arrival

I have received from the Boston Convention
your letter of the 10th inst. and in reply
to inform you that the same has been
forwarded to the proper authorities for
their consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
David Myerle

I have also received from the
Boston Convention your letter of the 10th
inst. and in reply to inform you that
the same has been forwarded to the
proper authorities for their consideration.

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Your obedient servant,
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Your obedient servant,
David Myerle

DAVID MYERLE.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 477.]

JUNE 17, 1846.

Mr. I. E. HOLMES, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, made the following

REPORT :

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom were referred the memorial and accompanying papers of David Myerle, report :

That from the memorial and accompanying evidence, it appears that the memorialist previous to the year 1840 had been long and extensively engaged in the manufacture of cordage, and was possessed of much useful knowledge on the subject of the growth, preparation and manufacture of hemp.

That it had long been considered an object of the highest national importance, and as vitally essential to our true independence of other nations for one of the most important elements of national defence, to introduce and establish, the practicability and safety of the process of water-rotting hemp, in the hemp-growing regions of the United States, for the supply of its navy and commercial marine.

That previous to the period named, many efforts and experiments had been made, both under the sanction and encouragement of the government, and by individual enterprise, to accomplish this important end; but that all such efforts had proved unsuccessful and abortive; and had left a deep and abiding impression on the public mind, that the said process was impracticable in our climate, owing to its unhealthiness, and that if practised, would produce pestilence and great destruction of life, wherever it was attempted. That so violent were the prejudices against the operation, after all the efforts that had been made, that scarcely a ton of water-rotted hemp was made in the whole hemp-growing region of the United States.

That notwithstanding this state of public opinion and prejudice was almost universal, at the period named, the knowledge and experience of the memorialist, led him, in his interviews with the navy commissioners and the Hon. J. K. Paulling then Secretary of the Navy, to express the utmost confidence in the entire practicability and safety of said process, and of the feasibility of successfully overcoming, by a course of proper experiments, the deep-rooted prejudices against it.

That concurring in the views of the memorialist, and justly considering it an object of the highest national consideration, and eminently entitled to the patronage and encouragement of the government, the Secretary of

Ritchie & Heiss, printers.

the Navy, Mr. Paulding, urged the memorialist to abandon the business in which he was then engaged, as far as it should be necessary, and to enter upon and carry out, in the heart of the hemp-growing region of the West, the experiments necessary to establish both the practicability and safety to health, of the process of water-rotting hemp—That to induce him to do so, he tendered him the patronage of the government, and made the most liberal promises of encouragement and indemnity against loss,—and if successful, of the most generous reward from the government. That the navy commissioners, at the time, fully concurred in the views of the Secretary, and, as the memorialist alleges, the chairman and several members of the Naval committee of the House of Representatives, warmly coincided in the same.

That under these assurances and promises, and with much zeal and patriotic pride, in anticipation of the successful accomplishment of the objects and wishes of the government, and at the same time of conferring a great benefit upon his country, the memorialist agreed to abandon all other business, and enter at once upon the experiments proposed.

That until Congress should act, in aid of the objects of the department—which action seems to have been relied upon, both by the memorialist and the department—instead of a contract to sustain, save harmless, and reward the memorialist, as was promised and intended,—and for the purpose of at once exercising, to that end, all the powers which it possessed, the said Secretary directed a contract to be entered into with the memorialist, (but taking no security from him), for the delivery of 200 tons of American water-rotted hemp, to be equal to the best Russian, during the year 1841; and before its delivery, or any part thereof, and in full view of the great difficulties and uncertainty of a literal compliance with the strict terms of the contract, by the first experiment, caused that contract to be extended to 500 tons, to be delivered by the close of 1842.

From a careful examination of the case, the committee are satisfied that it was not the sole or leading object of the department, by the contract entered into with the memorialist, merely to give a preference to American water-rotted hemp, and to obtain the domestic article, in that particular instance, if as good as Russian;—but, on the contrary, that his great and leading national object, was, by the patronage of the government, and the success of the experiment, to be made by the memorialist, under that patronage, to establish the practicability and safety of the water-rotting process, in our own country; and thus provide for the supply of our own navy and merchant shipping, with an American article, equal to the foreign.

This object is distinctly avowed by Secretary Paulding, in his letters and report to the Senate, and is abundantly shown by the evidence in the case. The correspondence between the memorialist and the department during the year 1840, shows beyond all question, that his efforts were viewed as an experiment in which that branch of the government took the deepest interest. The application of the Secretary of the Navy to Congress, for authority, contrary to existing laws, to keep the memorialist under an advance of \$25,000, which passed the Senate, but failed in the House for want of time, as is alleged, shows the same thing;—and the debate and action of the Senate show that that body also concurred in the objects of the Secretary, in favor of this great American interest.

After having entered into the foregoing arrangements with the Secretary of the Navy, the committee are satisfied, that the memorialist, abandoning every other object and pursuit, entered upon the accomplishment of the difficult task assigned him, with the most entire good faith, and continued to prosecute the same with a degree of zeal and energy as rare as they were commendable. The plan adopted was the one best calculated to accomplish the object—It was the "*experimentum crucis*" of purchasing hemp—constructing proper pools—and actually water-rotting the same, in the different counties and neighborhoods throughout a wide circle of the hemp-growing region of country.

The expenses attendant upon these operations of the memorialist, which were all borne by himself, must have been very heavy; and the difficulties and obstacles, in the beginning, are represented as almost insuperable,—growing out of the deep-rooted prejudices of the people, founded upon an almost universal belief, of the fatal effects of the process upon the lives both of men and animals. His workmen, (of which at one period he had about 200,) were difficult to procure, owing to a fear of the effects upon their health; and when obtained, at high prices, had to be instructed in every part of the process of water-rotting and preparing the hemp for market.

At the close of the fall of 1840, the memorialist seems to have established the entire practicability of carrying on the process of water-rotting hemp, without any serious detriment to the health of the country; and so complete was the change of public opinion on this point, founded on the actual experiments of the memorialist, and the evidence of their own senses, that a great number of the most respectable planters, entered into an agreement with him, to furnish him with water-rotted hemp in 1841—some engaging to furnish as much as 100 tons.

The process of preparing the hemp for delivery to the government was then commenced and carried on through the winter; and though attended with much difficulty, owing to a total want of experience on the part of the workmen,—yet as the only difficulty supposed to be insuperable, (that of practically establishing, to the satisfaction of the country, that pestilence did not accompany the process of water-rotting,) had been completely overcome,—and as this was a part of an experiment which a little time and experience could not fail to overcome, the experiment seems to have been considered, both by the memorialist and the department, as promising entire and certain success.

During all this period the correspondence between the memorialist and the department, shows the deep interest taken by the latter, in the success of the experiment. Samples of the hemp were sent to the department, examined, formally inspected and approved, and the memorialist warmly congratulated upon the successful issue of his efforts.

During the latter part of the winter of 1841, two shipments of hemp were made for the government, to Boston, to be delivered and inspected, at the Charlestown navy yard, whilst other portions of the same were being prepared for shipment. On the 3d of March 1841, (the day Mr. Secretary Paulding's term of office expired) though no portion of the said 200 tons had been delivered within the year limited by the first contract—neither of the said shipments having reached Charlestown until after the expiration of the period limited by the contract for the delivery of the

whole—the said contract was extended to 500 tons, to be delivered on or before the 1st of December 1842.

This extension of the contract by Mr. Paulding, before any part of the 200 tons had been delivered, (though the period for the delivery of the whole had passed,) shows, as the committee believe, that the contract entered into with the memorialist, was not considered by the Secretary as an ordinary one, nor the relations existing between the memorialist and the government, those existing between it and ordinary contractors.

Shortly after this extension of the contract, the two shipments of hemp arrived—were examined—scrutinized—condemned—and rejected—as the memorialist alleges unjustly and without cause, and from an ignorance of, or prejudice against, the domestic article—and as Mr. Paulding states, against his intentions, had he remained in the department.

At the time of this rejection, it appears that the memorialist's private affairs had become deranged from an entire neglect of them, to insure the success of the hemp experiments—his credit had become greatly extended, from the heavy expenses of his hemp operations—the bills he had drawn against these shipments, were returned protested—the hemp at his depots, in the course of preparation for shipment, as well as all his private property, was seized—and, in a word, his credit entirely destroyed, and all his property sacrificed, and he left a helpless bankrupt! and has remained so, from that day to the present time. Against this unjust rejection of his hemp, the memorialist protested, and appealed to the assurances, objects and motives under which he had been induced to accept the contract, but in vain. The total destruction of his credit, and the sacrifice of all his property, which followed the rejection, deprived him of all the benefit expected and intended from the extension of his contract; out of which, he alleges, with much appearance of truth, he would have been enabled to realize a large sum of from \$40,000 to \$50,000, from the favorable auspices under which he would have progressed with his contract, having already overcome the prejudices of the hemp-growers, and established the pools, depots and machines necessary for the supply of the balance of the 500 tons, under his extended contract.

After a careful examination of the case, the committee are satisfied—

1. That the hemp of the memorialist was unjustly rejected, and that from the evidence of those who examined and used portions of the same, and who were competent judges of its quality, it should have been received—that if Mr. Paulding had remained in office, it should have been received, in fulfillment of what he understood to be the duty, obligations and objects of the department, in view of the circumstances and assurances under which the memorialist had been induced to undertake the experiments. The committee believe that the rejection of the memorialist's hemp was probably owing to Mr. Paulding's having left the department, a want of knowledge of the objects of the department, and of the true relations existing between the memorialist and the government. The inspection at Charlestown seems, from experience, to be an unfavorable one for American water-rotted hemp. In his late annual report, the present Secretary of the Navy says that, "*Finding by short experience, that to insist on the inspection at Charlestown, as heretofore practiced, would be injurious to the western planter,*" he proposes that the annual purchases of that article, when not provided otherwise by contracts already made, shall "*be delivered and finally inspected at Louisville and St. Louis.*"

2. That the consequences of the rejection of the hemp, were most disastrous to the memorialist, causing a total destruction of his credit—a deprivation of all the benefits intended by the extension of his contract, which it is believed would otherwise have been highly profitable—and the sacrifice of all his property, alleged and believed, from the evidence, to be from thirty to forty odd thousand dollars, leaving him largely in debt and a bankrupt.

3. That all the benefits contemplated by the government, when the experiment was undertaken, have been fully realized, by the exertions and sacrifices, and entirely at the expense, of the memorialist; and that mainly through these, there is now an abundant supply of American water-rotted hemp, for the use of the navy and merchant vessels of the United States, leaving as they are informed and believe, a considerable quantity for exportation—thus rendering these States independent of other nations for an article most essential both to their navy and marine;—and as an element of war, vitally necessary to the defence of the country.

The memorialist has established, by the strongest evidence, derived from the public press, and from the opinions and statements of great numbers of the best informed and most respectable public men and private citizens of the hemp-growing States, the entire success of the experiment undertaken by him, and the introduction of the process, and the present supply, of the American article, as the consequence of that success. In the report of the present Secretary of the Navy, above alluded to, he says—"*Nothing but American hemp has been received, under any contract made since I came into the department.*"

In a letter of the late Mr. Secretary Paulding, addressed to the memorialist and laid before the committee—after stating that his object in making the contract with him "*was not the paltry one of obtaining 200 tons of hemp*" but of the practicability of producing American water-rotted hemp, and to encourage its production, with a view to render our country independent of all others, for the supply of an article equally indispensable to our navy and our commerce"—and after setting forth the previous experiments that had been made, and their complete failure, so that according to his belief, "*not a pound of water-rotted hemp was produced*" at the time the memorialist undertook his experiments—and after stating that to his knowledge the memorialist had "*succeeded in demonstrating the practicability of producing water-rotted hemp*"—he says—

"If, as appears to be the case, the production of water-rotted hemp, has already extended not only to the domestic supply, but to large exportations of that article, I have no hesitation to express my entire conviction that this result is in a great measure, if not altogether, owing to your having set the first successful example."—In the same letter he further says—

"In my opinion, setting aside all little technical points, and nice distinctions, the country owes you the price of a great benefit, and is under strong obligations to your enterprise, your perseverance and your sacrifices to make you amends."

4. In conclusion, the committee believe, therefore, that whatever doubts may be entertained, as to the strict legal right of the memorialist to the relief which he prays, founded upon the breach of his contract, by the rejection of his hemp, in violation of the promises and inducements held out to him by the Secretary of the Navy, that he has a well-founded

claim, both in justice and equity, for his losses and sacrifices in behalf of the government and country—and that independent of this he has strong claims upon that country, as a public benefactor, which ought not to be disregarded, and which entitle him to relief out of the common treasury of the nation, whose commerce, agriculture, and manufactures, have been equally benefited by his exertions and individual sacrifices,—sacrifices, which ought to be borne by all those benefited thereby, rather than by the individual who made, and has been ruined, by them.—The committee therefore believe that this is a case in which a full, and even liberal measure of relief, is required both by public justice and sound public policy—they therefore report a bill.

