

Columbia S.C. Decr. 8. 1860.

My dear Sir.

I have had just closed a long & (to me) interesting interview with Gov. Gist. He is an affable & intelligent gentleman of fine personal appearance & agreeable conversational powers. Information derived from him satisfies me that there is not the slightest doubt that S.C. will secede - 125 out of the 164 members of the convention are for immediate or unconditional secession & the others are avowed secessionists but a little weak about the knees - & would like to have a little delay in order to see if by possibility something may, not turn up which would justify S.C. in remaining in the Union. When, however, they have to meet the issue which the 125 will compel them to march up to, the Convention will be a unit on the question - The Governor says that we may rely on S.C.'s going out in three or four days.



at furthest after the convention assembled  
He has been himself elected a member  
of that body. Two members of Congress  
from this state have written him by  
the last mail that Gen Davis,  
Gen Brown & others have abandoned  
all idea of compromising the dif-  
-ficulty & say that they desire S.C.  
to get out of the Union without de-  
-lay. She can bring 60,000 fighting men  
into the field & is fully prepared for  
war if war should result. She is no  
doubt prepared with all munitions  
of war more thoroughly than any  
Southern State in the Union. The  
Gov. seems to be fully posted as to  
what is going on in front of the  
State. The rumor that the General  
Government was introducing address  
in Mr. Thoutie in the character  
of workman he regards as unfounded.  
He says that S.C. can take the forts  
in Charleston harbor without a great  
deal of bloodshed. that they have  
sufficient ordnance to last 2 years  
that it will be difficult to res-  
-train the people from doing. After  
the State secedes. With coolness, pru-  
-dence & great care, he thinks that



that the secession will be peaceable -  
that if peaceable, other states will  
be tempted to follow. - if not peace-  
-able, then the slaveholding states will  
sally to their support & will then secede.  
He does not expect a collision on account  
of the collection of the revenues even -  
The collector at Charleston will probably  
resign - then Mr. Buchanan will either  
not nominate a successor or if he does,  
he will not be confirmed by the Senate -  
In the meantime the authorities of  
the state can proceed to collect the  
duties which she may impose - provided  
it is not done in the Federal cus-  
tom house - In short by coolness &  
prudent caution, the most delicate  
matters can be managed so as to  
avoid an outbreak - Please consider  
what is said about the currency as  
confidential - From all I can hear on  
all sides S.C. is as certain to go out at  
least as early as the 20 or 21st inst. as  
the sun continues to rise & by the time  
I return home, I expect to have to rise  
my commission as a supporter through  
the free & independent Republic of S.C.

Yours truly - J. W. Larrott  
To His Excellency A. B. Moore



Letter from  
W. Gordon  
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