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Mobile, Dec. 25th 1860

Sir:

I had the honor of addressing you in reply to y^r. communication of the 21st inst; by the mail of yesterday. Having examined the appropriation bill, approved 30 June, 1860, I find the following:

for Fort Gaines (on Dauphin island)	\$20.000.
" " at Ship island (constructing)	20.000.
" Contingencies (unoccupied forts)	30.000
" Armament of forts	2.000.000
" Ordnance for	250.000.

And I find, upon reference to the papers of this office, where, if disbursements occur within this Collection district, this office is made the medium of accounts, &c, that the following have been the drafts made under the above appropriations for the specified works &c.

So. Sep 15.	favor of Lieut. Prime - fort Gaines	\$2500.
" Oct 23.	" " " " Ship Island	2000.
" " "	" " " " Repairing Barracks	1.000.
" " "	" " " " Contingency of Fortification	1.500.
" Nov 15.	" " " " Ship Island	1.500.

Of the above sums I am inclined to think the \$1,000 for repairing barracks, & \$1500 for contingency of fortification, may have been employed at fort Morgan.

The barracks at that post are doubtless in a state of dilapidation, and the wharf was, I heard some time since, much injured by storms.

I trust it may be convenient for Captain Leadbetter to leave to-day on his proposed visit. Of course he will furnish an exact account of the actual conditions of things immediately on his return, which I will transmit forthwith to you.

I will faithfully endeavor to meet your views in regard to both Mr. Turner & Fort Morgan, & should I learn of any attempt, from any quarter, to interfere, I will dispatch you instantly - and would endeavor to frustrate it.

I cannot but regard, sir, that, this Union being already dissolved, virtually, & the people of the North occupying an absolutely hostile position to us, that, considering all the peculiar circumstances by which we ^{are}, or may be, surrounded, it would be the part of Wisdom (in case of War, or tumult of any sort) beyond all question so, to occupy both places. Our paternal government has certainly given us an admirable pretext by their desertion of us for so long a period. - But, whatever may be my private views in regard to this most important movement, allow me again to assure your Excy: that you may rely upon me, to defeat any scheme, if it be ⁱⁿ my power, to anticipate the action of the State.

In regard to Mr. Turner, I am informed that it is no Southern sentiment pervading the minds of its occupants. I do not know the fact, but I am satisfied that the Honor, safety, & protection of Alabama, are well appreciated in the hearts of these people.

I hope to do myself the pleasure of
furnishing you some statistical facts in
regard to our State, ^{trade} as they are presented
by the records of our custom-house here; and
I hope to be able to prove that in a state of
independence we may be enabled greatly
to reduce our rates of taxation, while we
shall largely increase our revenue.

Anonymous, as it may seem, I
have no doubt of the fact.

Mr. Robert Smith, (Comm. to H.C.) a candidate
on the Co'operations side, & badly beaten in our
elections held yesterday, played on the taxation
strings throughout the campaign, through letter, conven-
tion &c, &c.; but he, & Mr. F. were met by us at
all points, & the result is, ^{as I said above} that they have been
badly beaten.

I trust I am not obtuse, Sir,
and will not do so again, without some encourage-
ment - and I would not pretend to write in
so familiar a vein to one in y^r exalted place, & with
whom I have not the honor of a personal acquaintance, did
I not feel that our hearts beat responsive to each
other in this great contest - for our Liberty.

His Esq:

W. B. Moore,
Montgomery Ala

With sincere regard,

Yours faithfully

Thos. J. Butler

