

Having satisfactory reasons to believe that Alabama would withdraw from the present Union, I considered it my duty to take such steps as would enable the Convention and Legislature to provide the means of putting the state in a condition to protect and defend her citizens in the event of her secession.

Knowing that the Treasury was not provided with funds sufficient for the purpose, that bonds at such a crisis could not be sold out of the state except at a great sacrifice and believing that at such a time additional taxation upon the people should be avoided if possible I determined to take the responsibility of requesting the Banks to suspend specie payments for the purpose of retaining their specie to aid the state provided it should become necessary. With this view I addressed a letter to each of the Banks a copy of which will be found in the following address to the people of Alabama published on the day of December 1860. I refer the Convention to this address for a full statement of the reasons which induced my action in this matter.

I herewith transmit to you the reports so far as they have been received and will lay ~~before~~ the Convention any others that may be made immediately on their receipt. I trust that my course in the appointment of these Commissioners will meet the approbation of the Convention.