

Charleston Decr 19. 1850

Hon. Excellency A.B. Moore

Sir,

I received your despatch on the night of the 17th at 11 P. M. after the Convention had adjourned to this place of which I telegraphed you on yesterday morning - I did not leave Columbia until 2 P. M. yesterday and arrived here last night - This morning was the earliest opportunity I had of communicating your despatch to the Convention which I did by a letter to the President enclosing it and requesting that it be read & submitted to them which was done and it was received with applause - I hesitated about making this communication so public, as you might have intended that I should only exhibit it to the members or tell them of its contents, but as I was satisfied the object was to produce an influence on the Convention, and as I had already in my speech to them at Columbia on the night of the 17th told them to go forward without delay, and announced it not only as my opinion as the wisest and best course to strengthen the cause in the other States, but that I was authorized by you to say it was also your opinion, I thought I had fully committed you and the only way was to carry it through - In my haste above I omitted to mention that the Convention when at Columbia invited Mr. Hester the Governor from Miss & myself to address the Convention at 7 P. M. which we did. and you will have seen what I said in the

papers by the time this reaches you - The Convention
to-day did nothing but receive and refer resolutions
to committees - The Committee to prepare the
ordinance has not reported - and probably will
not report before the day after tomorrow -
Although nothing new was done than the refer-
ence of measures, there was some speaking on
the various questions referred - Among the questions
was one in relation to Commercial Affairs - Postal
Arrangements - The surrender of the Forts here -
A provisional Government with other pending
Matters - This last excited some interesting dis-
cussion between Col Hayne the Atty General
who introduced it, sustained by Col Keett,
and opposed by R. B. Whett - Col Hayne's prop-
osition was to the same effect as that of which
I wrote you, as suggested in the preliminary
meeting of the members of the Convention
at Columbia - The most embarrassing question
apparently was first that of commercial matters
or how vessels are to be cleared here &c, and
mail facilities when the act of secession is ac-
complished - The strongest objection to the discon-
tinuement of the mails by the act of secession is the
effect upon Georgia whose Convention will not
meet probably for near 4 weeks afterwards
and in the mean time they will be cut off
from the receipt of letters, books &c which
will furnish a strong argument to the opponents
of the cause in that State - The proposition on
this subject was to appoint persons to proceed
to Washington and make some arrangements
with the President for the continued transmission
of the mails through this State, until those

were finally settled - It was said that this had been done by nations, which engaged in actual warfare - but the difficulty is that Mr Buchanan may not think proper to recognize and treat with this State as a separate State even on this question - If he makes any such arrangement, does he not recognize to that extent at least her separate and independent nationality - These I think are the two questions that surround the Convention principally - The matter of the feast does not trouble them so much although a very important one.

There is no question about secession here - I have not seen since my arrival one man who has said he was opposed to it, or who doubted it would take place - I am told by every one that the people are ahead of their public men, and are determined upon it, if no other State shall follow, or it should make her land a desolation. The old men seem as determined as the young and although there must be some who from their nature can't help being opposed to it, such is the overwhelming sentiment they dare not voice their opposition -

From the work they seem to be cutting out by the various matters referred to committees I think the Convention will sit the whole of this week - I anticipate also some interesting discussion -

In my opinion the most serious matter to be solved is how is commerce to be carried between this State & foreign States after her act of secession - If however as I understand clearances are granted only as evidence of



The carefulness of the trade, then the cargo itself would afford in general such evidence - In proof of this I heard it stated by a gentleman as a fact that some years since a foreign vessel was sold here by the Sheriff, and under the color of the United States the collector decided that he could not give the purchaser a receipt of this place a clearance after his cargo was on board & the vessel ready to sail to England - The owner put a captain on board, gave him his sheriff's title and started him - He arrived at his intended port in Great Britain and exhibited the sheriff's deed - no question was made, he delivered his cargo and took one in return -

You will have seen Gov Pickens' inaugural - It is a capital speech and state paper - but I am told that three weeks ago he was for making new appeals in the Union, and sending new to the Constitution &c &c -

Gov. Pickens, Secretary of the Treasury, was in Columbia on the day Pickens was inaugurated. He is for action on the part of the South and will do all he can to bring Georgia up to the mark. When he first arrived he favored the idea of So. Ga making her ordinance take effect on some day say 1st February, by which time all the other States that were going would be ready and that they should all fix on the simultaneous march out of the Union - I told him the prompt action of this State was necessary to strengthen us in the other States and if such a course was adopted, I feared it would be disastrous to the cause in his own State - That with So. Ga on our side - Alabama

and Miss in the other & Florida on the South
firm unyielding and unhesitating, Georgia
would be obliged to yield to this purpose and
take her stand with us - Such also was the
opinion of all whom I heard speak to him on
the subject and he apparently yielded -
You have seen the progress of public sentiment
in Louisiana - Can Georgia, with the movements
in So. Fla, Ala, Miss, Louisiana & Texas,
hold back - You have by this time seen Grouse
letter - Cobb undertook to explain it as nothing
very terrible according to Georgia tactics and
Grouse's especially - not very satisfactory, I confess
however to myself or others in

I find the Convention in the aggregate a very
able body, but no one yet towers above the
rest - There as yet has appeared no one who
has a controlling influence -

How ~~come~~ on your other suspicions - Mine as I told
the Convention was a mere labor of love - I had
nothing to do but halloo hurrah - They were all
so keenly where Ala wanted them - The others
Gantt, ~~Scott~~ particularly is of difficulty -
Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee, Kentucky, & Miss-
souri, I am willing to see stay out until
the new Confederacy adopts her constitution
as she pleases, and then these states will
have to come in under that constitution
or stay out -

I will write again tomorrow -

With respect yrs very truly

L. A. Chace