

Govt J Murrell
Austin

Jan. 5, '64

Dear Sir

The request you made of me before leaving Austin to write to you will be sufficient apology for this communication.

The condition of the country is unchanged, apparently, from what it was up to the time of your departure. Perhaps there is an abatement in the number of Refugees, passing the thoroughfares; the most of them having domiciled for this year. There is perhaps also, a grain less activity, among the army trains, Cotton bureau trains &c, this last fact may be in part attributable to the Annual return of a festive season (aforetime) in order to allow the employees to enjoy (5) the poor helare ties that a state of distress, sorrow and war will admit of. I notice a considerable accession to the unemployed army corps, and gamblers, at Marshall, owing no doubt, to the removal of important Govt works from Arkadelphia, Ark, to that place, coupled with the indispensable claims, of officers, without a command; and the demands of our quiet society

The absence, ^{from the streets} of old and familiar citizens, is noticeable owing no doubt to the presence of so many faces and forms that are new, to the eye, so it is that I and, and perhaps you would be "a stranger in Venice" On my late arrival I found one familiar face, unchanged by time and detail - known to me - and that one, belonged to our sometime ancient friend J A Warren Brigadier Gen and his the only one, out of bed

H10-22-1

H10-15-2

TX

Governor's Papers:
Murrell
Folder 10
Jan. 1-5, 1864
Pendleton

TX

A new set, and more gallant - congregate at the
"Rialto" and at other places where "spectacles" are
wounded, But not to descend from these melancholly
observations, it is true that Marshall is filled with
Govt functionaries, Govt details, and men, and families,
whose misfortunes, have driven them temporarily among
us, for safety, and protection,
Many anxious enquiries were made of me from friends,
and others, in regard to, your health and administration
as Governor. One branch of the enquiry. I suppose
it will be a subject of some solicitude to yourself
to know how your debut is received during the dis-
abilities of the Press, the ^{your administrations} features of ~~it~~ although widely
yet ~~are~~ not generally understood. Of your message
I have heard but one opinion, and that is comprized
in this expression "an able well written state paper"
It may not be unpleasing to you to know that a
majority of the people with whom I have talked
conceding your ability, are predicting for you
a judicious and patriotic administration. The
time for any well settled opinion in regard to you
as Chief executive or the policy you have indicated
has not arrived. The late representative assembly
will create that opinion, in accordance with what
- ever confidence your intercourse has inspired them
If I am not mistaken and I have talked with most
of them, it will be altogether complimentary to
you. But allow me to say in this connection that
whilst I believe there, lives no man insensible to
vulgar applause, and while I believe that it is
right for every one to struggle to obtain it, in private
and public situations. yet all true fame is

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intimately dependent on honest acts, and that a public servant who acts from motives of integrity, if he fails of the popular favor, has the applause of his own soul, which is best. I make this suggestion not as indicating to you a new incentive to action, but to strengthen a purpose you were pleased to confide to me, Without any ambition, or probable position from which to exemplify the maxims I have learned, yet I would be pleased to contemplate a character possessing the hardihood of antiquity, ^{as I understand it} instructed by its philosophy - imitating its examples of firmness and honesty as transmitted to us by history. Shall one such exist in this our age of venality and corruption? Can one such exist just now, when empires and governments are springing into being - or staggering into chaos? What will be the destiny of our beloved Country, or the termination of the inhuman war we are engaged in, we do not know, But we do know if we will suffer martyrdom in the defence of the principles for which our country wages this war. In the outset I did not intend to have written this. It will seem egotistical I am aware, You will pardon me when I assure you that I do not presume to be mentor to one who by his sagacity, honesty, industry, and patriotism has risen to the station which you hold. Our recent reverses in Tenn. are not understood, The character of the defeat, the extent of our losses - the casualties - all is unknown, All ungraciously acknowledge a defeat. No disposition is manifested to converse about it. The people are mortified and they have a right to be when every telegram report and news letter assured them that "Bragg was" "Master of the situation" It was cruel to deceive the people with a hope they were so faintly cherish,

(TX)

The burthen of the war is beginning to tell on the patriotism
of the people. This is too evident. Not a breathing of
enthusiasm is heard, and our money is very little if any
better here than at Austin. There is a low grumbling on account
of impressments; and a feeling of discontent on account of
military orders is too manifest. Great complaint all
along the route from Austin to Marshall prevailed on
account of Gen Maguiders orders to assemble all the
male negroes between certain ages to fortify Austin. I don't believe
that order will be obeyed, except at the point of the
bayonet from Crockett eastward. It is considered unwise
and impracticable. Farmers say that the negroes could not
reach Austin until corn planting time was over, and that
it is better for the enemy to take the Capital than for us to
fail in a corn crop. That Austin can't be fortified is an
idea also which prevails. I think that the complaints -
about impressments, about currency, about enrollment is
all evidence of a want of patriotism, ~~but those of~~
But those against Gen M's special order, right enough
I think in view of the opposition which will be offered, by
farmers, it might be well for you to address him on the pro-
-ponety of his revoking that order, or delaying its execution. One
or two orders of this kind have been filled to fortify Shreveport
and Alexandria, and to complete the Pacific R.R. between
Shreveport and Marshall, at the instance of the Dept. of War
Commander, and the people ~~before~~ ⁱⁿ this County think it very
hard on them, to help fortify Austin. There is no news of
a local character to interest you. Of Will Sloan's marriage
you have heard. Of the outrage on Mrs Lindolph you have heard.
The acts of the Legislature are not known and consequently no
opinion exists about them. The health of the country is good.
My regards to, Miss Sloan + Mrs. Menrob. Trusting that your health
is improved I am your Excellencies friend
Jan 5th 1864

R R Baynes

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