

Macon, Virginia, Feb. 18th, 47.

My dear sir, Shall I say to you be just & fair not?
No; you need not such exhortation. Observation & experience
have, I doubt not, long since, deeply impressed on your mind,
the conviction that a rigid adherence to sound principles,
honestly and deliberately adopted and with dignity and firm-
ness maintained, can not fail to triumphantly deliver you
from the proscription, fierce & swift, of impeached political
opponents. Judging from my own feelings and those of the
few republicans, I have had an opportunity of consulting, since
the reception of the news of the recent occurrences, at Washington,
in which you were especially implicated, I think, that you
can not fail to receive (I will not say the sympathy, but) the
unqualified approbation and support of your political
friends, universally. The extraordinary and unwarranted
procedure of the Senate of the U.S. in the expulsion of yourself
from their chamber, has received, so far as I have heard, unani-
mously, the condemnation of the Democratic party and must, I
suppose meet the disapprobation of some of the more liberal federal-
ists. What would be the result of a ~~comparison~~ an impartial compar-
ison between the offence against the Senate of the U.S. with which
your reporter was charged and the hundred offensive remarks
and abusive epithets, bestowed by the Richmond Whig, in the
last 20 years, on the Democratic party in the Gen. Assembly
of Va. &c. However designed by those who performed the deed,
the rejection by the Senate, of the bill for the increase of the army
is regarded by nearly all men, whose opinions I have heard, as
unfavourable, practically, to a prompt and successful termination
of

of the war as would have been a "Mexican victory," over a portion of our army. How can it be otherwise regarded by an intelligent mind? It was a direct denial of a force considered necessary by the Executive, whose duty it, imperiously, was to know and ~~to know~~ ^{know}ing, to call for it. Is not the withholding such force equivalent to an addition to the force of the public enemy? This is the direct physical effect; what shall we say of the moral? A very large portion of our army consists of volunteers who have, from the most patriotic impulses, rushed to the standard of their beloved country; the period of service of many of these brave men will, in a few months, have expired. Can it be reasonably expected that they will again engage in the service of their country should they be under the belief that Congress will refuse authority to raise such additional force as may be requisite to safety & success in the heart of the enemy's extensive territory?

Will not the idea occur to every officer & soldier in the army, that as Congress has refused the men necessary ^{may} ~~will probably~~ for the same reasons, refuse the necessary supplies of provisions, munitions, &c. When they shall have perceived the want of energy (to say the least) and of an active sympathy in their behalf, thus manifested by the constituted authorities of the country, can the effect be any other than depression of spirits, listlessness and dissatisfaction? Can troops in this state of mind go into battle with that elasticity & and irresistible impetuosity displayed on the Rio Grande and at Monterey?

But, enough. I am not writing a political essay; only a few remarks, hastily thrown together, addressed to one, between whom and myself, has existed for many years past, a concurrence of opinion, by no means ordinary - I am, you know, no politician but an obscure private man, who never held an office

never sought me and who want, none; who can have no other
motive to political action than an anxious desire for the well-
fare and honor of ~~my~~ ^{his} country and his posterity.

I will conclude my remarks, ~~and~~ ^{rather} although abruptly, by
saying that, I think, your correspondent spoke substantially
the truth and at most deserves no more than the application
of a proverb often repeated to me when a child, "the truth
may be blamed but can not be shamed;"

With great respect & friendship I am, yours &c

A. C. Mumford

P.S. I had forgotten to say a few other things I intended - I have
frequently heard it remarked by our political friends that you were
quite too much in the habit of lauding and advocating the promotion of his
special adherents, if not of Mr. Calhoun himself - This remark was very
generally accompanied by another, viz, that you would, probably, find, at
some period, how much or rather how little sympathy they had for
yourself, your opinions, or your interests - Verily, they are true pro-
phets!! Say you not so? - Well; let re-organization be
the matchwood. There is, I think, reason to hope that nearly
the whole of the distinguished 23, in or Assembly, will be rejected
by the people at the ensuing election; many democrats declare
that they will vote for Whigs in preference to them.

How is it that we can learn nothing decisive from our Congres-
sional delegate? From what I have heard, however, I fear he has
determined to adhere to his great exemplar and to eschew, in
disgust, all Conventions, Concourses, &c. Should this be so, you
may rest assured that he will receive but few democratic votes
in this little county of Pamunty.

God send us a safe deliverance -

A. C.