

RECORDED
SUPERIOR

5/4/10

Exchange Hotel
Montgomery
July 11. 1861

My dear Wife,

We arrived here safely last night at 10 o'clock and found every thing in a perfect whirl of excitement. Military companies in uniform and some of them en route to Pensacola to take the Fort. Among them today I saw Captain Ferguson formerly of the La Gr Wesleyan University. His Company is composed of Youth from 18 to 22 years old. The Secrets of the Unwashed Convention are secret. The impression is that Habana will go out tomorrow. There was quite a crowd waiting in the Hall - hoping that the doors of the Convention would be opened. In the Senate Chamber a mock convention was called and regularly organized, with all the officers. One of the members of the real Convention happened to come and he was immediately elected door keeper, which high position he very respectfully declined, and retired. Judge Meek was elected President. He announced that the Secrets were secret. That gentlemen would please to recollect that fact: there was no necessity to admonish the ladies, who always kept secrets. A Committee

Consisting of Judges Mason & Moore were elected to
draft resolutions. They soon brought in a Resolution
that Alabama now resume her original powers and
be declared from henceforth a free and independent
Sovereignty. Speeches were made by Hon Ben
Yancy Commissioner from Georgia - by Judge
Chilton & your friend Judge Philan. Some of
the Speeches were excellent. They part the
morning. We dined at Hotel and after dinner
went to see Mrs Yancy & family: also Mr Whitney's
folks - first from home - left at dinner.

I met a great many old friends who seemed
very glad to see me. I promised to preach
for brother Petre ~~tomorrow~~ ^{Sunday} morning. I am
invited with Mr Patton to a party at Red Walls
tonight. I suppose it will be a big gathering. I
do not know whether I shall go. I may probably
go for an hour.

There seems to be no doubt you may tell your
brother Jim, that the ordinance of Secession
will pass tomorrow or next day, at furthest.
Such is the prevailing opinion, but there is
always uncertainty until the thing shall have
been done.

I have been taken for Douglas just by the counter
at the table, and by several politicians during
the course of the day. Rather strange.

We are truly in the midst of an tremendous
Crisis. You doubtless have heard that the President
sent a Sloop of War to reinforce Major Anderson
and that the South Carolinians fired three shots
into her, when they returned. Anderson sent to
know whether it was done by orders of the Executive
He was informed that it was. His reply was that
he would consider it an act of war.
Considerable apprehension prevails, that lest
the North Alabama delegation should secede
from the Convention. I do not think they will.
The present appearances I quite considerably
towards Mr Patten as the next Governor.
The last remark is intended for your own ear,
only. I hope Johnny & all the children are
well. My dear Martha, if there is the slightest
necessity you must Telegraph me to come home
Write me how you care Mr Patten. I have had
several invitations to go to Wetumpka and also
to Prattville. I saw Mr Turleton and Mr T. they
mimmed you a few minutes. Mrs T. sent
love to you Mary & Ann: desired to be kindly
remembered to Sarah & Jim. You see I have
written a long letter with one of these steel pens
which I can only make scratch. It is a time
you cannot and don't pray for Divine direction.
May the Lord be with us all. Love to each of
the dear children.
Ever yr devotedly attached
Hubert W. Mitchell

The missing money is all right I suppose.
Did you not take the seventy dollars
you Mr. Purland out of it?



Exchange Hotel

Montgomery

Jan'y 10 1860 1861

My dear Wife,

We arrived here safely last night at 10 o'clock and found every thing in a perfect whirl of excitement. Military companies in uniform and some of them en route to Pensacola to take the Fort. Among them today I saw Captain Ferguson formerly of the Wesleyan University. His Company is composed of youth from 18 to 22 years old. The Sessions of the Convention are secret. The impression is that Alabama will go out tomorrow. There was quite a crowd waiting in the Hall - hoping that the doors of the Convention would be opened. In the Senate Chambers a mock convention was called and regularly organized, with all the officers. One of the members of the real Convention happened to come and he was immediately elected door keeper, which high position he very respectfully declined, and retired. Judge Meek was elected President. He announced that the Sessions were secret - that gentlemen would please to recollect that fact; there was no necessity to admonish the ladies, who always kept secrets. A committee consisting of Judges Mason & Moore were elected to draft resolutions. They soon brought in a Resolution that Alabama now resume her original powers and be declared from henceforth a free and independent Sovereignty. Speeches were made by Hon. Ben Yancy Commissioner from Georgia - by Judge Chilton & your friend Judge Phelan. Some of the speeches were excellent. Thus past the morning. We dined at Hotel and after dinner went to see Mrs Yancy & family; also

Mrs. Whiting's Folks - first from home - last at dinner.

I met a great many old friends who seemed very glad to see me. I promised to preach for brother Petrie Sunday morning. I am invited with Mr. Patton to a party at Col Watts tonight. I suppose it will be a big gathering. I do not know whether I shall go. I may probably go for an hour.

There seems to be no doubt, you may tell your brother Jim, that the Ordinance of Secession will pass tomorrow or next day, at farthest. Such is the prevailing opinion; but, there is always uncertainty until the thing shall have been done.

Have been taken for Douglass first by the waiter at the table, and by several politicians during the course of the day. Rather strange.

We are truly in the midst of a tremendous crisis. You doubtless have heard that the President sent a sloop of war to reinforce Major Anderson and that the South Carolinians fired three shots into her, when they retired. Anderson sent to know whether it was done by orders of the Executive. He was informed that it was. His reply was that he would consider it an act of war.

Considerable apprehension prevails lest the North Alabama delegation should secede from the Convention. I do not think they will. The present appearances squint considerably towards Mr Patton as the next Governor. The last remark is intended for your own ear only. I hope Johnny & all the children are well. My dear Martha, if there is the slightest necessity you must Telegraph me to come home. Write me here care Mr. Patten. I have

had several invitations to go to Wetumpka and also to Prattville. Saw Mr. Tarleton and Mrs. T—this morning for a few minutes. Mrs T—sent love to you, Mary & Ann; desired to be kindly remembered to Sarah & Jim. You see I have written a long letter with one of these steel pens which I can only make scratch. It is a time for sincere ardent prayer for Divine direction. May the Lord be with us all. Love to each of the dear children.

Ever yr devotedly attentive husband

W. H. Mitchell

The missing money is all right I suppose

Did you not take the seventy dollars for Mr Penland out of it?

Mrs. W. H. Mitchell

Florence

Ala.

E 5/A/10

Republic of Alabama!
January 11. 1868

My dear wife,

I have spent a most fatiguing day. From ten o'clock until about four I have been standing in anxious expectation in the Hall of the Capitol awaiting the birth of our Republic. The excitement was most intense - all crowding around the doors of the Hall of Representatives when the Convention was in secret session, in anxious expectation of its opening. About two o'clock the door keeper gave orders to several persons to take up the new State flag which was accordingly done and held in a horizontal position towards the door. The door was then closed again much to our chagrin; and nearly half an hour elapsed when it was opened amid the most deafening cheers. The scene that followed was perfectly thrilling. The galleries were crowded with ladies and gentlemen. The flag was calmly unfurled and held out so as to display its beauty. Then followed the most deafening cheers and peals of applause, amid which the great Alabamian arose in homespun and said Mr. President & Gentlemen of the Convention on behalf of the ladies of Montgomery I present this Flag of the State of Alabama: to say it is presented by ladies who are beautiful would not would be but the least

part of their praise: for beauty is the least desirable of woman's
perfections. It is presented by the noble hearted, pure and patriotic
women of Montgomery; on whose cheeks the tears of regret (for
the departure of Sons & Brothers who have gone to fight their Country's
battles) have not yet dried. On one side of this flag is painted
the goddess of Liberty with a sword drawn to defend her rights
; above her is the motto "Liberty Now & For Ever" and at one side
the Single Star of Alabama. On the other field is a Cotton
plant and beneath it a rattle snake coiled to indicate the
source of our material wealth, and beneath it is a rattle snake
coiled to manifest our determination to defend our rights. It
is coiled because ours is not aggressive position: and above is the
motto "Soli me tangere" Be someone to touch ("Touch me not")
The rattle snake is peaceable & harmless until disturbed; and but
to hinder the peace death to the individual who assaults it. Such
is our position. We make no war on others, but we bide the
hour which opens to crush our ~~liberty~~ liberties. We present
this flag then to wave over the ~~capitol~~ of our new Republic
with its glorious motto - "Liberty now & For Ever." Then again
followed peal after peal of applause.

The flag being accepted, a gentleman from Tuscaloosa known
as little Belly Smith, got up and made a beautiful speech
stating that he would not be the man who had unmingled
emotions of exultation at the consummation which had
just occurred. That when he saw that flag unfurled
his mind recurred to the old Stars and Stripes which

corrected

Had been unfurled on Sea & land; and, which had led us on to battle and to victory: beneath which even the British Lion cowered. He had tears of regret for the past but he had joyful emotions in view of the present: and much as he regretted the necessity of the separation now that the Single Star was unfurled he would always be found the advocate of Alabama's rights and liberty now & for ever.

Then we had a very interesting speech from Baker of Barbours thanking the ladies.

Next was a public meeting on the steps of the Capitol - large very large and enthusiastic.

The first person called was our friend Mr Pettus who proclaimed his readiness to concur in the action of this State and pledging the people of North Alabama who were as pure & loyal & patriotic in their feelings towards the State as any other portion of it.

Judge Jones was called & did likewise. So did several other members, amongst them Mr Jamison one of the oldest Senators - from Tuscaloosa.

Bells were ringing - cannons firing a steam boat whistling. Take it altogether it was one of the most stirring - enthusiastic & thrilling scenes I ever witnessed. It is growing dark and I must close. I am going to try to Dr Petree's good by. May the Lord bless you and the children.

Vote 61 to 39

Ever yr devotedly attached husband.
W. A. Mitchell

Republic of Alabama!

January 11, 1861

My dear Wife:

I have spent a most fatiguing day. From ten o'clock until four I have been standing in anxious expectation in the Hall of the Capitol awaiting the birth of our Republic. The excitement was most intense--all crowding around the door of the Hall of Representatives where the Convention was in Secret Session, in anxious expectation of its opening. About two o'clock the door keeper gave orders to several persons to take up the new State flag which was accordingly done and the flag was held in a horizontal position towards the door. The door was then closed again much to our chagrin; and nearly half an hour elapsed when it was opened amid the most deafening cheers. The scene that followed was perfectly thrilling. The galleries were crowded with ladies and gentlemen. The flag was calmly unfurled and held out so as to display its beauty. Then followed the most deafening cheers and peals of applause, amid which the great Alabamian dressed in homespun arose and said, Mr. President & Gentlemen of the Convention on behalf of the ladies of Montgomery I present this Flag of the State of Alabama: to say it is presented by ladies who are beautiful would be but the least part of their praise! for beauty is the least desirable of woman's perfections. This is presented by the noble-hearted, pure and patriotic women of Montgomery, on whose cheeks the dews of regret (for the departure of sons & brothers who have gone to fight their Country's battles) have not yet dried. On one side of this flag is painted the goddess of liberty with a sword drawn to defend her rights; above her is the motto

"Liberty Now & For Ever" and at one side the single star of Alabama. On the other field is a cotton plant to indicate the source of our material wealth, and beneath it is a rattle snake coiled to manifest our determination to defend our rights. It is coiled, because ours is not an aggressive position; and above is the motto "Noli me tangere" ("Touch me not") The rattle snake is peaceable & harmless until disturbed; but death to the individual who assaults it. Such is our position. We make no war on others, but we betide the power which essays to crush our liberties. We present this flag then to wave over the Capitol of our new Republic, with its glorious motto - "Liberty Now & For Ever." Then again followed peal after peal of applause.

The flag being accepted, that gentleman from Tuscaloosa known as little Billy Smith got up and made a beautiful speech stating that he envied not the man who had unmingled emotions of exultation at the consummation which had just occurred. That when he saw that flag unfurled his mind recurred to the old Stars and Stripes which had been unfurled on sea & land; and which had led us on to battle and to victory; beneath which even the British Lion cowered. He had tears of regret for the past but he had joyful emotions in view of the present; and much as he regretted the necessity of the separation, now that the Single Star was unfurled he would always be found the advocate of Alabama's rights and "liberty now & for Ever."

Then we had a very rhetorical speech from Baker of Barbour thanking the ladies.

Next was a public meeting on the steps of the Capitol - large very large and enthusiastic. The first person called was our friend Mr. Patton who proclaimed his readiness to concur in the action of his State and who pledging the people of North Alabama who were as pure & loyal & patriotic in their feelings towards the State as any other portion of it.

Judge Jones was called & did likewise. So did several other members in favor of co-operation, amongst them Mr. Jemison, one of the oldest Senators - from Tuscaloosa.

Bells were ringing - cannons firing a steam boat whistling. Take it altogether it was one of the most stirring - enthusiastic & thrilling scenes I ever witnessed. It is growing dark and I must close. I am going to tea to Dr. Petrie's. Goodbye. May the Lord bless you and the children.

Ever yr devotedly attentive husband

Vote 61 to 39

W. H. Mitchell

Mrs. W. H. Mitchell

Florence

Alabama



Pres- Mr H. Mitchell. S. S.
Florence.
Alabama

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AND
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Mr W. H. Mitchell
Florence
Alabama