Montg.y Jan. 21/61.

Dear Genl.

Yrs of 19th is just received. Clemens reported on Saturday an Ordinance covering the whole matter. It was at once passed & all that is wanting is for the Govr to act promptly. The poor man - is in a sort of disturbed state - as you may well infer from many of his acts. The resignation of sececy has been removed from this Ordinance & you will see it in to day's papers.

The Convention is at this writing acting upon an ordinance to appoint a Council of State to act the Govr. I think it will pass - if so & he has good men to act with him - we may look for something from that quarter more effective than we have yet had.

We sent you a dispatch announcing yr. election as Deputy to the S. Convention - for God's sake dont think of declining it. I am more & more disgusted with more talking men the more I see of them - what we want is good sense & prompt action - without these we are lost - Yancey is greatly mortified at his defeat. He wished the appointment greatly - but finding he could not be elected he declined having his name used - nevertheless he rec.d 38 votes. I voted for him myself, simply because I thought he was entitled to the position. It is not to be disguised that he is personally unpopular - he has great talent in some things - but his temper is impracticable & he makes few personal friends.

I have rec.d a great many foolish letters

and telegraphic dispatches about clearing vessels &c. These people can't understand that Ala. is out of the Union. They propose simply a virtual repeal of the Ordinance of Secession, when they ask for Clearances & Registers & Enrollments to be issued as formerly in the name of the U. S. Now Ala. is either in the Union or she is not. If she is in we are engaged here in a mere farce. If she is out & our Coll.r sh.d be authorized to issue papers in the name of the U. S. it would be a fraud on foreign nations as well as the Gov.t of the U. S. and a mere sham, disgraceful to this body & the State. Such a proposition would not command 10 votes in this body.

There is no analogy between the P.O. and the Customs & it seems to me any body with a spoonful of brains might see it. We could not abrogate Mail contracts without injustice to individuals & making the State liable in damages — to say nothing of the great expense of organizing a separate dep.t, which we are illy able to bear. The question is one affecting only the relations between the Fed.l Gov.t & our own people. But the Customs extend to foreign nations & are much more comprehensive & complicated in their character. I do hope our people will let me alone about this matter. I am doing the best I can for all. Mr S. is here & to-morrow I shall report a supplemental ordinance covering all the details & authorizing foreign Consuls (when permitted by their Gov.t) to certify clearances granted by the State. I understand Lord Lyons the British Min.r & Washburn has done this as to the port of Charleston & I have no doubt he will pursue the same course in reference to our

fleet. If under such circumstances an attempt is made to blockade us, we shall have Jno. Bull & perhaps others on our side - The simple truth is they want our cotton & they will have it.

I write in great haste & am

Yrs Truly

E. Bragg.

I enclose a note just handed me by Clements. to whom I handed your letter.

Mr Bragg
Jan 21