

## PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR OF ALABAMA.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }

Montgomery Ala., March 1, 1862. }

The recent disasters which have befallen our armies, instead of depressing, should nerve the unconquerable purpose and arouse the mighty power of these Confederate States. Seven millions of people resolutely determined to maintain their right of self-government and not bow their necks to the oppressor's yoke can never be subjugated. They will rise in their majesty and strength, and with the blessing of God upon their righteous cause, will drive back the invaders from their land and country.

The reverses to our arms have imposed new duties upon Alabama and her sister Confederate States. The first is to bury the love of gold and quench out that sordid spirit which values property above liberty, and to piously cultivate that martyr spirit which will sacrifice every material interest rather than peril the priceless inheritance of freedom.— Cut off, as their supplies may be from the north west, the cotton States should rely solely upon their own granaries and products to furnish subsistence for the armies within their borders. With their ports closed against the markets of the world, without remuneration for the labor of its production, and without even the material for covering the staple, the growing of cotton to any considerable extent will not only endanger the organization of the great armies which must be fed, but will serve to increase the energy and stimulate the avarice of our foes. The people of Alabama are requested, and the military officers of the

State will be directed, to burn every lock of cotton within the State, if it be necessary, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the public enemy; and if the people of these cotton producing States are a wise people, they will raise not another crop of cotton beyond the demands for home consumption until this unholy and cruel war shall cease. Let the States of the North, which have fattened upon your toil, and which now seek your subjugation, and to impose upon you the burdens of untold millions of war expenditures, and let the nations of Europe which behold your struggle for deliverance, while their suffering people are clamoring for your great staple, see and learn that you value liberty and free government far above all other earthly considerations.

Plant not then one seed of cotton beyond your home wants, but put down your lands in grains and every other kind and description of farm product, and raise every kind of live stock, which may contribute to the support of your own families and the needy families of your brave defenders, and which will be wanted also for the subsistence of the grand armies which shall march to achieve your independence.

Men, brave and gallant men, responding to the call of their bleeding country, are rushing by thousands to the field. Their cry is for arms with which to engage the foe. People of Alabama! will you not commit your arms into their hands? People of Alabama! will you not send the shot guns and rifles rusting in your houses, that I may place them in the hands of your own sons to defend your altars and your homes? Agents are appointed all over the State to collect arms. If they do not find you, I beg you to find them. Let every Sheriff and Judge of Probate, and all State officers, civil and military, receive and forward arms. Expenses will be promptly paid by the State.

Let every man do something towards arming our troops if he cannot go to the battle-field. Turn your shops into laboratories for the manufacture of arms and munitions of war. Send me thousands of shot guns and rifles, Bowie knives and pikes. Send powder, and lead, and ball. What you cannot afford to give, the State will buy. Let the entire resources and energies of the people be devoted to the one great purpose of war—war stern and unrelenting—such a war, as in the providence of God we may be compelled to wage in order to vindicate the inalienable right of self-government.

As vile extortion is an abominable sin against humanity, all good men are earnestly urged to denounce its practice and crush out its spirit. Creditors are counselled to exercise moderation and forbearance; and all classes and conditions of people invited to cultivate a spirit of mutual confidence, of loyalty and devotion to their State and Confederate Government. With a true appreciation of the dangers which surround us, and of our duty to God and our country, let us all live and labor, and if need be die for the advancement of the glorious cause for which we are contending.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed, at the city [L. S.] of Montgomery, this 1st day of March, A. D. 1862, and of the Independence of the Confederate States of America, the second year.

JNO. GILL SHORTER.

By the Governor.

P. H. BRITTAN, Secretary of State.

N. B. All papers in the State please copy twice and send accounts to Executive office. JAS. S. ALBRIGHT,  
Private Secretary.

March 14, 1862.

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