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THE PAPERS OF WILLIE PERSON MANGUM

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convinced, that a matter, which from the strong conspicuousness of being in the right, I have hitherto given no heed to, may grow into a consequence if unattended to which may to some extent—to no little extent—be made to affect my popularity in Granville—. I sincerely hope that you may be able to lay your hand upon the letter itself—but if you should be satisfied of its being lost, even in that case you can very satisfactorily remove those, surmises, & suspicions, which by the influence, of a wily man, will not only be made to exist—but to strengthen, and increase with time.

An election for Senator of U. S. took place today; Judge Strange¹⁹⁸ was elected by a strictly party vote, with the exception of Mr. Boon¹⁹⁹ of Orange who voted for him.

I write in the Senate Chamber, during an evening Session where the confusion around me is so great as to make it necessary for me to conclude.

Respectfully & sincerely

Yours

JNO. C. TAYLOR.

[Addressed:]

Honble

Willie P. Mangum

Red Mountain

Orange Cty.

1837

WPM-LC

John Chavis to Willie P. Mangum

Feby 1st 1837—

My dear Sir

As Col Rogers¹ expects to be at your house on next Monday evening. I must once more request you to answer the letters I wrote you, respecting my being charged with my going to Raleigh to Teach the children of the free people of colour for the

¹⁹⁸Judge Robert Strange. See above, I, 45n.

¹⁹⁹John Boon. See above, I, 312n.

¹Allen Rogers. See above, I, 270n.

purpose of raising information Your answer is to be founded upon letters I wrote to you when in Congress upon the abolition question²—

I expect to leave the neighbourhood the last of March, and I wish to be prepared to meet malicious reports. Col. Rogers can tell you all about the business—

I find that the Senate of the United States in Congress has at last disgraced itself by expunging those resolutions.³ I wonder if the party does suppose that they have taken the disgrace off of G. Jackson? and if they have, in their conception on whom do they suppose it rests? or do they suppose it has taken its flight and settled amongst the mountains in the Moon?—

I am a full blooded friend to the Charleston and Cincinnati Railroad, & to the proceedings of our late G. Assembly upon the subject.⁴ Whether it is now completed or not they did a creditable act in granting a Banking privilege for that purpose What course of life do you intend to pursue? lay upon your back & kick up your heels, or do you intend to go to the Bar & take up Judge Nashes practice? it wont do for you to be idle. Your children must be educated, and if you still intend to pursue your plan of selling [setling?] at the right angles of two public roads⁵ you must be exceedingly busy; but I hope by this time you ashamed of that plan & have given it up as a bad job—

I have been thinking about your opposing Montgomery.⁶ What do you think of it? or do you think our government is too corrupt for you ever to attempt to go into Congress again, with a hope of producing a reformation? I would be glad that you would

²See above, II, 418-420. At intervals between 1808 and 1838, when Chavis died, he had a school in Raleigh for free Negroes. Joseph Gales attended the public examination of the school in 1830 and commended Chavis for his speech and work.

In the early years of statehood North Carolina was tolerant toward free Negroes. In 1826 a law was passed preventing the immigration of northern Negroes to the state. After that, sentiment gradually changed to be less tolerant of free Negroes. In 1835 free Negroes were deprived of the right to vote. By 1844 they were barred from the common schools. This change from tolerance to hostility had been brought about largely as a result of the fear that the free Negroes would be used by the abolitionists. Johnson, *Ante-Bellum N. C.*, 610-612; Stephen B. Weeks, "History of Negro Suffrage in the South," *Pol. Sci. Qtr.*, IX (1894), 671-703.

³Shortly after Clay's resolution to censure Jackson for the removal of deposits passed in 1834, Benton introduced resolutions to expunge Clay's resolutions from the Senate journal. For nearly three years he kept up the fight until early in 1837 when the Democrats had control of the Senate. In January of that year by a vote of 24 to 19, thanks to the party whip, he succeeded. Wiltse, *Calhoun: Nullifier*, 235, 297-300.

⁴In 1836 the Louisville, Cincinnati, and Charleston Railroad was chartered by South Carolina. Later, the North Carolina legislature also granted a charter for the part that traversed that state. In 1836-1837 the North Carolina legislature was favorably disposed towards railroads. Nearly half of its part of the national surplus deposited among the states was set aside for internal improvements. Bank stock and railroad stock were subscribed to by the state. Charles S. Sydnor, *The Development of Southern Sectionalism 1819-1848*, Baton Rouge, 1948, 269; Pegg, "Whig Party in N. C.," 85-87.

⁵For some years Mangum considered moving to Hillsboro. Priestley encouraged his moving, but Chavis opposed it. See above, I, 44, 317-318.

⁶William Montgomery was up for reelection to the National House of Representatives.

give Col Rogers your definition of States rights, tho' he is a trifling numskull of a fellow, I know it would be pleasing to him; for if he is a trifling fellow he is capable of receiving instructions, & of communicating to others.—

Please to give my respects to Mrs Mangum & tell her if do go to Granville to live she may expect to see me at her house some time in July if I can get any cloaths fit to wear for I am naked at this time, & how I am to be cloathed I dont know—When you see my son Priestly you may tell him I have scratched his name off of book of friends

I am your Obt. Hbl St

JOHN CHAVIS.

[Addressed:]

Hon. Willie P. Mangum Esqr.

Red Mountain,

Col. Rogers.

Orange.

[Endorsed:]

Rogers Store. 3 March.

WPM-LC

Robert Strange to Willie P. Mangum

Washington City Feby 8th. 1837,

Dear Sir

I received your favor of the 28th. Ult^o. in relation to the claim of the Mess^{rs}. Sneeds. I am obliged to you for the suggestions you make upon the subject; and will give them due consideration.

It will always afford me pleasure to hear from and shall be happy at all times to receive your views upon any matter about which you will take the trouble to write

The very day that Dr Sneed left here I had the subject of his claim referred and if it is now in the hands of Mr Crittenden a member of the Judiciary Committee who seems to be most favorably disposed towards the claimants. My own opinion is that the \$11000 advanced to the contractor with the interest upon it, ought to be allowed as a matter of the strictest right between man and man: and upon the liberal system on which a government should act towards a citizen I think the property destroyed ought also to be allowed together with the delay prayed for. Upon reflection I will place your letter in the hands of Mr. Crittenden which will assist him much in the investigation.