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THE PAPERS OF WILLIE PERSON MANGUM

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The Bill for the relief of our Choctaw claimants,¹⁵⁹ has some provisions in it, that are unjust, and unreasonable—I allude to the *proviso* in the 6th Section, and the proviso in the 8th Section—I beg you to turn to the bill, and look at them—The nature of the case is simply this—These Choctaws claim under the treaty—they are either entitled to *all* that the Treaty promises, or to none of it—If their claim is not justly made, then cut them off altogether, give them nothing,—but if their claim is good,—then give them *all* that the Treaty stipulates—in a single word,—they are either entitled to *all* or to *nothing*—and Congress have no right to add to, or to take away from the contract—or in any manner to change it—In addition to this Congress ought now to pass such an act as will close this business, and save themselves further trouble—but this bill will not do this. If it pass in this shape, they must expect to hear again from the claimants. I beg you to give a little attention to this subject, and explain the points to some of our friends, whose engagements on other subjects may prevent them from giving any attention to it—

Nothing new among us.

Yours very sincerely

CHS. FISHER

WPM-LC

John Chavis to Willie P. Mangum

RALEIGH June 27th 1836—

My dear Sir/

I have long wish to write to you, but anxiously so, ever since May Wake Court, believing that you at all times take & feel a deep Interest in the promotion & Interest of Charles Hinton Esqr. I therefore wanted to give you as accurate history of the contest between Mr Hinton & Judge Seawell, as Candidates for Senate, in the next G. Assembly, as I could obtain—In becoming so, they were so much at points, and as angrily so, as any two men, perhaps you ever saw. Not long, or in a few days, after they had declared themselves. I met the Judge in the street & after shaking hands he asked me for the news of the day. & I answered him, that I was very sorry, that him & Mr Hinton was so much at variance. He said it was not of his seeking, & went on to give me a history of the case, too lengthy to relate, but in

¹⁵⁹See above, II, 50n, 384n.

his usual & smooth manner, showing me not only the improper conduct of Mr Hinton. towards him, but his improper votes in the A-Sembly, among the prominent of which, was his vote for an assistant Clerk, for the Treasurer. Also that he not only voted against him, for Judge, but used all his influence to prevent him from being elected &C. I listened to him attentively, and at our parting, I repeated again that I was truly sorry that they were at variance & that in so great a degree— Shortly after, I sought an oppy. to converse with Mr. Hinton upon the subject, and I addressed him as I did Seawell, that I was very sorry that they were so at variance, he answered that it was not his seeking, why said I, that is what Seawell says & I wanted to know which of you is in fault. I heard *his tail* & I want to hear *yours*, & told him concisly what Seawell said, & he said he had said what was false, & that Seawell had wished him to do that which his honour forbid. He then told me, that when the great Bank question, was pending, that he went to the Judges house & told him that it was a subject too weighty for his abilities, & that he wished that he wd. become a Candidate for the next G. A. . The Judge refused & said he had no Interest to serve & that he must continue. After this Judge Taylor dies, he then told him that if he wd. decline he wd. offer. He said he did know whether he could do so consistently with his duty & Interest, because it was then understood, that he wd. be a Candidate, that if he declined it wd. be thought that he declined to serve his Interest & not the people, & that it wd. injure his views hereafter. The judge said he had not thought of that, & that it wd. be best for him to continue. He said he told the judge however, that if he wd. declare himself immediately he wd. give place to him but if he delayed he could not. This he said was about three Months before the time they were to declare themselves. Thus the case stood for some time, too late for him to withdraw, when the Judge came to his house, & he said he knew his business, and told him what he said expected was his business, & they entered into a smart altercation & the Judge manifested a disposition to compel him to yield to him, & he told him that he could not consistent with his honour, & he said the Judge left him, evidently dissatisfied & the case remained so until about ten days before they were to declare themselves, when the Judge sent Mr. Alphred Jones¹⁶⁰ to him to insist upon his giving place to him, he said he told Mr Jones to tell the Judge

¹⁶⁰See above, II, 140.

that he thought it very ingenerous in him to send one of their mutual friends, to make such a request at such a time & that he w^d. not do it. He said he had not spoken to the Judge from that time untill the day they declared themselves at the last May Court, when they had a smart dispute in which he told the Judge what he said was false,—Now you are to understand, that one of the Judges charges against Mr. Hinton was that he had promised to decline, which he says is false, only in the way I have above stated—When the Judge & myself were talking I told him that I understood that Mr. Hinton had given him the lie he said that want so, if he did he did not hear it, but Hinton says he did hear the word false and refered me to Henry Waren for proof—

After the Judge declared himself, he requested the printers not to publish it. And it was generally believed that his reason for that was that if he found that he could not be elected, that he w^d. decline; and he done so & I inclose you his circular¹⁶¹ & you can lay your own construction upon it—

You are to know that when it was announced that the Judge had opposed Hinton, & what was believed to be his motives, & the manner he had treated Hinton in the outset. I never met with a more indignant prople than the Raleighans were & more determine to support Hinton. I dont believe the Judge w^d. have goten a Respectable vote in Raleigh.—

The general belief is that the Judge is fallen never to rise any more, & his circular appears to be read here with the utmost contempt, because it is firmly believed that he w^d not have declined if he had believed he would have been elected, for it is supposed that he can not believe that the appology he has made can possibly heal the wounds his incessant cries against Mr Hinton has made amongst the Hinton & Perry families. For all this I am sorry—I have given you the above statment for your private satisfaction & not for the house tops—

I had much to say to you both concerning our private Interest & of political subjects but the subject on which I have been writing has too nearly filled my sheet to enter upon those subjects, I can only state therefore that I am well & hope this may find you & yours well—The case of E Kimbraughs new trial has been ably argued; but the Judges have not decided. The disinterested Lawyers think he will not get a new trial—Please to write to

¹⁶¹The circular is not in the Mangum Papers.

me by male, & let me know of the welfare of your family. My best respects Mrs Mangum & tell her I had intent to come see her in next Month, but my Employers will not allow me any vacation——

I am your Ob^t. Hb. Servt—

JOHN CHAVES

P. S. Mr. Hinton says possitively that he voted for Seawell for Judge—

[Addressed:]

Hon. Willie P. Mangum Esqr
Orange

To be left at
Red Mountain post
office

WPM-LC

*W. S. Ransom to Willie P. Mangum*¹⁶²

WARRENTON July 27th 1836

Dear Sir

In verry great haste I write to you to apprise that after two letters no response has been recd. from Turner [?] I am here at nothing—ready and most willing to do what my friends may think most advantageous to them—their cause—mine and to me I can purchase out the paper published here for \$8.00—Here I have friends who will unite with you in placing me in any situation you mutually may agree on that I would accept—You know my sentiments—This verry little place today is the gayest in the State, aye, even in the U. S. of [this] size, come down soon—Here are my friends from the South Col. Alston, Mr Alston, Genl Parrish—Mr Macon¹⁶³ and several others—Do come and consult with them whether it be better for me to remain here or go to Florida where I am offered a good birth—Your presence down here would be advantageous to both of us, to our cause. You would be hailed here in a manner different from what you expect and come you must in ten days any how. If you consult your own interest, that of our State and my own you will not delay—Day after tomorrow is our election and a close one it will be. I am a great annoyance here to the party and they all wish me at the De'il but have to treat me respectfully—Genls John H. & M. T.

¹⁶²See above, II, 394.

¹⁶³He probably refers to Willis Alston, Thomas Alston, and Nathaniel Macon.