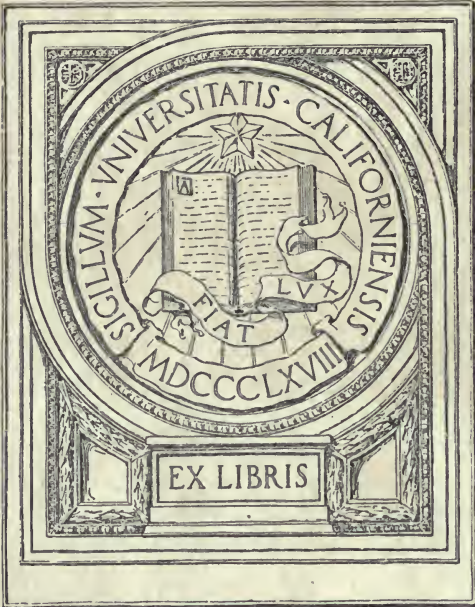


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TEXAS—ANNEXATION.

PROCEEDINGS AND RESOLUTIONS

OF

A PUBLIC MEETING

Of the citizens of Mobile county and city, relative to the annexation of Texas to the United States.

MAY 15, 1844.

Read, and laid upon the table.

PUBLIC MEETING.

Pursuant to previous notice in the city papers, a very numerous and respectable assemblage of the citizens of the city and county of Mobile took place at the Mobile Theatre on Friday evening, the 3d of May, 1844, (the selection of the court-house, which had been first announced as the place of meeting, having been considered not sufficiently commodious for the occasion,) to take into consideration the subject of the annexation of Texas to the United States. On motion, F. B. Sheppard, esquire, was called to the chair as president of the meeting; and John Bloodgood and Robert D. James, esquires, as vice presidents.

The meeting was then called to order and organized by the president; when, on motion, P. B. Taylor and H. B. Holcombe, esquires, were appointed secretaries.

After the president had announced the object of the meeting, Percy Walker, esquire, rose and offered the following preamble and resolutions for the consideration of the meeting, having prefaced their reading with a few exceedingly felicitous and appropriate remarks.

Preamble and Resolutions.

The citizens of Mobile, having assembled this evening for the purpose of expressing their opinions upon the question of annexing Texas to the United States, do adopt the following resolutions:

Resolved, That we consider the annexation of Texas as being demanded by a high state necessity—such as warranted our Government in purchasing Louisiana from France; and that we can perceive no constitutional barrier to an act by which we shall repossess ourselves of a territory originally ours.

Resolved, That, as the territory ceded by Spain to France in 1800 embraced Texas in its boundaries, and as France ceded the same to us in

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1803, that therefore our original right to Texas was beyond cavil or dispute.

Resolved, That as the United States, at the time it acquired Louisiana, with the Rio Bravo as its western limit, from France, stipulated to extend the protection of their laws to all of its inhabitants, and, so soon as the population warranted it, to admit them into the Union, in the same manner and upon the same conditions as other States should be admitted, we deprecate the policy by which the vast and fertile region of Texas was lost to us in 1819; and that, as the sovereignty of the soil, in this country, exists in the *people*, we deny the power of Government to cede away or relinquish any portion of the territory; and that therefore the cession of Texas to Spain was unauthorized and illegal.

Resolved, That Texas being an independent country, and acknowledged as such by the great powers of the world, she has, under the recognised laws of nations, a clear and independent right to dispose of herself as she may think proper; that therefore she has full power to annex herself to the United States; and that, while we earnestly desire to secure the good will of all nations, we are not bound, either in law or morals, to reject the appeal for annexation, because Mexico has refused to recognise the independence of Texas.

Resolved, That the evidences of the design on the part of Great Britain, to appropriate Texas to herself, as a colonial dependency, present to us the alternative of taking Texas ourselves, or witnessing its appendage to England. And, in connexion with this view, we would recall to the mind of the American people the declaration of Mr. Monroe, in 1824, "that this Government would regard the efforts of any foreign power to colonize any portion of the American continent, as indicative of unfriendly feelings to the United States;" a declaration full of wisdom, and affording us a correct rule of action at this time.

Resolved, That, in the language of our fellow-citizens of New Orleans, we consider the proposed annexation of Texas to the territory of the United States as a great *American* measure; to bend which to party or local uses or prejudices, is unworthy of a patriotic people.

Resolved, That the manner in which the proposition for annexation has been received at the north and east, met as it has been by denunciation of the motives of its friends, and threats of a dissolution of the Union, is ominous of evil, indicating on the one hand a temper unsuited to the exercise of reason, and on the other hand a decay of that *nationality* of feeling which forms a far stronger safeguard to the Union than any written bond; that we are bound to regard the opposition of a portion of our countrymen of the north to a measure so vital to *our* interests as the annexation of Texas, as manifesting a rancorous and settled animosity to the south and her institutions; because that opposition is evidently founded upon the fact that Texas is a slave-holding country—thus establishing the purely selfish and sectional character of that opposition, and boding no good to the security of our property and peace.

Resolved, That while we would prefer regarding the annexation of Texas as a great *national* measure, from which incalculable benefits would accrue to the *whole* country, we cannot be blind to the fact, that the peace and quiet, if not the existence of the southern States as sovereignties, imperiously demand it; that the transfer of Texas, the great key to the south and west, to a foreign power, would block up the States bordering on the

valley of the Mississippi, together with the whole Missouri region; that, upon refusal to annex Texas on our part, she would become the theatre for foreign intrigue, and the centre of movements utterly destructive of our rights and interests.

Resolved, That we not only desire the annexation of Texas, from reasons of state policy, but because it offers a new and wider field for the diffusion of those liberal principles of government, under the benign influence of which we have grown into a great and powerful nation, and which are the handmaidens of religion, in ameliorating the condition of man, and giving a larger and freer development to his intellectual and moral faculties.

Resolved, That, apart from all these reasons, we earnestly desire annexation, because the people of Texas are of our kin and lineage—"bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh," members of *our* family, speaking *our* language, taught in *our* political school, reverencing *our* religion,—and that we shrink in abhorrence at the idea of her becoming a tributary to any foreign power.

Resolved, That a copy of the proceedings of this meeting be transmitted to the President of the United States, and to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress, and that the latter be respectfully requested to present the same in the branches to which they belong.

After the resolutions were read, they were supported in a short, but able and animated speech, by Percy Walker, esquire; in which he reviewed the history of the negotiations and treaties, which had, at one period, placed the United States in peaceable possession of the territory now forming the area of the republic of Texas, and, at another, lost it to the nation, by the treachery of a Secretary of State of the United States, who, having in his possession the evidence of the consent of the Spanish Government to the establishment of the Rio del Norte as the western boundary, actually accepted of the Sabine as that boundary, when the Spanish minister, then accredited to the United States, had full power to accord the former boundary. He dwelt with singular force of expression and felicity of thought upon the incalculable advantages to the United States, as a great national measure, which the annexation would produce; and, on the other hand, on the disastrous and deplorable consequences to the southern section of the Union which would follow in the train of events, should this crisis be suffered to pass away without securing an object absolutely vital to the peace and safety, if not the political existence, of the southern States.

After Mr. Walker had taken his seat, Daniel Chandler, esquire, was called up by the unanimous voice of the meeting. He rose, and, in his usual able and happy style, enchained the audience in a speech of considerable length, which was received by the meeting with every demonstration of approbation. He fully sustained the whole spirit of the resolutions; and as we are not able to enter fully into a detail of his arguments in favor of annexation, it must suffice to state that he reviewed the prominent objections of the opponents of annexation, and demonstrated that, under every aspect of the question, annexation of Texas, as a national measure, was called for by every consideration of justice to Texas, and the honor, safety, and true policy of the United States. As to the dread of the resulting consequence of war with Mexico, or with any other power, to annexation, he referred to the indisposition of them all to encounter the United States, and insisted, with peculiar cogency of reasoning, that from that source we had nothing to apprehend.

He deprecated the introduction of party feelings into so grave and momentous a question as that now presented to the people of the United States, and invoked the meeting, by appeals calculated to awaken all the kindlier feelings of the heart, and the clearest and unbiassed judgment of the head, to discard all party considerations, and leave their reason and consciences free to decide so grave and momentous a question.

He maintained that the crisis had arrived when the question should be boldly met and decided—that now is the proper time—and that, were the ambition of presidential aspirants separated from the question, all would be of one mind upon it.

After he had concluded, on motion of P. Waters, esquire, the resolutions were again read, and unanimously adopted by the meeting.

On motion, the proceedings of the meeting were ordered to be published in the city papers.

The meeting then adjourned.

F. B. SHEPPARD, *President.*

R. D. JAMES,

J. BLOODGOOD, } *Vice Presidents.*

P. B. TAYLOR,

H. B. HOLCOMBE,

} *Secretaries.*

