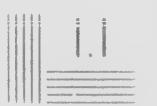
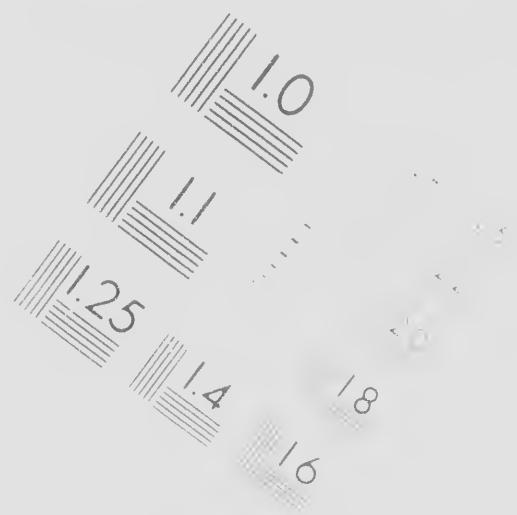


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- Pages restored and/or laminated
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Richard D.

SIR.—I rejoice that the law has now convened the representatives of the Congress of the United States, called by the President, at a period when circumstances which menaced the peace of our country, still remain. Those issued, as yet from the general government, measures which may require the arm and vigor of the state legislatures. One great object of the establishment of the general government is to protect each state against invasion. But as in the most well administered governments, cases may occur in which individuals will put it themselves in, just said, violence, without waiting for the slow forms of law in an extended confederated republic, it will sometimes happen that the danger to a state will be so imminent as to require the exertion of its own energies, before the nation is called for its protection. Such a case has occurred in our own state since your last session. Virginia have been made the theatre of an outrage unprecedented in the history of the world, in the pursuit of a formal order from a British naval, frigate to a principle of the acknowledged law of nations, and striking violatly at the independent country, a public armed vessel of the United States, leaving no port on a distant day of June, followed by one of those vessels of war which had been sent to our harbors, and were at that moment enjoying the benefits of our hospitality, sight of our own shores, had several of her crew killed and wounded, four of them being disabled from proceeding. This outrage was followed up by a few hours, notorious in history, or not conductive to so degraded an act, manifested in a rigorous and a spirit of more determined and systematic hostility. The frigate, the own sailors, had watched the frigate Chesapeake, had followed her out of the harbor, waited, remained, bringing with her the trophies of her lawless violation, and repelled the British squadron then lying in the Haven Bay, off the mordore Dock, where the whole squadron, took his station in the harbor of Roanoke, the town of Norfolk; a purpose that was, to prohibit all ships to enter or leave the port without examination. These measures, flagrige of the British Comander, and the still more malignant, at a very considerable distance, the channel of Elizabeth River leading to the harbor, no doubt of his intention to attack that town. I shall leave what has been difficult to conjecture, the limits to which he intended to carry his hostilities. Virginia, receiving the earliest and most appropriate information of this state of their duty to provide instantly for the protection of the country... Are they believed to be competent, were directed to be immediately stationed at Norfolk orders were given to the Brigadier General commanding the militia of the Bay, and of principal rivers, to organize their detachments, to be held in field, in every warlike... These measures were communicated without delay to the United States, but previously to his receiving the communication, & from other sources, of the occurrences in the vicinity of Norfolk, and descriptive of the character of this place and the position of the state, liaison with the Executive to order that immediate service, at the expense of the United States, the militia might be thought necessary and most convenient for the defense on the one seaport had excited in every description of our fellow-citizens the most considerate sentiment of the strongest indignation... All private or public property, or our valuable rights as a nation, and in the name of resolution to defend our country and property, & whatever means of defense we constituted a force at the Bay, where the British forces lay. Employing the existing armament and discipline, in the very bosom of our country, by the blockade of our principal river, and the prospect of海上和陸上 attack, the militia in every part of the state, which was armed with the best for service, and the most ardent enthusiasm, in great numbers, and a corps implored to be the first to be recruited. The brave City, from Petersburg, and from Williamsburg, deserve the unfeigned admiration, & exemplary ability with which they marched to the aid of their fellow-citizens, the militia that were in service, at Norfolk, at Hampton, and at Lynnhaven, their burning zeal, that determined resolution which the nation will always delight to fonder.

Well displayed of patriotic courage, it end so universal, it may not be

GOVERNOR'S LETTER.

Richmond, December 3, 1867.

The representatives of the people of Virginia, at a period earlier than usual, in consequence of the want of confidence, at a period earlier than usual, in consequence of the want of confidence, still remains in session. These their issue, as yet uncertain, may call for the firm and vigorous co-operation of the general government to pro-

. But as in the most widely organized and individuals will, if it necessary to defend the slow forms of law, so in our widely

on that the danger to a particular state may be even the murder of the Keeper and his family, and that the safety of the prisoners, before the national arm can be extended to your last session. The capes

imperceptible in the history of nation...in founded on a principle opposed to every prudential wisdom at the expense of every other saving her port on a distant service, was in- of war which had been finally received, into ports of our hospitality, was attacked and

wounded, and taken from us, and recovered up by rebels who had the day before committed a massacre, in a city unutterable rage and despair, or responsibil- The Executive, who had no more than followed her out at the mouth of the river of her law, a morning, had at noon, as in Raven Bay, on the 2nd of July, com-

stitution in the town of Roanoke, for the avowal

that was demanded by the Executive, at least. These men had, indeed, to the very still more notwithstanding, something to do with what had already occurred, to conciliate his hostility. The Executive, however, in his opinion of this state of things, was in a quandary... Accordingly, on the 1st of August, a battery stationed at Norfolk and Hampton, holding the military on the banks of the Chesapeake, to be held in readiness to take communication without delay, to the President, by telegraph, that he had been informed of the state, to the 1st of July, called on the expenditure of the United States, such portions convenient for these purposes. The courage of our fellow-citizens within the state this sum, the amount of the salaries of the officers and of some portion of expenses, including which, it is believed, exceed \$2,000; and I will leave it at \$2,000. The first item, in the short space of eight months. A decided statement of the operation of the telegraph agencies of manufacture, will be embodied by a subsequent communication.

I submit herewith their report of Charles Bent and John Corby, Esquires, of the 1st of the month, and it will be opened from the upper navigation of James River, or the upper portion of the state, since as far as I have seen, were made in pursuance of a part of the right of way. I also enclose a copy of the bill, introduced in the year 1823 by Charles Atkinson, & James Atkinson, Jun., Esq., probably accidentally. They were not found in this being referred to by that just mentioned; together with a statement of the expences of public monies, the purpose of which is, for the very few, if any, of their fellow citizens, or the wife of one of them, and at Jayhaw in May manifested that

scale, just, but humane, and living, moreover, in the application of the same principles, as were allowed to the juries a wide range for action, it is certain that the result in each individual case, it was believed that the great purposes of justice, the safety of the country, the interest of our country, still remains in session. These incidents should be noticed, certainly and interestingly, according to the law and the constitution, and in the judgment of our court. But the convicts, so long as they are confined, do not become members of our society. They are deprived of all rights, and during the time of their confinement which no act of theirs could tend to shorten or mitigate, and after the expiration of their term of confinement they are deprived of all hope. They lose the only incentive to a life of virtue, which could be expected to influence hearts directly wicked and depraved, for pecuniary gain or interest. They manifested the most unruly spirit, and violence, in attempting to escape, trained only by the certainty of immediate punishment — They were anxious in forming dangerous plans for effecting their escape, in the accoutrements of which, the convicts contrived even the murder of the Keeper and his family, and that still unconsciously, — The Executive determined at length to pursue a course different from that which was adopted, — they occasionally selected, as objects of mercy and pardon, those of the convicts, most revolting to their industry, orderly conduct, and uniform submission to the regulations of the Institution, whilst they invariably turned a deaf ear to the petitions of those of the opposite character, even where their claims to merit were warmly and strongly urged by numerous and highly respectable characters from without. The motives to such intercessions were known to be correct, and were duly appreciated by the Executive; but they could not permit their decisions to be influenced by any other consideration than those arising from the good conduct of the convicted offenders; and it was distinctly communicated

that the spirit of insubordination to the law, intended to be extirped, was to escape from the combination of punishment which they proposed, and be excluded from the favourable opportunity to the discipline of the Penitentiary, and to yet greater exertion of their talents, the reformation of the convicts, and that under such circumstances a pardon would be solicited in vain. — This arrangement, which was so soon announced, was met with, as others were manifested in the decided conduct of the convicts; by which, each second now deformed, remained himself to the intention of the Executive.

In the performance of their duties in relation to the Penitentiary, the Executive acknowledged, with pleasure, the great advantages they have derived from the co-operation of the twelve respectable gentlemen who, as Visitors, at the request of the Executive, and without any other inducement than the ample scope of rendering a public service, have undertaken regularly to visit the Penitentiary, to superintend its operations, and to suggest to the Executive such improvements as experience and observation shall dictate. Mr. Abraham Dredges, formerly of Philadelphia, who was appointed Keeper on the resignation of Mr. Minott, the last Superintendent, with all the details of such establishment, and a knowledge of the great principles on which it is founded, has, it is believed, that steady uniformity of temper, that perseverance and humanity of heart, and that energy of character, so necessary in the Keeper of such an institution. He is a veteran in his profession, commanding attention to its interests, and I wish to make no secret of my entire satisfaction, and the high expectation I have from him, by the experience of others, of the public treasure. I enclose the general account of the money paid to the Convict Fund and the Penitentiary, for the period commencing the 1st day of April, when the prison first commenced its operations, and ending the 30th day of November, drawn upon the principle which I will take into consideration similar estimates, and existing in balance in favor of the institution, of \$1,700 dollars and 87 cents. In order, however, to ascertain the real profits of the institution, it will be necessary to deduct from our fellow-citizens within the state this sum, the amount of the salaries of the officers, and of some portion of expenses, including which, it is believed, exceed \$2,000; and I will leave it at \$2,000. The first item, in the short space of eight months. A decided statement of the operation of the telegraph agencies of manufacture, will be embodied by a subsequent letter.

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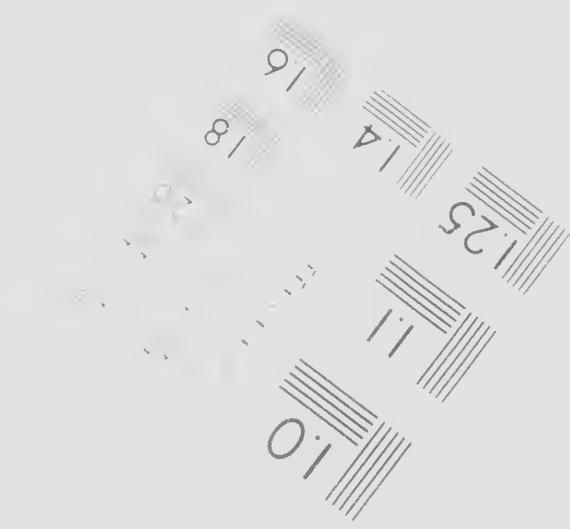
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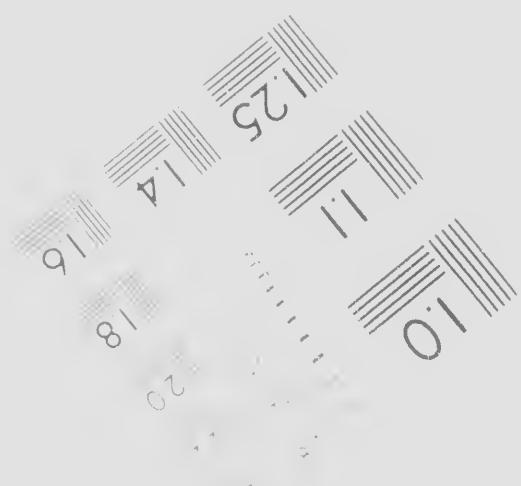
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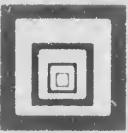
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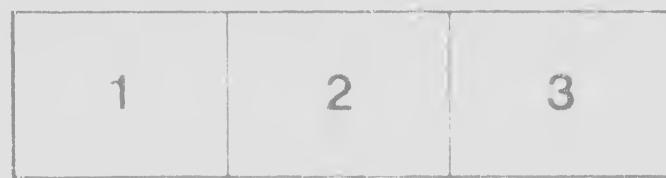
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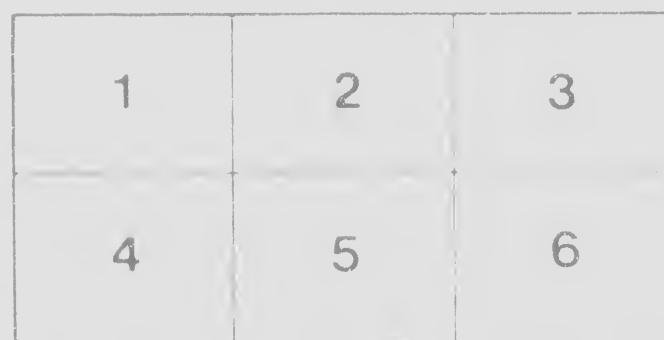
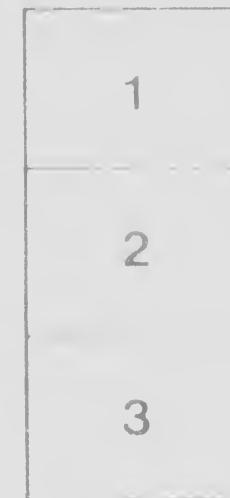
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