

30th

E. Bates
PAPERS

MISSOURI
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
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recd June 13

To P. R. Fendall Esq
Washington City

My Dear Sir,

Your favor June 1. was slow in coming: I rec'd it only on the 9th.

"Not to us, not to us!" &c It is God's mercy that extreme knaves, are very apt to be extreme fools also. Your late convention had possessed a small modicum of prudence & common sense, they might have inflicted a lasting calamity upon this State; but, as it is, I think we have gotten the ultra-Radicals, of Mr. ankle deep, in the mire at the bottom of the pit which they had digged for us. The late election returns make it almost certain that we have defeated their foolish tricked constitution - And the consequences of that defeat are by

by no means, limited to this State. They will be felt in Ohio & Massachusetts: they will be felt throughout that Radical organization which, even now, is laboring diligently, to undermine & subvert the Constitution, and establish, instead of its admirable balance of powers, one great, central, all-controlling power, which is a long stride - perhaps, the only step - from the Republic to the Empire.

And here let me venture to prophesy a little - I predict then, that before next Christmas, there will be open opposition between the Radical leaders of the North & West & President Johnson - and that the Radicals will go to the wall.

I send you, by this mail (nos 5 & 6), the last two of my series of letters to the People of M^o. Like the rest, they contain many errors of the press, & doubtless, some of my own. You surmise that "a portion of the general reasoning might be applied

to the military conspiracy - Court now sitting here." Doubtless if not, I have but wasted my time & thought in the writing of those letters. The trial of "the assassins" by a military Court is a capital blunder on the part of the Govt; and I doubt, even yet, whether any man will suffer death, under a sentence of that Court. Surely the Govt will see the danger of its false position; and there is still time to avoid some of the resulting evils, - they may ~~accept~~ the underscript military commission (which is neither more nor less than a court martial) as a court of enquiry, & having gotten the evidence by the stringent power of the Military, may turn the culprits over to the Civil court, for actual trial.

It is said in the newspapers, that the military trial was adopted upon the advice of the Atty Genl, but, as I am credibly informed, there is no such opinion of record, in the office - and for the honor of ~~honor~~ the office, I hope there is none such there.

Mr Chase, the newspaper tell us, has
made a political speech to "a big gang of
niggers" in South Carolina! What do you
think of that - for a Chief Justice?

Commend me kindly to the ladies of your
house, & to all the boys

Most respectfully your friend & serv^t

Dr. Bates