

Now, I will say, that whether your informant be Republican or Democrat White or black, his statement is utterly and ~~and~~ entirely false. He is either an intentional and malicious liar or one who makes assertions of the truth or falsity of which he has no knowledge and without regard to fact or result - You do not choose to give me the name of the informant whose statement is so creditable that I cannot be heard to deny it, but you are at perfect liberty to certify to him my opinion of the veracity of his statement -

Of course I am cut off from any further statement or explanation in the matter by your previous declaration of a contrary belief - I much regret that you should have neglected my repeated communications in this matter and finally have refused to ~~hear~~ ~~hear~~ ~~hear~~ consider my request at all in a manner which stung me, in my letter to Mr. Heath, to use language which I do not doubt was improper in its tone - I had been surprised that you had never offered any rewards for the murderers of Outlaw, when they had been outlawed

You say that you are informed on "good Republican authority" that these men were "inveigled" into pleading guilty under promise of suspension of judgment upon payment of cash, "with the knowledge and consent of the presiding judge" — You take the pains also, to inform me that it is useless to deny this because you give it "entire credit". Three things strike me as peculiar in this statement —

- 1st That you should evidently have heard the statements of others upon this matter and at the same time refuse to hear and consider mine. I had not expected such treatment at your hands, nor do I think I have merited it —
- 2^d — That you should inform me that you had received and believed such statements without waiting to hear or consider mine; that you should forestall my denial with a declaration of disbelief of it —
- 3^d — That you could for a moment suppose that I would agree to any disposition of a State case, or would even hear any proposition as to its disposition except in open court — No man who has ever practiced before me or who has any knowledge of my official conduct would presume to approach me with such a proposition — much less expect me to accede to it — in any case.

by a public proclamation reciting that they were "hiding out to avoid arrest", and when it was a fact that they are now publicly living at their homes, attending church, &c, and when I was informed that you had been told of these facts and I had myself suggested the matter to you —

At the same time I so much better an opinion of your Excellency than you choose to express of me that I never for a moment doubted that you would act with the utmost honesty and sincerity of purpose. I very much regretted that you would not listen to representations of ~~the truth~~ by which you might be informed of the facts, which I fully believed and do yet believe to be the only reason why you do not take the step proposed — so thoroughly convinced am I of its propriety and justice — I am happy to state — even under these circumstances — that I never dreamed of seriously impugning to any of your acts an unworthy motive — I have not always approved their wisdom — though I have very generally done so — In any event I have usually had but little to say upon the matter ~~and~~ it was hardly in any way to do so —

I have sometimes been annoyed
by your adhesion to determination
to ~~take~~ which I fully believed were
arrived at without proper con-
sideration - Such was your re-
fusal to consider the case of these
men and your failure to cooper-
ate in my attempts to secure the Ala-
bama murderers -

I had intended to come down
on purpose to consult in regard to
these things with you, plainly and
candidly as I always have and
always should have done, had
I been fortunate enough to retain my
consideration at your hands -

Of course I cannot approach
in any manner one who ~~to~~
considers
~~him~~ me guilty of so infamous
an act as you have declared be-
lieve that I have perpetrated toward
these men - I have requested Mr Bull
the collector and Mr Scott who defend-
ed to state their knowledge as to my
complicity to any such bargain with
criminals - Their depositions I shall
take the liberty to enclose to your Ex-
cellency and after that shall trouble
your Excellency with no more communi-
cations - Yours &c - A. W. Torrey