

GOVERNOR PICO'S PROTEST AGAINST THE ACTION OF THE BEAR FLAG PARTY

The following letter of Governor Pio Pico to Thomas O. Larkin, United States Consul, Monterey, is self-explanatory. So far as known it has never before appeared in print.

"The undersigned Constitutional Governor of the Department of California, is very sorry to say to Don Tomas O. Larkin, consul of the United States of North America, that he is greatly astonished to learn from official communications from the Comandante General of this Department and Prefecture of the 2nd District, that a great number (multitude) of North American foreigners have invaded the frontier, encamping in the Plaza of Sonoma, traitorously arresting the Comandante-Militar, Don Guadalupe Vallejo, Lieut. Col. Don Victor Prudon, Capt. Salvador Vallejo and Don Jacobo P. Leese, also stealing the private property of these individuals. The writer cannot do less than inform the United States Consul that such extraordinary and alarming operations have caused him the greatest indignation.

The Departmental Governor has not, up to this time, had any direct word that would cause him to know of a declaration of war between Mexico and the United States, and without such information he considers the acts committed in Sonoma to be the greatest atrocity and infamy conceivable, for nothing equal to it can be witnessed even among barbarians. Personal rights have been attacked, well-established social contracts broken, the sacred soil of another nation profaned and, in short, the leader of the multitude of foreigners, William B. Ide, by insulting libel, urged them to a separation from the Mexican Union. This war-like act inflames the heart of the undersigned and leads him to suspect that the government of the United States has a part in it, which must increase his indignation.

The Senor Consul Don Tomas O. Larkin will permit the writer to say frankly that his Excellency has witnessed with extraordinary indifference this invasion of the Department, because in spite of noting the general movement of all the inhabitants to the defense of their fatherland and liberty, he has not taken steps to cause the invaders to withdraw from their vile purposes and avoid the misfortunes that might be caused, as a result of the hostile provocation; misfortunes the responsibility for which the Departmental Govern-

ment places on the chief actors, before God and the entire world. Such a sinister attitude as was observed on this occasion deeply compromises the honor of the United States and should it have upon it such a stain there is no doubt that it will be ineradicable in the eternal memory of all nations and will cause their scorn.

The writer believes that the United States Consul will agree with him that the act committed by the band of American foreigners has the color of a real and atrocious robbery. The Consul will also agree that subjects of his nation violating this part of the Mexican Republic, by his disdainful neglect to prevent fatal consequences, more and more compromises both nations. The undersigned Governor, incited by his duty, feels himself obliged to recommend to the Senor Consul Don Tomas O. Larkin, that he clear up the event that befell in Sonoma; to exact from him a complete satisfaction, hoping he will take such steps as may be necessary to avoid in the future disastrous consequences and finally to protest solemnly in the name of the Departmental Government and of the Supreme Government of the nation, as he does; and formally to oppose all aggression, defending as far as necessary its independence, liberty and ancient rights; repeating that he holds responsible both the chief instigators and the representative of the United States to this Department for such abuses as they do not prevent.

The writer expects from the good sense of the Senor Consul of the United States in Monterey, a recognition of the justice of the representations here made and that the answer to this letter (which he begs may come soon) will correspond to his friendly wishes. The writer has the honor to assure the Senor Consul Don Tomas O. Larkin, of the sincerity of his esteem."

God and Liberty,

Pio Pico.

Senor Consul of the United States,

DON TOMAS O. LARKIN.

Santa Barbara, June 29 of 1846.