Adjutant General's Office,
STATE OF TEXAS,

AUSTIN, April 18" 1873.

Sir:

In compliance with your order directing me to prepare a statement of the present condition of the State, I called upon the Sheriffs of the various counties, to furnish me with statements of all cases of murder and attempts to murder in their respective counties since the first day of January 1873. Up to the present time twenty-nine (29) counties only, have been heard from officially, and twenty-five (25) unofficially, reporting seventy-eight (78) cases of killed and seventy (70) attempts to kill, as follows:

Cherokee County.

William R. Dobson was murdered by William Priestly January 8" 1873, at Jacksonville.

George Foreman shot and attempted to murder William Caldwell at Alto. February 11" 1873.

Willis Pierce shot at and attempted to murder - Dowdy, February 1" 1873.

TX

FI-20-1

1

Maverick Co

Juan Rellas was murdered by Jos. Tumbleson at Eagle Pass Feb. 16th 73

Zapata County.

— Tucker killed a man, name not given near Carrizo Feb. 16th 73.

Travis Co

Louis Franke murdered by unknown parties Feb. 19th 73 at Austin.

Wm Blair assaulted John Mc Farland with an axe about the 15th of March 73.

S. Melasky shot Henry Pelham April 13th, Austin. 1873

TX

Lampasas Co

Sheriff of Lampasas Co was shot by a desperado G. W. Short. Jan. 14th 73.

Capt. Thomas Williams, Wesley Cherry and J. M. Daniels murdered at Lampasas Mch 14th 73 by Bill Bowen Jerry Scott all Whitcraft, Mart Howell and several others andrew Nellville wounded at same time, since dead

FI-20-2

Smith Co

N. C. Remington was shot and killed by C. C Rogers at Tyler Feb. 21st 73

George Williams was killed by an unknown assassin near Tyler Feb. 1873

Titus Co

J. F. Smith, Wm Otwell and H. C. Pittle attempted to murder —— Hightower since Jan. 1st 1873

C. W. Jones and W. D. Pallifero attempted to kill J. S. Clifton about 15th Feb. 73.

Hamilton Co

Mrs Carpenter was killed by John Hardin Jr. Feb. 73

Johnson Co

Bob. McClannahan was murdered by one Avants about 7th April 73

Red River Co

Amos Stone was stabbed by T. P. Stewart April 8th 1873

TX

F1-20-3

Tarrant Co.

– Lack was killed by Wharkley who shot and wounded one Thomton at same time. Oak Grove Feb. – 73

Collin Co

Chas Watson was shot by – Balch Feb. 24th 73 at Mc Kinney
A. Yadek was killed April 2nd at Mc Kinney by a man whose name is not given.

Lavacca Co

Itha Wyatt age 14. W. B. Wyatt age 13. and Thomas Fowler were shot and murdered Jan. 11th 73 on prairie. it is supposed by hide thieves whom these boys discovered at work

Jack Hadge was killed by Wm Garrett March – 73

Austin Co

Bill Jackson alias Bill Matt killed one Lafayette Penrice about 1st of March – 73.

Billy Nichols stabbed a negro man, at Hempstead March 29th – 73, whose name is unknown.

Frank Watts was killed by C. E. Creager March 31st 1873

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F1-20-4

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Hunt Co

Wm Simmons was killed by a mob March 12th 73.

Montgomery Co

Joseph, R. Nevill was killed by P. S. Meadows March 28th 73

Brown Co

Charley Hammond, Lewis Night and two others murdered a negro near Williams store Jan 25th or 30th 73

Upshur Co

—— Brown attempted to kill A. J. Roe Longview about the 8th of April 1873

Kendall Co.

Louis Aragon was murdered by Simon Hernandez April 6th 73

Mason Co

Wm. B. Locke attempted to murder Robert Brown since Jan 1st 1873.

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F1-20-5

Wood Co

J. M. Jones was shot and murdered by Barney and James Madden March 15th 73

Caldwell Co

Ed. Franks was severely cut by S. L. French about 30th of March at Lockhart 1873

Walker Co

John Fitzpatrick shot and wounded Wm Simmons at Phillip's Station Jan. 30th 73.

Atascosa Co

—— Ragsdale was killed by — Stedman at Palo Alto March 23rd 1873.

Galveston Co

Jas. Helms stabbed and murdered policeman Ferguson and stabbed and wounded Thomas Burns John Myers and Mr Benison April 6th 73

Harrison

James Flanagan was killed by Lewis White at Marshall 26th or 28th March.

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F1-20-6

Washington Co

M. H. Sternberger was stabbed by M Arnold at Giddings Feb. 15th 73

N. Harvey shot and wounded a woman at Brenham Feb. 29th 73 whose name is unknown.

Nueces Co

Anselmo Anando was murdered March 6th 73 at Corpus Christi March 6th 73 by parties unknown

Mariana Garcia killed by Francisco Bosque and others March 18th 73

Gonzales Co

Rena Walker was murdered by Isaih Walker March 73

Wesley Hardin killed a man name unknown March 73

Bell Co

Jesse Ruble. killed by a herder, near Baggett's Ranch March 8th 73., whose name is not known.

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Bastrop Co

Wm Cottingham killed by mexicans, names unknown Jan. 73

F1-20-7

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Bastrop Co

Emil and Constantine Voight were fired upon by Floyd Barker and another party Feb. 3rd 73

Dolph Culver murdered Jordan Smith About March 20th 73

John Cottingham shot and killed Newton — April 10th 1873

Mc. Lennan Co

— Williams was killed by — Duncan March 73

Gillespie Co

A mexican, name unknown shot Mrs Mary Martin since Jan. 1st 1873

Parker Co

One Masters was killed by mob in Feb. 73

Grimes Co

Sam Moody was shot and killed, John Moody and a Mr Williams were wounded, and a negro shot ~~and~~ in a row at White's store Near Navasota about March 15th 73.

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F-1-20-8

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Grimes Co

Willie Kennon was killed by – Jones April 1st 1873.

Cook Co

A man whose name is unknown was robbed and murdered and thrown into a creek in Cook Co, by unknown parties, the body was found March-73

Llano Co

Ad Owens assaulted and stabbed a man at Bluffton March 1st 1873.

Anderson Co

Henry Coleman was killed by a mob in Anderson Co on 18th of March 1873

McCulloch Co

Mr Wainright was shot and killed by Wm Bobo March 4th-73

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De Witt Co

A man named Cooper was shot at Cuero Mch 30th 1873 by Jack Slade

John Morgan was killed at Cuero April 4-73 by Fred Johnson.

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Harris Co

Bob Dawson was killed by John Shaw at Houston March 1st 1873

Policeman Curley was killed at Houston Feb. 23" 1873 by James Thompson

Pat Murphy stabbed Mat Burns March 29" 1873 at Houston

Calvin Sellers was murdered by George Fisher March 30" 1873 at Houston

Austin Wood shot and wounded Gus Thompkins at Houston about the 1st of April 1873

Claiborne Gagner was killed by Charles Ohleson at Houston April 7" 1873

Hill Co

Poll Cauble was murdered by disguised men Jan. 27" 1873

Ben Davis shot by J. D. Green Hill Co March 26" 1873

S. W. Mc Kee murdered a man at Fort Graham about 1st Jan. 73 name unknown.

Fayette Co

Simon Walters was shot and murdered by an unknown party on night of April 10" 73

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F1-20-10

Falls Co

Milton Brothers was murdered at night by a mob neare Blue Ridge Feb. 21st 73.

Wilson Co

Charley Enke mundered March 7th 73 near Sutherland Springs

Grayson Co

John Stark a deputy constable was killed by horse thieves near Collinsville about 20th Feb. 73

James Camel, Robert Broiles, William Brewster were killed by parties unknown 25th or 30th Feb. 73

Four men at Denison fired upon Deputy Sheriff and posse, fire was returned and John McKaskie killed Feb. 24th 73

Polk Gatewood shot by Anson Harrison Jan 5th 73 near Sherman

San Saba Co

John Sellers shot and killed — Jackson Feb 10th 73 and Jackson, brother of Jackson killed by Sellers, killed with an axe D. K. Williams and John Sellers Feb. 10th 73

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F1-20-11

Robertson Co

Warren Hightower was killed by Bud Adams Robertson Co Feb. 73

Edward Bailey was killed by Christopher Searcy at Bremond about the 12th March 1873.

Coryell Co

Wm Bell found hung near Eagle Creek Feb. 22d 73
Henry Burts, Frank McElroy and John Carodin charged with the murder

Wm Nevill killed by J. N. Beasley since Jan. 1st 73

Mr Wyatt shot down at his gate by unknown assassins Jan. 73.

Hughes and Payne killed since Jan 1st 73 Asa Langford Sr. Asa Langford Jr. and Richard Dublin charged with the crime.

Marion Co

James Lockhart shot James Gorman at Jefferson Jan. 73.

— Warnack was murdered at Jefferson by John Pettyjohn Feb. 22d 73.

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F1-20-12

Fort Bend Co

Richard Robinson was murdered by Clark Johnson at Walkers station Jan. 6th-73

Friday Carr was shot and wounded by Anthony Cox March-73

Oliver Thompson, fatally stabbed by Wm Johnson March 5th-73. Thompson died March 16th

Medina Co

Julius Heuchling stabbed Charles Smith and Joseph Koening March 3rd-73 at Castroville

Dallas Co

Bill Perry charged with the murder of Elizabeth Anderson 1st of Feb. 1873 near Dallas

James Beeding attempted to kill David Britton 1st Feb -73 at Dallas.

Thomas Bennet attempted to murder one D. H. Littlehall Feb. 10th-73 at Dallas.

J. C. Bledso attempted to murder J. D. St Clair on 2nd Feb-73 at Lancaster Dallas Co

Goliad Co

Hesseinde Saldana was stabbed by one Sacramento De La Garza Feb. 23rd 1873.

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F1-20-13

Milam Co

Samuel Dunn assaulted and dangerously cut J. K. P. Bunts at Bryants Station March 28th-73

— Young killed a negro, whose name is unknown, at Pitts' ferry on the Brazos March 1873

— Smith was shot and killed by a man, name unknown, at Beans' camp on the Great Northern R.R Mch-73

Wm Bizzell was killed by J. G. Wariner at Fincastle Henderson Co since Jan. 1st 1873

W. A. Doggett attempted to murder W. G. Waller Erath Co

Asa Reese shot and killed Bill Hardin Jan-73 at the plantation of A. W. Marshall on Red River

H. B. Kennedy was killed by a man, name unknown, near Tehuacana Limestone Co since Jan. 1st-73

F1-20-15

Since the first of January last, I have been called on, either by delegations of citizens or officers of fourteen different counties, who stated the county officers were unable to suppress the existing violence or give the citizens protection and requesting detachments of State Police to assist the County officers in the execution of the laws. The names of the Counties are as follows: "Austin, Burnet, Comanche, Duval, Erath, Gonzales, Hill, Kerr, Kinney, Lampasas, Madison, Mc Culloch, Refugio and San Saba.

There is also in Coleman County near Camp Colorado a band of Horse thieves and murderers of considerable strength, estimated at from 17 to 25 in number.

Captain Nix with a detachment of Police is now after this party - Some twenty-eight shots have been exchanged between Nix's detachment and the outlaws during the last three weeks. Some of the men engaged in the murder of Captain Williams and his men at Lampasas are reported to be of this party.

In Austin County under command of Lieut Adams a detachment of State Police arrested a portion of the outlaws and drove the balance from the county.

A detachment sent to Burnet County were unsuccessful in arresting the parties who had appeared in disguise, and driven

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F1-20-14

a number of the citizens from the county, threatening their lives if they did not leave within a given period.

In Comanche and Brach counties there is now, and has been for several months, a strong force of Police who have made upwards of fifty arrests of parties charged with murder or theft.

In Duval County, Justice of the Peace, J. O. Luby, telegraphed me on April 2nd for assistance from State Police, and stated that a band of murderers and thieves, numbering sixty, under command of Antonio Alvarada and Alberto Garzia were depredating in that county. I at once ordered Lieut George Nabey Commanding Co. "D" Medina Co. Minute Men to proceed to Duval County and assist Sergeant Henderson of State Police, to arrest these parties, and as yet have received no report from them.

In Gonzales County there is a strong band of thieves and murderers headed by John Hardin, alias Wesley Hardin, alias Wesley Clements, who is reported to have committed sixteen different murders, and has threatened to kill a member of the Legislature, Hon S. T. Robb. One thousand dollars reward has been offered by your Excellency for Hardin and One thousand by the State of Missouri. On the 27th day of March this man Hardin with a squad of twelve men all armed with Winchester guns and six shooters rode into the town of Gonzales and delivered the County jail of all its prisoners, threatening the guard with death if they made

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F1-20-15

any alarm. The Sheriff of Gonzales County informs me that he has made no effort to arrest any of these parties; that the citizens will not answer his summons, and that the outlaws must be released, even if caught and placed in Gonzales jail. I have made several efforts to arrest Hardin and his companions, but owing to the Police force having received no pay for several months, it is impossible to move them in sufficient strength to capture the outlaws.
Wilcox County is infested with a band of lawless characters who in disguise and under cover of night, go about murdering and outraging whoever incurs their displeasure. To give a correct idea of how they carry on their atrocious deeds, I here add a copy of a communication from them to a citizen of Wilcox County who is recommended to me as a peaceable citizen and a farmer in that county.

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=1-20-16

4/2.

To Vard Keel, Dick Thomas Smith and Wm. Glen.

We give you choice between two things, you can take which you please.
Many of your companions in thieving have gone to another country. The ropes and six shooter balls are also prepared for you by the same one. If you wish to preserve your lives, leave this country in thirty days - get clear away. If either one of you are found in this country after the 15th of April you will meet with same fate that Russell Dean, Pole Cauble and others have met with.

Yours respectfully.
Death to thieves.

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F1-20-17