

LETTER FROM GONZALES

TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE OF SAN FELIPE.

Gonzales, 8th March, 1836.

GENTLEMEN,

ON day before yesterday I arrived here, accompanied by the companies of Captains M'Nutt and Rabb. I found about one hundred and sixty men here, which, with our force, made about two hundred and seventy, fifty of which started on yesterday for the Alamo. Our force now at this place is about two hundred and twenty men, with an enemy seventy-five miles in our front, five thousand strong. Our own situation is critical—too weak to advance, and insufficient to protect this place—and daily expecting two thousand cavalry to attack us. To retreat, however, would be the ruin of Texas; and we have all resolved to abide an attack, and to conquer or die. We are now busily engaged fortifying ourselves, with the hope that the people of Texas, *en masse*, are on the march to our assistance. Unless they are, the Alamo and our post must fall, and *all, every* man be destroyed. Not one of us will return to tell the dreadful tale—or to reproach those that remain for their supineness, or their cowardice. We have come here to repel the enemy, and my company will die beneath their standard sooner than the enemy shall advance, or they retreat. Will the people of Texas longer remain at home? Will any man, under these circumstances, longer refuse to turn out, because his *interest* requires his attention? Will any one dare to have the effrontery to say, that his interest must be attended to, when Texas is in danger of being overran, and the women and children

in cold blood massacred, when a portion of his fellow citizens are closely besieged, and another portion daily expecting to be attacked by ten times their number. The truth is not to be disguised, unless Texas turns out to a man—unless in two weeks from this day, three thousand men are concentrated here, Texas is gone, and one universal destruction and conflagration will be the result. In the name of God, send us assistance—send out the men; and let all who remain, without satisfactory reasons, be henceforward branded as a coward and a traitor, and an enemy to Texas, and let him be so treated. Their doctrine appears to be, that we must fight the battles of Texas, endure all privation, and all toil, and spill our blood and our lives, that they may enjoy the privilege of staying at home. Such a man is a traitor, and as a traitor treat him. Send, as fast as possible, arms and ammunition. Some of my company are without guns, and no possible means of procuring them here. Not a pound of lead, except what I brought, which I have distributed. Send these things, and speedily: and be assured, that unless Texas is victorious, I shall never return.

Yours, truly,

MOSELEY BAKER,
Captain.

JOHN R. JONES, }
THOMAS GAY, } *Committee.*
WM. PETTUS, }

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