

Charge against Handell had been overlooked in the press of other matters, and as I was informed about that time that Handell had left Birmingham and gone to one of the Southern States, I deemed it unnecessary at that time to press the matter any further. As Mr. Handell, in submitting his statement to the Governor to be correct, knew the views held by his partner upon the Slavery question, so abhorrent to every Southern man, he should have been more watchful of the contents of his paper, so as to have prevented a publication, which was so objectionable to our people. As Mr. Handell may have been innocent of any participation in the publication alluded to, and as the indictment has been pending so long, a prosecution of it now might be viewed by the people of Alabama in the light of a prosecution and would no doubt cause a considerable degree of excitement among them, as well as among a large class even in this County. There is no crime which I should be disposed to prosecute with more vigor than one of this description, but I have no desire to cause any agitation of the delicate question at this time, especially against the judgment of the Governor, upon which I am at all times disposed to rely. I see no cause why the course advised by the Governor should not be adopted. I shall be perfectly satisfied, and I am sure our people will, that this matter shall rest where it is though I do not think that they would be willing that Handell should be permitted to come into this neighborhood with impunity, after having at least permitted such a gross outrage upon their feelings and rights. Even should he come under the sanction of a Nolle Prosequi, I doubt whether it would serve as any protection against the just indignation of our Citizens. I would therefore most respectfully advise that a Nolle Prosequi should not be granted, but that no further proceedings should be had upon the application for a Regulator.

I have the honor to be  
 Very Respectfully  
 Yours Obedt. Servt.  
 Richd Mason