

"The Constitution and laws of Texas have not only provided, but have determined, the officers necessary to the administration of the Government—and they are, in their respective offices, discharging the duties imposed upon them by the authority referred to.

"It is the duty of the Executive of the State to respect and execute its laws, and to see that its Constitution is not violated. These obligations are imposed on him by a solemn oath. He is nowhere empowered to veto or nullify laws already in force, nor to set aside provisions of the Constitution."

The civil war was rapidly approaching the end. General Lee surrendered the main army at Spottsylvania Court House on the 9th of April, 1865; Johnston surrendered the army under his command, April 26th; and General Taylor, May 6th. The last battle of the war was fought in Western Texas, at the old Palo Alto battle-ground, on the 13th of May.

May 25th Governor Murrah issued three proclamations: one commanding civil officers to preserve public property; another convening an extra session of the Legislature; and a third ordering an election for delegates to a convention. The last two were set aside by the Federal Commander. Without formal orders, the soldiers disbanded by common consent, and returned to their homes, taking such public property as they could carry with them. As might have been expected, a scene of confusion and disorder ensued, in which, in some instances, private property was taken by irresponsible parties.

On the 30th of May, Generals Smith and Magruder went on board a Federal vessel, in the harbor at Galveston, and formally surrendered the Trans-Mississippi Department. General Granger, of the United States army, landed on the 19th of June, and assumed command. He announced the emancipation of the slaves, and the suspension of all legislative enactments inconsistent with the laws of the United States.*

*Executive officers: R. J. Towns, Secretary of State; C. R. Johns, Comptroller; C. M. Randolph, Treasurer; Stephen Crosby, Land Commissioner; D. B. Culbertson, Adjutant-General; William Stedman, Attorney-General.