

Alexander Hamilton Stephens' Papers, January 10 to February 14, 1861

[Page 183]

The enclosed slip you will see, is the speech I made in our state convention – it is badly printed but - you can understand it.

We are now in the midst of a revolution. That may be acted upon as a fixed immovable fact.

It is bootless to argue the causes that produced it, or whether it be a good or bad thing in itself. The former will be the task of the historian. The latter is a problem that the future alone can solve.

The wise man – the patriot and statesman in either section – will take the fact as it exists, and do the best he can under circumstances as he finds them, for the good, the peace, welfare, and happiness of his own country.

I have neither room or [sic] time to say more, and what I have said of course is intended only for yourself.

The great objection to private letters of this character being brought before the public, arises from the haste with which they are generally sketched.

This is particularly the case with myself. While I have no special confidence to enjoin, in anything I write to anybody,

[Page 184]

in relation to public affairs, I do have a strong and repugnant aversion to being brought before the public against my will.

Yours most Respectfully,
Alexander H. Stephens.

Samuel R. Glenn
National Hotel
Washington, D.C.