CIRCULAR.

To the People of the State of Mississippi.

Your vote determines to what individuals the powers of government shall be entrusted. For your benefit and in subjection to your will, expressed in your constitution, or indicated at the polls, are those powers at all times to be exercised. You therefore constitute the sovereign power of the state; and in the exercise of this your sovereign authority, you will shortly declare to what individual you will entrust the chief executive office of the state.

As a candidate for that office, usage and propriety will both sanction a public and frank declaration to you, of the views I entertain, in regard to the laws and measures, which the present interests and domestic policy of the state require.

To increase the wealth of the state by facilitating the transportation of its agricultural products; to enlarge its population by an encouragement to emigration; to extinguish the title of the Indians to lands within the limits of the state; to obtain relief to those of our citizens, who, through the pressure of the times have been compelled to relinquish or to forfeit their title to lands, rendered more valuable by their improvements; to obtain from the United States such a disposition of the public lands, as will be most advantageous to the interests of this state, and just to the rights of the United States; to mature and perfect the system of police, the organization of the courts, and the administration of justice; to amend the constitution, so as to admit of such an organization of courts and distribution of the judicial power as the interest of the state from time to time requires; to secure the happiness of the people, and give strength, harmony and beauty to our republican fabric by the encouragement of learning, and the diffusion of the means of knowledge and information among all classes of the people; constitute the great features of domestic policy which the present condition of the state imperiously demands.

In reference to these subjects, the most important powers entrusted to the Governor of the state are, his power to recommend to the legislature what measures and what laws, the interest of the state requires; and the power to approve or disapprove of such laws as are passed by a majority of the Senate and House of Representatives.

In the discharge of these duties, an enlargement of the circulating medium adequate to the demands of our commerce, deserves to be recommended. One hundred and seventeen thousand bales of cotton are annually exported, which at an average of forty dollars a bale, produces upwards of four millions of dollars. Our whole banking capital amount to only nine hundred thousand dollars. By the assessor's list, it appears that nearly two hundred thousand dollars were loaned out at an interest of ten per cent per annum, between the 1st of March 1828, and the 1st of March 1829, by individuals in Adams county alone. Our merchants, who are thus compelled to borrow at an interest of ten per cent, to make advances to planters upon their crops, necessarily charge it to the planter. These are facts, which tend to embarrass the commercial, the agricultural, the mechanical, and all other employments, and deserve the consideration of, and a remedy from, the legislature.

Internal improvements, in our rivers and roads, should be accomplished, to whatever extent they can be ascertained to be practicable; and as far as the resources of the state, and the means which can be obtained from the general government will admit.

For the extinguishment of the title of the Indians to lands within the limits of our state, every thing within the power, good faith and justice of the national government may be expected from the knowledge and disposition of the President. No one better knows how deeply the general prosperity of the state is involved in this measure. Until it is effected, the populous and valuable county of Monroe must remain separated from the state; deprived of the advantages of easy and constant intercourse with their fellow-citizens; subjected to inconveniencies in their management of the internal concerns of the country and in attending on courts as witnesses, jurors and suitors, from the extent of the county in length. Should the lands be purchased of the Indians, Monroe could be divided, and with counties contiguous to it, formed into a new judicial district. The state, obtaining the sovereignty in fact as well as in law, over the entire extent of its territory, would soon obtain an increase of population and wealth, which would raise it to an equality with its sister states, and enable it to establish and support a full and complete organization of government for the purposes of justice and for the regulation of its domestic concerns.

Under the laws of Congress in relation to the relinquishment and forfeiture of lands, a large class of our citizens have been compelled to relinquish portions of their land, lessening the value of the part retained; or entirely to forfeit all their improvements to the United States. The cause of their misfortune is not founded in extravagant speculation, but in the depression of the price of cotton, and in the great deficiency of currency. The surrendered and forfeited lands will again be brought into market with the improvements upon them. It would be oppressive upon those who have made the improvements, to be subjected to competition with speculators, who would run up the price of their lands above their original value on account of the improvements. A benefit of redemption by a further extension of time of payment, or a right of preemption at the original or a reduced price, in favor of that class of our citizens, would comport with the usual liberality and justice of Congress upon this subject. Upon the memorial of the legislature it would undoubtedly be obtained.

You now have my views of the policy demanded by the existing condition of the state, and of the ends to which the powers of your executive should be exerted.

In conclusion I can only add, that I feel a deep interest in the perpetuity of all our republican institutions, and have a special interest in the prosperity of this my adopted state, in which ten years ago I commenced my profession, and first entered upon the active business of life.

That interest is not founded in the possession of wealth, but in a principle at least as powerful; in a devotedness to republicanism, awakened by early lessons of the examples of the sages of the revolution; cherished by the whole course of my education; made a portion of my life and being, by the evidences which every where surroundme, and each day discloses, of the blessings of freedom and equality, in which birth or wealth give no legal superiority over talent and virtue; and in which our whole country is unfolding an amazing display of knowledge, power, strength, improvement and prosperity diffused throughout the entire mass of the community.

GEORGE WINCHESTER.