An act to incorporate the Texas, New Orleans and Northern Express Company.
An act for the relief of J. H. Brown.
An act for the relief of the heirs of E. Humphreys.
Joint resolution and act for the relief of Buford Garrett.
Joint resolution instructing our delegates in Congress in relation to frontier protection.

To the Hon. M. D. K. Taylor,
Speaker of the House of Representatives:

The joint committee have examined an act for the relief of certain persons therein named, and find the same correctly enrolled, properly signed, and have this day presented the same to the Governor for his signature and approval.

A bill for the relief of John Ricord.

B. H. Davis.
On motion the House adjourned till 8 o'clock, A. M., Monday.

House met pursuant to adjournment—roll called and the following members answered to their names:

The Secretary of the Senate announced the passage of a bill for relief of John Ricord, and the Omnibus bill, by the Senate.

The Journal of Saturday was read.

Messrs. Duncan, Barnard, Lynch and Franklin, rose to personal explanations.

The hour having arrived for the adjournment sine die, the Speaker rose and said:

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:

The time for our dissolution, in accordance with the resolution we have adopted for adjournment, has arrived. If left to my feelings, I should silently adjourn this body. But the very flattering resolutions you have lately passed in relation to my conduct as your presiding officer, demand it of me, I think, as a duty that I should unhesitatingly respond to them. For the last eighteen years I have been attending Legislatures, and I have

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never yet, on these occasions, failed to experience a feeling of regret, on parting with those with whom I have acted in efforts for the common good of a common constituency, during the session. To have to part with them, perhaps never again to meet, ever awakens, in my bosom, emotions akin to pain.

In the performance of my duties, fellow members, if I know myself, I have not known one of you in preference to another, but have dealt out to you the rules we have adopted for our government, equally and alike to all. And, but for a call which draws me to a home that I love, I would be loth to leave these halls and their associations. I leave you, each of you, with the kindest feelings. And I was glad this morning, to hear certain explanations by members of this House. For, as we have been here together for a hundred days, acting, with but one or two rare exceptions, as a band of brothers, I hoped, and I believe now, we part as brothers and as friends. My reflections and reminiscences, in connection with the past session, are such as I shall cherish and treasure up in my heart during the whole series of my declining years. I shall ever look back upon each one of you as a member with whom I have acted for the common good of the common constituency. And I cannot close these remarks without admonishing you of the importance of action on the part of every person now in political power in this government of ours. When a man is elected, under our form of government, to a position even as low and humble as ours, it gives to that individual a certain influence with those who elect him. There is—and it cannot be denied that there is—a crisis in the history of the American Union. Therefore it behooves every man, be he an officer or a private citizen of this Union, to weigh well the affairs of State at this juncture. Our Federal government has been trying, for over three fourths of a century, to work out the great problem of self government. The American people contend that they are competent for self government; while no other nation, perhaps, under the sun, has ever yet claimed that the people are capable of self government. Then when a dark cloud is hovering over this happy Union—this Union of States, held together and cemented by the Constitution—the greatest and best government ever framed by man; I say, when clouds are rising that threaten to crush to atoms that Constitution, in behooves every man, and especially those who are placed on the watch-tower, at this particular juncture, to look well to the interests of our common country. I would not have you tamely submit to mistake or wrong, far be it from me. I would have every American citizen contend for his rights under the Constitution. But what
I would say here to you, to-day, and what I would say to the country, to the States, to the Union, had I a voice to extend to them, is that you should have discretion, that you should ponder well the effects to which one wrong step, either in this Legislature, or in your capacity as a private citizen, at home, might lead you. I would have you ponder well these things. I hold that the great thing to be done now, is to strive to perpetuate the greatest instrument ever penned by man—the bond which binds together the Union—the Constitution of the United States. Let us protect, unharmed and untoned, this sacred instrument; for by this, and nothing else, can we perpetuate this Union.

When we return to our constituents and friends, let us reason calmly with them; let us not be impracticable. Let us contend for our rights, for every inch of our rights, under the Constitution. And let us not, in a moment of excitement, perform an act which might tend to overwhelm with ruin, the greatest government a people ever knew.

I wish you, fellow members, a safe return to your homes, your families and your constituents. And as I remarked before, although I may never see any of you again, you will live in my remembrance all the days of my life. And to the officers of this Legislature, who have so ably discharged their duties, and aided me so efficiently in the discharge of mine, I return you, fellow officers, my sincere thanks.

I now pronounce the House of Representatives of the Eighth Legislature of the State of Texas, adjourned without day.

Read and approved February 13th, 1860.

M. D. K. TAYLOR,
Speaker House of Representatives.

Attest,
W. L. CHALMERS,
Chief Clerk House of Representatives.