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## ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS OF THE CONFEDERATE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

### I

L. R. GARRISON

#### I. ORGANIZATION AND RELATED PROBLEMS

When John H. Reagan, delegate from Texas to the Provisional Congress of the Confederate States, on March 6, 1861, accepted his appointment as postmaster-general in Jefferson Davis's cabinet, he was first confronted with the task of providing, in its entirety, a central office force for the general administration of the great postal system which had not yet been taken over from the United States government. The energetic Texan lost no time. On the way home from his meeting with the President, Reagan met H. P. Brewster, a lawyer of South Carolina, whom he immediately engaged to go to Washington on business concerning the organization of the post office department. That same day Brewster was sent to Washington with letters to various important persons, among whom were St. George Offutt, chief clerk in the office of the sixth auditor; Benjamin Clements, chief clerk to the postmaster-general; Joseph Lewis, head of the bond division in the post office department; Captain Schwartzman, head of the dead letter office; Mr. McNair, of the finance bureau; and Mr. Hobby, the third assistant postmaster-general. These men Reagan asked to accept positions in the Post Office Department of the Confederate States, and to bring South with them "copies of

EARLY PRESBYTERIANISM IN TEXAS AS SEEN BY  
REV. JAMES WESTON MILLER, D. D.

ROBERT FINNEY MILLER, M. D.

My father, the Rev. Dr. James Weston Miller, came to Texas in December, 1844, as a missionary of the Presbyterian church to the First Presbyterian Church of Houston. He arrived at Houston on the steamer *Captain Wood*, having come by boat down the Ohio from Steubenville, and down the Mississippi to New Orleans, then by water to Galveston and Harrisburg. He was born in Erie County, Pennsylvania, on French Creek, near Mill Village, November 15, 1815, the eldest of nine children of Jeremiah and Elizabeth Weston Miller, and was christened James Weston for his maternal grandfather, Esquire James Weston, a descendant of the Westons of Duxbury and Plymouth, Massachusetts. James Weston Miller's family were pioneers in northwestern Pennsylvania. His grandfather, Stephen Miller, came early to Erie County and settled at Waterford.

James Weston Miller began his education in the old log school houses of Erie County, and studied night after night by the blaze of a pine knot. He later entered Waterford Academy, six miles away, and walked the distance to and fro for some years. In 1835 he finished the academy course and won a scholarship which gave him two years free at Jefferson College, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. At the end of his sophomore year he was out of funds, so returned to Waterford Academy as principal during 1837-38. Returning to Jefferson in 1838 he graduated in 1840. There were forty-two graduates that year, and he took first honors and the valedictory September 14, 1840. For the next year he was assistant to Rev. Dr. Mathew Brown, President of Jefferson College. In the fall of 1841 he accepted the principalship of the Grove Academy at Steubenville, Ohio, for a year, and here began the lifelong friendship with Dr. C. C. Beatty, President of the Steubenville Female Seminary. Dr. Beatty was one of the greatest Presbyterian divines of his day. After a year at the Grove Academy, Miller entered the theological seminary at Allegheny, Pennsylvania, to prepare for the ministry. Here he graduated in

*Daniel Baker to Miller*

Huntsville, 16th Dec. 1856.

Dear Brother Miller,

After a long absence, I reached home on the 4th inst. There is to be a meeting of the Board of Trustees, on the evening of the third Thursday in Jany. next. I hope you will be present. I greatly desire that you should be present at that time. We have some very important business to engage the attention of the trustees. I have much to say to you, but have not time, just now. Suffice it to say, that I have given notice that I purpose to tender my resignation as President of Austin College—to take effect at that time. Not on account of any abatement of personal interest in the affairs of our noble Institution, but chiefly because there is a fair prospect of getting a gentleman of high distinction to take my place. You wish to know the man. It is no less a person than Governor Swain of North Carolina—the present President of the University of that state. If he should receive a unanimous vote I think he will come—for I have seen him and conversed with him on the subject. Should he come—our College will take a wonderful spring. When he took charge of the University of North Carolina there were only ninety students—now there are about four hundred! Such a man would give a great name to Austin College—and I doubt not, he would bring many students from his own state. But I have not time to enlarge. Do, brother Miller, come—but if you absolutely cannot—be sure to appoint a *Proxy*—say Anthony Branch—or Col. Leigh.

Excuse the brevity of this note.

Yrs in a precious Savior

Dan'l Baker.

The results of my efforts during the present year—in every way about some six thousand dollars.

*W. C. Somerville to Miller*

Huntsville, Texas, June 25th 1857.

Rev. J. W. Miller,

Dear Sir Permit me to send you a letter of a single idea. This day you have been *unanimously* elected President of Austin College by the Bd. of Trustees.

The one idea is this. Come, Come, Come. Don't let anything keep you back. The College, if properly conducted, will become powerful for good generally in Texas, and particularly, its influence will be immense for Presbyterianism. Education and conservatism have always been chief weapons in our denomination. We can't shout like a Methodist bro. nor can we plunge so well as