

Secession and Union in Tennessee

Introduction:

In February 1861, Tennessee voted against secession, but by June when a second vote was taken the majority of Tennessee voters favored secession. This lesson focuses on why Middle and West Tennessee eventually supported secession while East Tennessee remained strongly Unionist

Guiding Questions:

What factors influenced Tennessee's secession vote?

Why did East Tennessee remain strongly Unionist?

Learning Objectives:

The learner will analyze primary and secondary sources to determine what factors influenced Tennesseans' secession votes.

The learner will analyze secondary sources to determine why East Tennessee remained strongly Unionist.

The learner will demonstrate knowledge by completing graphic organizer/Exit Card

Materials Needed:

Secession or Union Quote Cards

Tennessee Slave Population Map



Secession Vote Map

Voting Results by County Chart for your region

Voting results for Sevier County and Hamilton County

Background:

Informational Text: [Secession in Tennessee, Hurst Nation, and the State of Scott](#)

Lesson Activities:

Activity 1- Secession or Union Quote Cards

Partner Activity

Give each student a card. Ask them to find one other student with the same quotation. Then have the students work as partners to determine if the author of the quote is pro-Union or pro-secession. Ask them if the author of the quote provides any evidence to support his or her position. After students have read and discussed the quotes with their partners, read each quote and have the students tell you if the author is pro-Union or pro-Secession. Ask them to share any evidence the author provides to support his or her opinion.

Activity 2 – Slave Population Map

Whole Class Activity

Give each student a printed copy of the map and project the image on a whiteboard if possible. Ask the students to find their home county on the map and use the map key to determine what percentage of the county's population was enslaved in 1860. Next, have the students look at neighboring counties and determine if the percentages are similar or different. Ask the students to brainstorm some reasons to explain the percentages and any differences they noted. Ask students what overall patterns they notice for the state. Guide student discussion to the idea that counties and regions with large areas of fertile soil were more likely to have high percentages of slaves than counties or regions with less fertile soil or rocky terrain.

Activity 3- Secession Voting Map and Results by County chart

Whole Class Activity



Give each student a printed copy of the map and project the image on a whiteboard if possible. Ask the students to find their home county on the map and use the map key to determine what percentage of the county's population voted for secession. Ask students what overall patterns they notice for the state. Ask students to compare the two maps. Have students look at the Results by County chart. Ask them to identify and explain patterns in the voting results. Guide student discussion to the idea that areas with higher numbers of slaves engaged in plantation style agriculture were more likely to vote for secession than areas with fewer slaves.

(Optional) Activity 4- Sevier County and Hamilton County Results

Whole Class Activity

Ask students to examine the handwritten voting results for Sevier and Hamilton counties. Ask students to compare and contrast the documents.

Assessment: Graphic Organizer/ Exit Card

Students will be complete the graphic organizer/exit card included with the lesson

Extending the Lesson:

Ask students to imagine that they are writing an editorial that will appear in the local newspaper just before the vote on June 8, 1861. The editorial should cite evidence from the lesson to support its position for or against secession. For information on how to write an editorial, see [Tips for Editorial Writing](#) from the University Interscholastic League, Texas



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List 3 key ideas from the lesson.

- A. _____

- B. _____

- C. _____



List 2 ways that today's lesson connects to what you already knew about this topic or 2 questions you still have about the topic.

- A. _____


- B. _____



Write a one sentence summary of the lesson.

- A. _____





July 4, 1864

Memorable day, still will the recollection of '76 make a thrill of delight pass through my heart. We cannot forget the struggle of the noble and brave for independence in our first revolution.

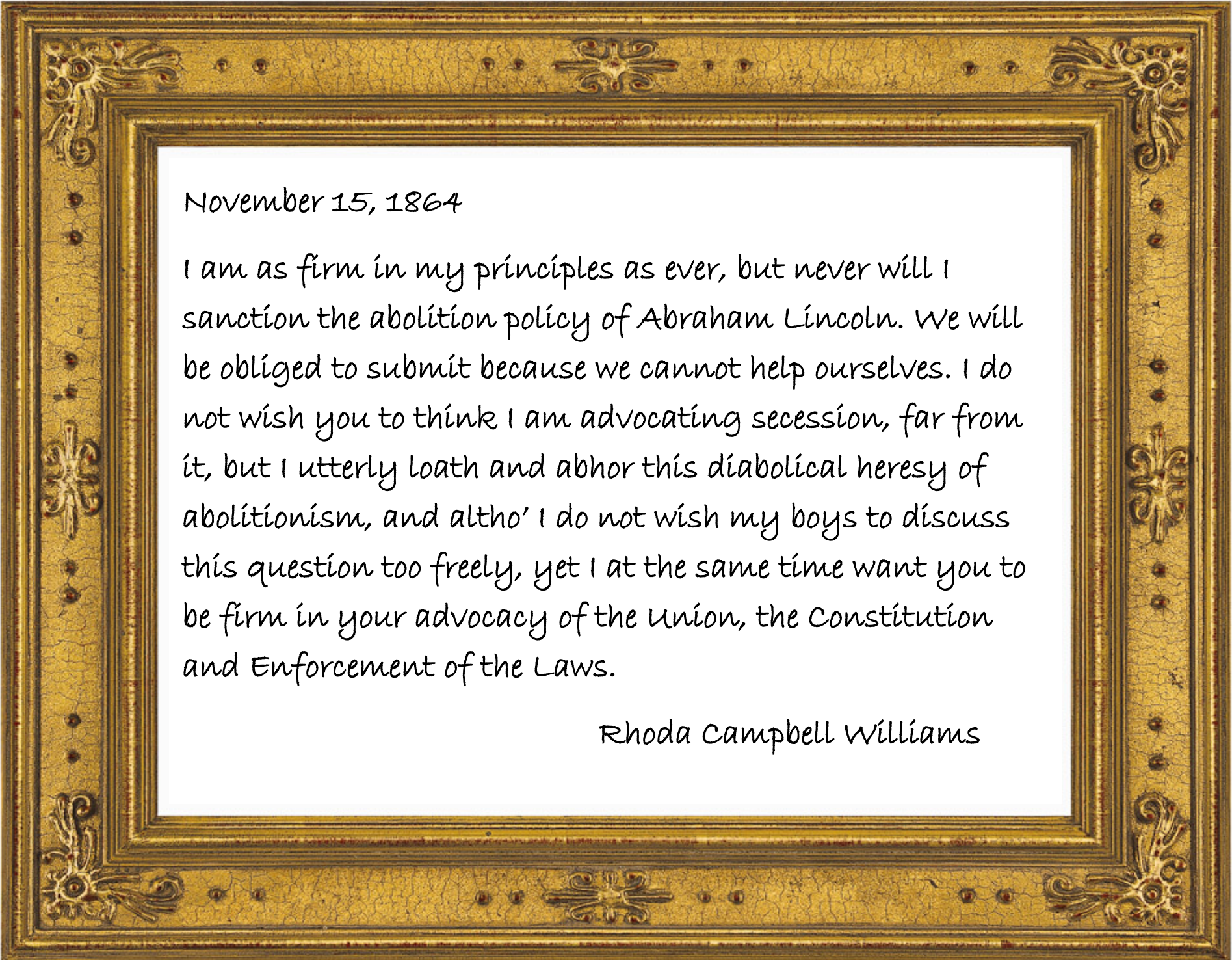
The descendants of many who then stood shoulder to shoulder with the Fathers of southern freedom are now in the ranks against us in this second and more terrible revolution.

Eliza Rhea Anderson Fain

March 26, 1862

This has been the [quietest], most spring like day we have had. Not much interrupted by the Soldiers. Yet a person cannot go to a neighbor's house, nay! Even over His own farm without a pass, & that from an invader & this is freedom is it-this is a free country? I saw a paper with old Andy Johnson's speech in it-O how I did want to burn it & him with it.

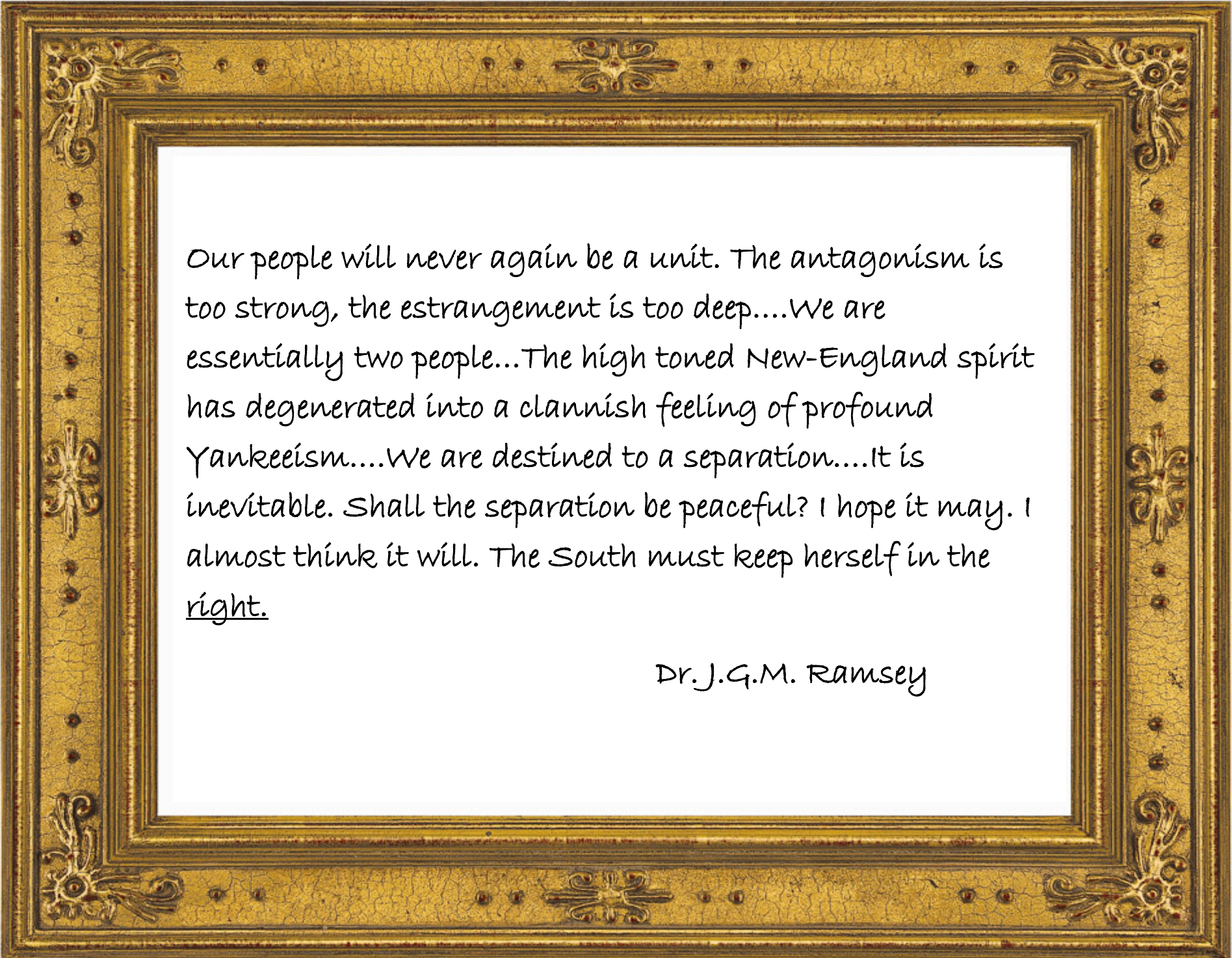
Ethie Eagleton



November 15, 1864

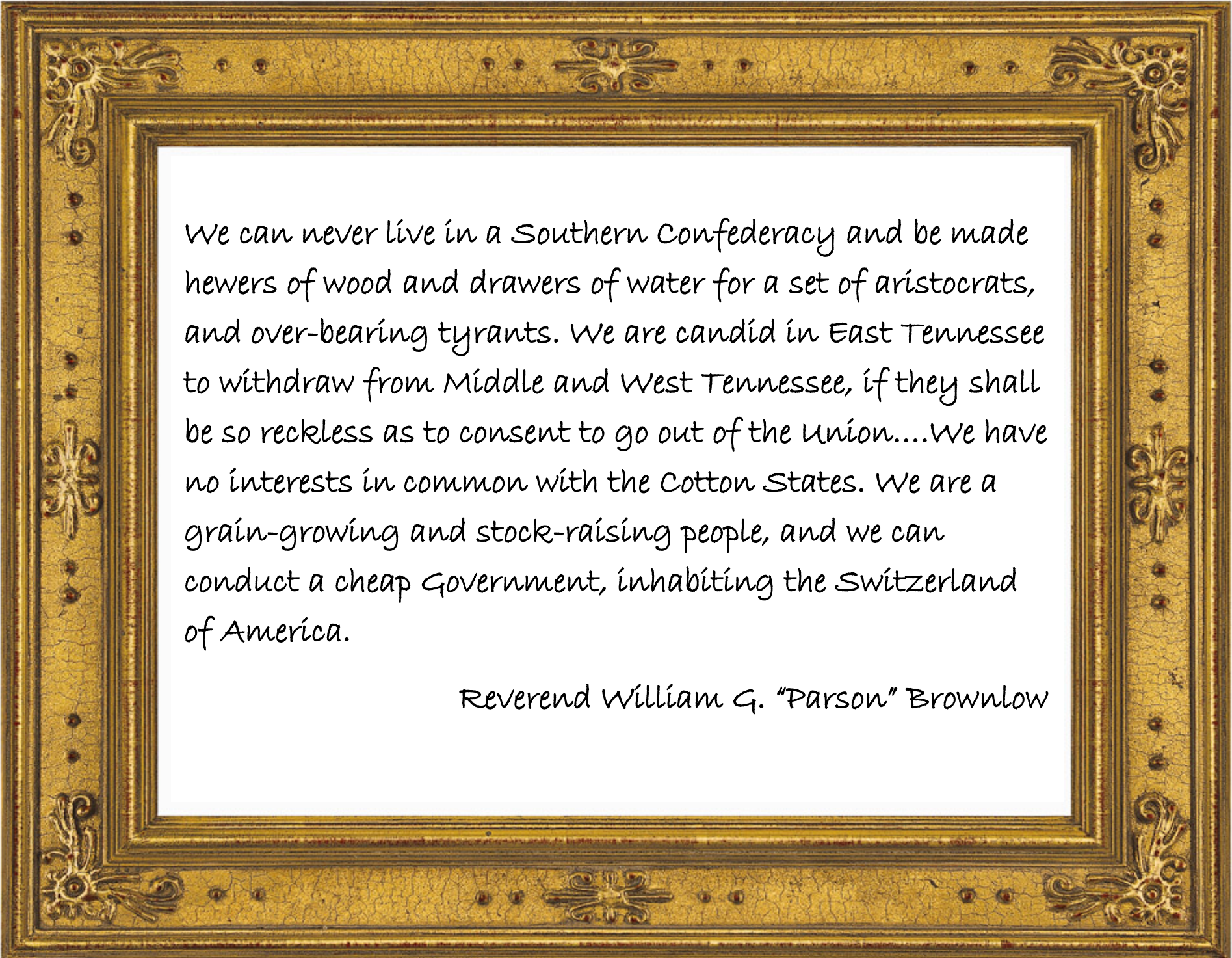
I am as firm in my principles as ever, but never will I sanction the abolition policy of Abraham Lincoln. We will be obliged to submit because we cannot help ourselves. I do not wish you to think I am advocating secession, far from it, but I utterly loath and abhor this diabolical heresy of abolitionism, and altho' I do not wish my boys to discuss this question too freely, yet I at the same time want you to be firm in your advocacy of the Union, the Constitution and Enforcement of the Laws.

Rhoda Campbell Williams



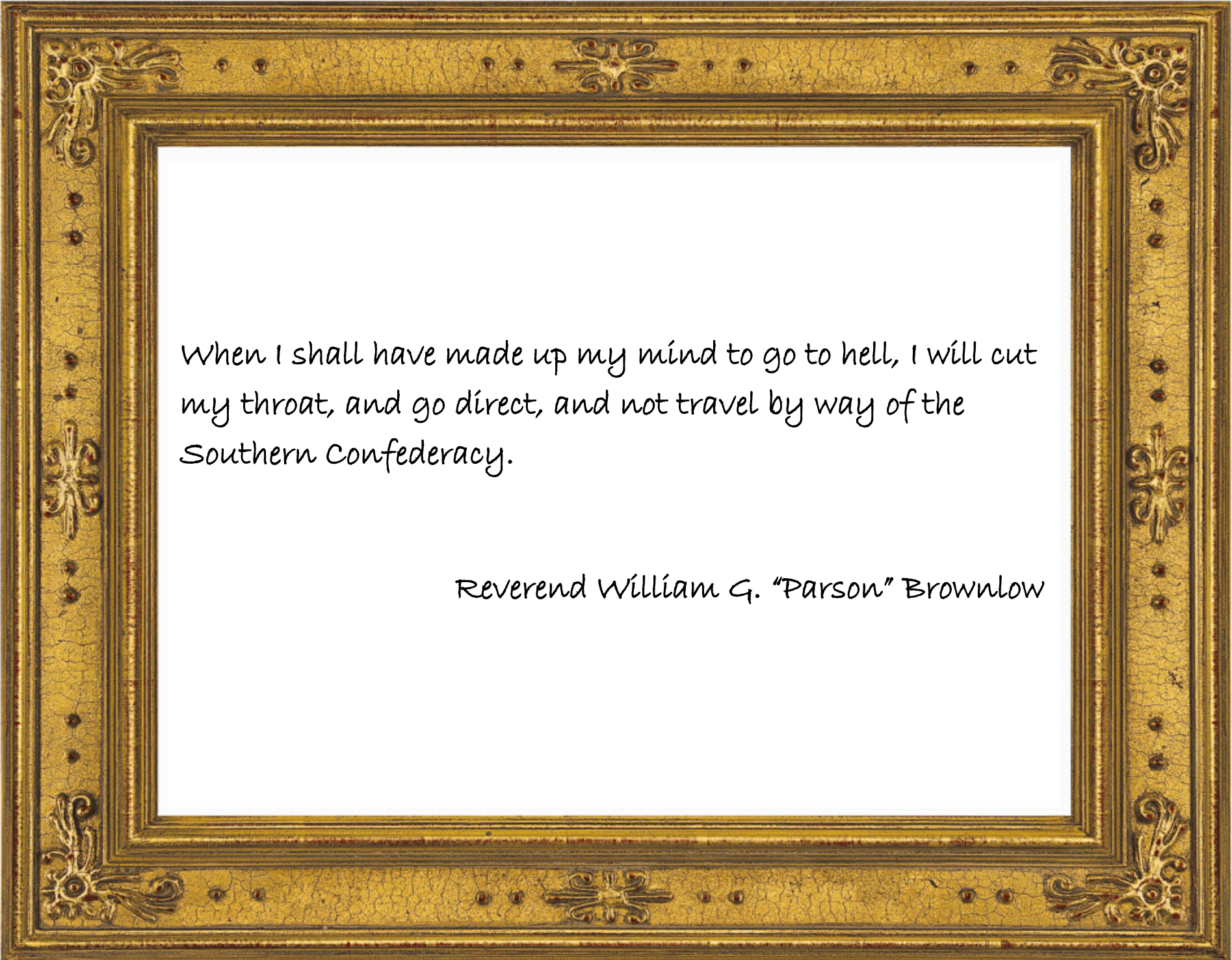
Our people will never again be a unit. The antagonism is too strong, the estrangement is too deep...We are essentially two people...The high toned New-England spirit has degenerated into a clannish feeling of profound Yankeeism....We are destined to a separation....It is inevitable. Shall the separation be peaceful? I hope it may. I almost think it will. The South must keep herself in the right.

Dr. J.G.M. Ramsey



We can never live in a Southern Confederacy and be made hewers of wood and drawers of water for a set of aristocrats, and over-bearing tyrants. We are candid in East Tennessee to withdraw from Middle and West Tennessee, if they shall be so reckless as to consent to go out of the Union....We have no interests in common with the Cotton States. We are a grain-growing and stock-raising people, and we can conduct a cheap Government, inhabiting the Switzerland of America.

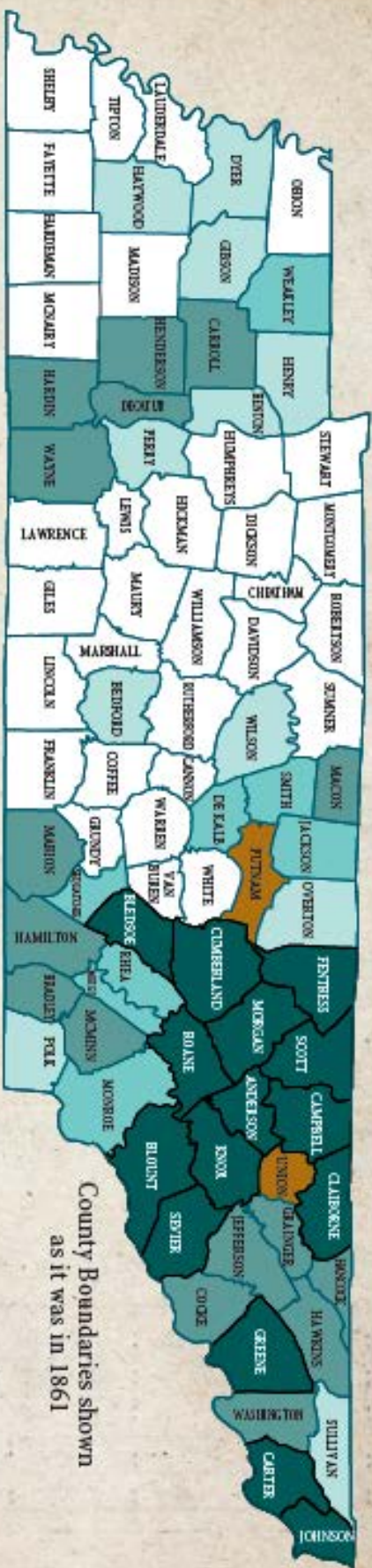
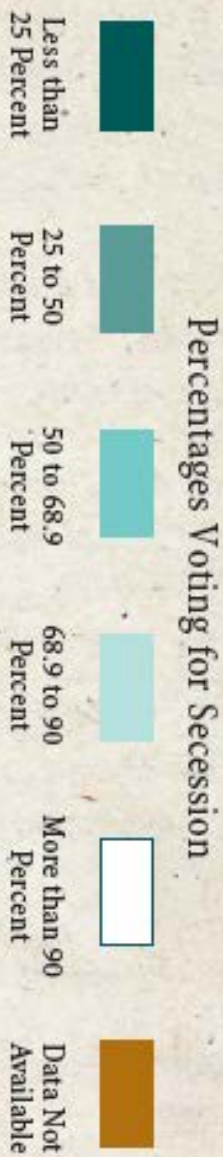
Reverend William G. "Parson" Brownlow



When I shall have made up my mind to go to hell, I will cut my throat, and go direct, and not travel by way of the Southern Confederacy.

Reverend William G. "Parson" Brownlow

How Each County Voted for Secession, June 1861



Vote on Secession in East Tennessee, June 8, 1861

<u>County</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Total</u>
Anderson	97	7.1	1,278	92.9	1,375
Bledsoe	197	28.3	500	71.7	697
Blount	418	19.1	1,766	80.9	2,184
Bradley	507	26.8	1,382	73.2	1,889
Campbell	59	5.6	1,000	94.4	1,059
Carter	86	6.0	1,343	94.0	1,429
Claiborne	250	16.7	1,243	83.3	1,493
Cocke	518	30.4	1,185	69.6	1,703
Cumberland		not available		not available	
Grainger	586	28.2	1,492	71.8	2,078
Greene	744	21.7	2,691	78.3	3,435
Hamilton	854	40.4	1,260	59.6	2,114
Hancock	279	30.7	630	69.3	909
Hawkins	908	38.3	1,460	61.7	2,368
Jefferson	603	23.3	1,987	76.7	2,590
Johnson	111	12.4	787	87.6	898
Knox	1,214	27.6	3,196	72.4	4,415
McMinn	904	44.1	1,144	55.9	2,048
Marion	414	40.8	600	59.2	1,014
Meigs	481	64.3	267	35.7	748
Monroe	1,096	58.6	774	41.4	1,870
Morgan	50	7.4	630	92.6	680
Polk	738	70.0	317	30.0	1,055
Rhea	360	64.1	202	35.9	562
Roane	454	22.5	1,568	77.5	2,022
Scott	19	3.5	521	96.5	540

Sequatchie	153	60.5	100	39.5	253
Sevier	60	3.8	1,528	96.2	1,588
Sullivan	1,586	71.7	627	28.3	2,213
Union		not available		not available	
Washington	1,022	41.4	1,445	58.6	2,467

Vote on Secession in Middle Tennessee, June 8, 1861

<u>County</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bedford	1,595	68.7	727	31.3	2,322
Cannon	1,149	90.0	127	10.0	1,276
Cheatham	702	92.7	55	7.3	757
Coffee	1,276	98.0	26	2.0	1,302
Davidson	5,635	93.3	402	6.7	6,037
Dekalb	883	57.9	642	42.1	1,525
Dickson	1,141	94.1	72	5.9	1,213
Fentress	128	16.4	651	83.6	779
Franklin	1,652	100.0	0	0.0	1,652
Giles	2,458	99.6	11	0.4	2,469
Grundy	528	98.3	9	1.7	537
Hardin	498	32.1	1,051	67.9	1,549
Hickman	1,400	99.8	3	0.2	1,403
Humphreys	1,042	100.0	0	0.0	1,042
Jackson	1,483	67.5	714	32.5	2,197
Lawrence	1,124	93.7	75	6.3	1,199
Lewis	223	94.1	14	5.9	237
Lincoln	2,912	100.0	0	0.0	2,912
Macon	447	39.1	697	60.1	1,144
Marshall	1,642	94.2	101	5.8	1,743
Maury	2,731	97.9	58	2.1	2,789
Montgomery	2,631	98.8	33	1.2	2,664
Overton	1,471	80.2	364	19.8	1,835
Putnam	not available		not available		
Robertson	3,839	99.6	17	0.4	3,856
Rutherford	2,392	97.0	73	3.0	2,465

Smith	1,249	64.9	676	35.1	1,925
Stewart	1,839	94.9	99	5.1	1,938
Sumner	6,465	98.9	69	1.1	6,534
Van Buren	308	96.0	13	4.0	321
Warren	1,419	99.2	12	0.8	1,431
Wayne	409	31.1	905	68.9	1,314
White	1,370	91.9	121	8.1	1,491
Williamson	1,949	98.6	28	1.4	1,977
Wilson	2,329	86.8	353	13.2	2,682

Vote on Secession in West Tennessee, June 8, 1861

<u>County</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Total</u>
Benton	798	77.8	228	22.2	1,026
Carroll	967	41.8	1,349	58.2	2,316
Decatur	310	36.0	550	64.0	860
Dyer	811	87.5	116	12.5	927
Fayette	1,364	98.3	23	1.7	1,387
Gibson	1,999	88.2	268	11.8	2,267
Hardeman	1,526	98.1	29	1.9	1,555
Haywood	930	87.0	139	13.0	1,069
Henderson	801	44.2	1,013	55.8	1,814
Henry	1,746	84.6	317	15.4	2,063
Lauderdale	763	99.1	7	0.9	770
McNairy	1,318	69.2	586	30.8	1,904
Madison	2,754	99.3	20	0.7	2,774
Obion	2,996	97.9	64	2.1	3,060
Perry	780	82.3	168	17.7	948
Shelby	7,132	99.9	5	0.1	7,137
Tipton	943	98.3	16	1.7	959
Weakley	1,189	49.7	1,201	50.3	2,390

<i>Hamilton</i>	<i>Representation</i>	<i>As Representation</i>	<i>Separation</i>	<i>Representation</i>
1	71	71	7	7
2	67	67	19	19
3	21	21	40	40
4			67	67
5	68	69	11	9
6	10	10	43	43
7	213	219	12	6
8	158	158	34	33
9	113	113	13	13
10	106	106	42	42
11	107	107	11	11
12	144	144	1	1
13	21	21	53	57
14	57	53	421	417
15	77	78	66	65
16	22	22	5	5
17	11	12	9	8
	1260	1271	854	837

State of Tennessee
 Hamilton County
 I, William Snow Sheriff of
 said County, do hereby certify
 that the foregoing is a true statement of the votes polled
 for an Separation, no representation, Separation, and rep-
 resentation, on the 8th day of June 1861.
 Wm Snow
 Sheriff

Sevier

State of Tennessee & A Statement of the vote
Sevier County, & of Sevier County, cast,
on Saturday the 8th day of June 1861, for the
purpose of voting upon a "Declaration of Independence
and ordinance dissolving the Federal relations
between the State of Tennessee and the United
States of America;" and also upon "An ordinance
for the adoption of the constitution of the
provisional government of the Confederate States
of America;"

No Separation received 1528 votes
No Representation " 1528 votes

Separation received 60 votes
Representation " 60 votes

I, Lem Suggan Sheriff of Sevier County, hereby
Certify, that the above statement, is a true
statement, of the vote cast in said election
as stated, in the caption, this 10th day of
June 1861.

Lem Suggan Sheriff
of Sevier County