

THE
TEXAS ALMANAC FOR 1862.

P R E F A C E .

We are compelled to preface the present issue of the Texas Almanac with an apology, required by its late appearance and reduced size. Some six or eight months ago we published in the "News" a complete list of all the articles we then had on hand, which were highly interesting, embracing all our usual variety, and sufficient to have made our periodical even larger than usual. But we have been compelled to postpone to a more auspicious period the greater part of these articles, (such as historical, biographical, scientific, descriptive,) and to confine our present issue, as will be seen, mostly to matters pertaining to the present revolutionary crisis of our country, to our State and Confederate Statistics, together with the usual Calendar Tables and Astronomical matter, generally constituting all an Almanac is expected to contain. When our first list of articles was published, nobody anticipated the troubles that have since taken place. We did not then apprehend that we were to be entirely cut off from the necessary supply of paper. We expected to have to pay a higher price for it; but that it could not be had at any price was not anticipated. It has required every effort in our power and an unprecedented heavy outlay to get out our Almanac at all for 1862. Small as it is, it has cost us more than any previous issue, while we are almost entirely without our usual amount of advertising, which alone enabled us to furnish a book containing so much reading matter at so small a price. We believe the public will appreciate the embarrassments under which we have labored. We have heard of but one other Almanac issued in the Southern Confederacy, and as one of the fruits of the war has been to protect us from the usual inundation of Northern Almanacs, filled with patent medicine advertisements, together with other Yankee notions, we trust our efforts to supply their place will meet with encouragement. The Astronomical Calculations were made by Tipton Walker, Esq., of Galveston, Civil Engineer, who also furnished them last year, and we are assured they will bear the test of scientific examination. The list of post offices in the State was furnished by an officer in the Department in Richmond, and is, we believe, the only official list in print since our Government went into operation. The tabular exhibit of the railroads in Texas was furnished from the Comptroller's office and is based on the authority of official reports. The several abstracts of the official reports of the Comptroller, Treasurer, Commissioner of the General Land Office, &c., were prepared in the respective departments, and are correct in every particular. The same may be said of all the articles of State Statistics. The abridgement of the laws of the last Extra Session of the Legislature was very carefully

prepared, and we believe nothing is omitted that will be of any importance whatever. Our readers must judge for themselves of our historical compendium of the great measure of secession, of the causes that led to it, and the results thus far. It is necessary to state that it was in type some months ago, which will account for the period in our struggle at which it terminates. At the time it was written, it was our intention to publish the State Constitution, to which allusion is made on page 16, as forming a part of this work; but the causes above referred to, have compelled us to curtail our present issue of much valuable matter we had on hand, which must now lay over till next year, when we confidently expect to announce the commencement of a year of peace, and an era of prosperity hitherto unexampled in our history. Meantime we may have severe trials to encounter, as the price of the privilege to govern ourselves, for which we are now contending. But no true Southern man will be likely to think that such a boon can be too dearly paid for.

D. RICHARDSON

Houston, January 9th, 1862.