

The Florida Tax Commissioners.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Monday, Aug. 6, 1866.

My attention has been called to an editorial in your issue of the 31st ult., commenting upon what you denominate "Mr. TRUMAN's exposure of the working of the District Tax Commission in Florida," which you say "*brings to light a class of frauds which have hitherto passed unchallenged.*"

It is not my purpose here to reply to the details of this "exposure," which you so readily indorse, further than to enter an emphatic and unequivocal denial of each and every charge of fraud or violation of official or moral obligation on the part of SAMMIS and REED, as Tax Commissioners of Florida, who resigned their places in 1863, and I hold myself ready, before any proper legal tribunal, to vindicate their official records and the regularity and legality of their official action in the assessment and sale of the property in Fernandina, in June, 1863; by which the Government became the owner of four-fifths of the place, and the recipient of some \$10,000 in money.

I do not deny that frauds have been committed in the name of the Florida Tax Commission, and that the Commission has proved far worse than a failure; but I am prepared to show that this is solely and wholly the fault of the Commissioner (STICKNEY,) whom your correspondent seeks to screen, (and who, thanks to Secretary McCULLOCH and President JOHNSON, has recently been removed,) and who came to Florida clothed with plenary powers from the Treasury Department to establish a bogus government, arm and enfranchise negroes, confiscate and appropriate private property, and secure a representation in the Baltimore Convention and in Congress opposed to Mr. LINCOLN and the conservative spirit of his Administration—who, when his mission failed, betrayed those who had furnished him with the means and facilities to operate, and became the advocate and attorney of those whom he had denounced and wronged as "rebels," and for a consideration betrayed the interests of the Government committed to him.

For the evidences of official fraud I refer you to the files of the Treasury Department, the records of the Grand Jury of the District of Columbia, and Congressional Executive Document No. 18, H. Reps. XXXVIIIth Congress, Second Session. If anything more is wanting, if you will procure a proper Committee of Congress, with power and disposition to examine persons and papers, and elicit the truth, I will settle the question beyond the reach of political correspondents, be they never so reliable.

Yrs. respectfully, JOHN OAKLEY, Secy. Fla. Tax Comm.

H. A. J. 1866, 20, 19.

The New York Times

Published: September 11, 1866
Copyright © The New York Times