WASHINGTON.

CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.

ers. By the order of the Secretary of War the report appears to have been filed without anything being accomplished for the relief of the prisoners.

As late as January, 1865, a report was made by Colonel H. Forno to General Winder, with reference to the military prisons in South Carolina. In this report it is stated that "the Subsistence Department is entirely deficient, and the ration issued daily amounts almost to starvation. There have been but two issues of meat in the last two months, and scarcely any syrup."

This report was referred to the Adjutant and Inspector General, then to the Commissary Department, then returned to the Inspector General, then referred to the Secretary of War, and by him referred to the Secretary of the Treasury, who returned it to the Secretary of War, and then by order of the Assistant Secretary of War the paper was filed without any action being taken for the relief of the prisoners.

On the 12th of October, 1864, one Sabina Dismukes writes to Jefferson Davis, from Statesburg, S. C., and encloses an article from the *Sumter Watchman*, which contained an account of the suffering of prisons at Florence.

In her letter this woman says:—"If such things are allowed to continue they will most surely draw down an awful judgment upon our country. It is a most horrible national sin, that cannot go unpunished. If we cannot give them food and shelter, for God's sake send them home to Yankee land; but don't starve the miserable creatures to death."

The article from the *Watchman* is incorporated in this report, and it is herewith submitted to the House. It appears to be a truthful account of the condition of many thousands of our Union soldiers, and it cannot be read without the deepest emotion nor without the conviction that the horrors of that prison far surpassed all the atrocities and doings of the most savage races in the most barbarous ages of the world. This common cotton was referred by Davis to the Secretary of War, by him to the Adjutant General, who referred it to General Winder, who returned it to the Adjutant General with the endorsement:—"The prisoners of South Carolina are not under my command. I can not give any information, nor can I express an opinion." The Secretary of War then referred it to General Gardner, who referred it to Colonel Harrison, the commandant of Florence, who referred it to Lieutenant Colonel Iverson, who on the 17th of September, 1864, makes a report thereon, in the form of an endorsement. The following is a copy of the article:—

[From the Sumter Watchman.]

THE PRISONERS AT FLORENCE.—MR. EDITOR—It may not be an interesting circumstance to your numerous readers to hear something from the Yankee camp at Florence. Your correspondent went now upon the summons of Gen. B.'s, which the times have made a sure familiar than agreeable, to take a drove of cattle to the camp. Our party had in charge a mixture of all sizes, sexes and conditions, from the patriarch of the herd, whose sad and wrinkled front bore the marks of many a bloody battle, to the drummer, who just served her day at the milk pail. Some of the poor wretches were evidently unable to stand the blasts of another March. We lost three on the way. Two straggled and one fell from exhaustion. The buzzards, after all, were not cheated of their long expected prey. The country through which we travelled is much shaken and impoverished. The crops are poor, and every cotton field is destroyed by the Union army wherever it is in imitation of its more intelligent namesake. No object of curiosity was encountered by the way, unless we take into account the "long bridge" over what the natives call "Pipe Swamp." Six of the horses were unmanished, with fences and outbuildings going to ruin.

"No produce now burns fields and barn,
But men and steed, the soldiers and the sword."

The camp we found full of what were once human beings, but who would scarcely know be recognized as such. In an old field with no house but the living wall of sentinels who guarded them by day and night, are several thousand filthy, diseased, famished creatures, with no hope of relief except by death. A few dirty rags stretched on poles give some of them a poor protection from the hot sun and heavy dews. All were in rags and barefoot, and crawling with vermin. As we passed around the line the guards I saw one of them brought out from his miserable hut, both legs of his trousers and half upon the ground to die. He was nearly dead. His companions pulled him up over his face and straightened out his limbs. Before they turned to leave him he was dead. A slight convulsion of the limbs and all was over. The captive was free. The Commissary's tent was near one side of the square, at it was laid upon the boards preparatory to its distribution. This signal was to bring the prisoners as the smell of blood does the beasts of the menagerie. They surged up as near the lines as they were allowed, and seemed in their eagerness to break over. While we were on the ground a heavy rain came up, and they seemed glad to enjoy it, coming out *in puris naturalibus*, opening the face upward to catch the drops, while one would wash off a brother with his hands, and then receive from him the like kind office. Numbers get out at night and wander to the neighboring houses in quest of food. From the camp of the dead we passed to the camp of the dead—the Hospital—a transition which reminded me of Satan's soliloquy:—

"Which way I fly is hell.
My self is hell; and in the lowest depths
A lower deep, still threatening to devour me, opens wide."

A few tents covered with pine tops were crowded with the dying and dead. Every attention of which the sufferers in proper state help existence; some had crowded under the shelter of the bushes; some were nibbling their skeleton limbs. Twenty or thirty of them die daily—most of them, as I was informed, of the scurvy. The corpses lay by the road side, waiting for the dead-cart; their glassy eyes turned to heaven, the flies swarming in their mouths and nostrils, to deposit eggs with a cotton string, and their skeleton arms folded on their breasts. You would hardly know them to be men, so sadly do hunger disease and wretchedness change the "humane face divine." Presently came the carts. They were carried a little distance to trenches dug for the purpose, and tumbled in by many dozens. Quicklime was then thrown upon the bodies, a few shovels full of dirt, and then haste was made to open a new ditch for other victims. The burying parties were Yankees detailed for the work—an appointment which, as the sergeant told me, they considered a favor, for they got a little more to eat and enjoy freedom from abuse. Among the three carts of skeletons from the hospital, the three carts of scourges of mankind—war, famine and pestilence—we turn from the spectacle sick at heart, as we remember that some of our loved ones may be undergoing a similar misery.

"Man's inhumanity to man
Makes thousands to mourn."

Soon 8,000 more will be added to their number, and where the provisions are to come from to feed this multitude is a difficult problem. Five thousand pounds of bacon, or ten thousand pounds of beef daily, seems in addition to more urgent draughts upon her, for beyond the ability of South Carolina. The question is, is it policy or wise to keep up the cause in keeping these prisoners to divide with us our scanty rations? Would it not be better at once to release them on parole? HOWARD.

Indorsement on wrapper.

HEADQUARTERS FLORIDA MILITARY PRISON, December 17, 1864.

D. L. ROSS wrapper respectfully returned to Hospital, who visited Florence when necessity forced the removal of prisoners here without any preparation whatever being made for their proper care or sustenance. In my opinion if one of these ominous G. O.'s was sent here to operate upon the nerves of ladies, and it might, perhaps, do the service so much desired. Its makes may rest easy and quiet in reference to the treatment of prisoners at this prison, for since I assumed command, the 15th of October, 1864, the deaths have decreased from thirty-five to forty per day to one single death, which may be seen by Dr. Wilson's report shown for the last twenty-four hours. I will add in conclusion that the prisoners were all brought here from other prisons, and not in mercy as to their improvement or still further degradation, and challenge any person in the confederacy, taking everything in consideration, for health, cleanliness, neatness, neat burial grounds, &c. They are given everything the government allows them. I am very respectfully your obedient servant,

JOHN T. IVERSON,
Lieutenant Colonel Commanding.

On the 18th of February, 1865, Bradley T. Johnson asks General Gardner to remove Captain J. M. Goodman from the office of Post Quartermaster, Salisbury Prison for inhumanity. In that letter he says: The only hospitals are buildings within the present inclosure; that the only amelioration we can give to their sufferings is in pine bunks and straw to lie on. Without them they lie on the bare floor, with little or no covering on them.

On the 1st day of February Dr. Wilson, Surgeon of the prison, made a requisition for 10,000 pounds of straw, and also 100 bunks. Up to the 25th of February he had received 800 pounds of straw and no bunks. The sick, therefore, lied on the bare ground, and from the 1st to the 31st of January 752 died from sheer cold. From February 1 to February 15, 275 of them died. Never in this Christian country, where straw abounds in straw, for a country as full of wood as this, energy and methodical industry would have formed a depot to provide for such contingencies as a temporary failure of supplies in the early part of 1865."

Governor Vance, of North Carolina, wrote to the rebel Secretary of War stating that "the prisoners at Salisbury are suffering terribly." A report made by a Captain Hall says "the ground upon which the prison is situated is red clay, and in time of rain thoroughly holds the water and makes the ground a perfect bog for a long time afterward. There is no drainage in the place, and the pools of filthy water would be certain to create a pestilence in warm weather. There is no stream running through the place." Referring to the same report the number of prisoners confined at Salisbury in the month of October, 1864, was 10,321, and of this number 3,419 had died previous to February 17, 1865.

The foregoing extracts present a small portion of the evidence contained in the pile of documents found in the rebel archives, concerning the condition and treatment of Union soldiers in the prisons of the South. It is true that various excuses were made from time to time for these outrages on humanity and the rules of war by those in authority at Richmond, such as the refusal of the United States government to exchange prisoners, the inability to furnish supplies; but the fact still remains that on the 1st of year 1862 to the close of the rebellion the authorities were fully and frequently informed as well by letters and communication from private persons, as by official reports, that the prisoners in their custody were suffering every conceivable horror, and dying in great numbers daily, in consequence of the treatment they endured at the hands of the subordinates of the Richmond government; and it also remains a well established fact that no really efficient effort was made at any time to remove or diminish the evil.

COMPLICITY WITH THE ASSASSINATION.

The remaining testimony to be examined and considered relates to the complicity of Jacob Thompson, C. C. Clay, Jr., and Jefferson Davis in the assassination of President Lincoln. In a letter written by C. C. Clay, Jr., to President Johnson, dated Fortress Monroe, November 23, 1865, he says:—

"Had your proclamation charged me with the very act of Booth I should not have been more surprised and amazed than I was with being charged with concerting the crime. I had been absent from Canada nearly six months, had never known or heard of Booth, either of those charged as his immediate accomplices, and had not, to my knowledge or belief, ever seen any of them."

This letter to the President was written for the purpose of obtaining a release from confinement, and contains a positive denial of all complicity in the assassination of President Lincoln. One of the reasons stated by the writer to his behalf is that he had been absent from Canada "nearly six months. If the statement was true, it would not tend in any considerable degree to exculpate Clay if there were evidence tending to implicate him in the assassination. But the fidelity so far to show that he had some reason for attempting to conceal the fact as to the time when he left Canada, and inasmuch as the statement was made in order to relieve himself from the charge contained in the President's proclamation, it has a strong tendency to convict him of complicity in the deed. A letter dated Montreal, Sept. 20, 1864, addressed to J. Thompson, and signed J. L. Hope, is in the handwriting of C. C. Clay. This is apparent from a comparison of the letter with Clay's handwriting, and is also established by the testimony of Major Richard Montgomery. This letter is referred to in the synopsis of the Clay correspondence, and is marked L. J. L. L. The Richmond *Enquirer* of Dec. 15, 1864, contained a "Personal," copied from the New York *News* of Dec. 1, as follows:—

Nov. 29, 1864.

H. L. CLAY, RICHMOND, VA.—Yours and B.'s received. Will try to leave as suggested by the 1st of December, and may go to Mexico; am very well; Rob and wife with me; he is improving. T. E. LACEY.

The names T. E. Hope and T. E. Lacey were the assumed names of C. C. Clay, under which much of his correspondence was conducted. In an indorsement upon a letter dated New York, January 12, 1865, without signature, addressed T. E. Hope, Clay admits it to be his assumed name. The advertisement of the "Personal" is in fact in the "Personal" was written by C. C. Clay, as established by a letter from H. L. Clay, brother of C. C. Clay, to the wife of the latter, dated Richmond, Va., December 7, 1864, in which he transmits the "Personal" from the New York *News*, dated November 29, 1864, signed T. E. Lacey. It is probable that Clay intended to leave Canada by the 1st of December, 1864, and it is possible that he made the attempt to run the blockade, and subsequently returned to Halifax, if not to Canada. On the 17th of January, 1865, H. L. Clay wrote a letter to the wife of C. C. Clay, dated Richmond, Va., in which he says:—"I have just seen General Singleton, of Illinois, here by permission of Davis and Seddon. He tells me that brother Clay will not attempt to run the blockade at Washington, but will certainly go to Mexico and thence to Texas." As a reason for that he says: "Besides apprehension of capture, my brother C. has been employed by a gentleman in Massachusetts, a Mr. Pierce, to look after a large landed property interest in Texas. I tell you to quiet your fears for his safety and to let your patience keep its perfect work."

A letter signed "Rob," which was written to C. C. Clay by Robert Brown, his nephew, dated St. Catharines, 19th December, 1864, commences with this paragraph: "My Dear Uncle—Your esteemed note came from Quebec. It has come to me O. K., and I hasten to answer it, hoping this will reach you before you leave Canada." This paragraph renders it certain that Clay was at Quebec as late as the 19th of December, 1864, or within about four months preceding the assassination. In addition to the foregoing testimony, derived from papers found in the rebel archives, there is in the War Department the affidavit of Hiram Lewis, of Toronto, Canada West, who states that he has known Clement C. Clay for fifteen or twenty years; that he saw him frequently in Canada—Toronto, St. Catharines, and elsewhere—and that he met Mr. Clay at Toronto in December, 1864, shook hands with him, and bade him good-by, as he was starting from Montreal to take ship with the intention of running the blockade and reaching the Southern States; that at that time Lewis said he had gone, but that some time after New Year's he met him again, when Mr. Clay said he had failed in the attempt to run the blockade, and had returned to Canada." Mr. Hutchinson testified before the Military Commission that he last saw Clement C. Clay at the Queen's Hotel, Toronto, about the 12th or 14th of February. The first mention in point of time made to the presence of Clay in the South, among all the papers in possession of the government, is contained in a letter dated at Richmond, March 8, 1865, and written by H. L. Clay to C. C. Clay, Jr. This letter contains the following words:—

"Your indorsement upon a letter of sister Celeste, brought yesterday by Captain Hudson, is the only direct intelligence we had from you since the telegram announcing your arrival in Charleston."

The evidence upon this branch of the subject establishes beyond reasonable doubt the fact that Clay remained in Canada far into the month of February, 1865, and necessarily convicts him of a false statement in his communication to the President upon a point which he deemed important to exculpate himself from the charge of complicity in the assassination of President Lincoln.

The statement of Clay that he had never known any of the persons accused and convicted of participating in the assassination of President Lincoln, is shown to be false, by the evidence of Richard Montgomery, as reported in the testimony taken by the Military Commission. Montgomery says:—"I have seen Lewis Payne, the prisoner at the bar, in Canada; I saw him at the Falls in the summer of 1864." And again:—

"I had some words with him at the Queen's Hotel at Toronto. I had an interview with Mr. Thompson, and on leaving the room I met the man Payne in the passage way, talking with Clement C. Clay. Mrs. Clay stopped me and held my hand, finishing the conversation with Payne in an undertone, and when he left me for a moment, he said: 'I wait for me: I will return.'"

Clay, while in Canada, acted under the following commission:

RICHMOND, VA., April 27, 1864.

HON. C. C. CLAY, JR., &c., Richmond, Va.:—

SIR—Confiding special trust in your zeal, discretion and patriotism, I hereby direct you to proceed at once to Canada, there to carry out such instructions as you have received from me verbally, in such manner as shall seem most likely to conduce to the furtherance of the interests of the Confederate States of America, which have been entrusted to you.

Very respectfully and truly yours, JEFFERSON DAVIS.

This communication is written upon despatch paper, and appears to be in the handwriting of Benjamin. It is well established by letter and documents derived from rebel sources, and now in the archives of the government that Clay, under this commission, was instrumental in organizing and executing, with some other agents, the raids upon the cities and towns along the border, the plans for the introduction of pestilence, the organization of conspiracies to liberate the prisoners confined in Camp Douglas, Chicago, to destroy our commerce on the rivers, lakes and oceans, and finally to thwart and overthrow the government if possible by inciting a new rebellion in the North. It is also established that Jacob Thompson, Beverly Tucker, George N. Saunders, W. C. Clay, Bennett H. Young and K. J. Stuart were employed in Canada as special agents of the Confederate authorities.

In June, 1864, said Young, as directed by James A. Seddon, rebel Secretary of War, proceeded without delay to the British Provinces under temporary appointment in the provisional army and reported to Thompson and Clay for instructions. He was authorized by Seddon to collect escaped prisoners to the number of not more than twenty, and to execute such enterprise as might be indicated, implicitly obeying the instructions of Thompson and Clay. Accordingly he proceeded to carry out the orders given by Seddon, in cipher in which Young was ordered to reconnoitre the towns on the enemy's northwestern frontier, and to take the one most exposed, and to sack, burn and destroy banks, public buildings, stores and storehouses, railroad depots, mills, factories, cars, bridges and such other property as might be deemed important, and which might think proper. He was ordered not to allow retaliation on women and children, or on unarmed and defenceless citizens; and then Seddon proceeds to say:—

"It is but right that the people of New England and Vermont especially, some of whose officers and troops have been guilty of such excesses, should be made to feel the approved of their course, should have brought home to them some of the horrors of such warfare. It is but just retribution and retaliation."

He says further:—

"You are aware that other officers have also received authority similar to yours. Your respective commands are independent of each other.

"After the duty assigned to you all at Chicago is performed you will visit Burlington and St. Albans, Vt.; others will visit other points, as instructed.

"These instructions were dated August 2, 1864, and were directed to Bennett H. Young, at Chicago.

On the 21st of the same month, Young makes a report, also in cipher, from Chicago, in which he gives a muster roll of his command, which he calls "The Fifth Confederate State Retributors." Upon the roll are the names of several persons who were afterward concerned in the raid at Saint Albans. He says:—

"I shall, I think, after a reconnoissance, attack Burlington or St. Albans, Vt. I cannot fully decipher my instructions of the 20th of the month. The augmentation of the federal troops here, and the fears of some of the so-called peace copperheads, prevents the carrying out of our plans to release the prisoners of the Federal bastile here. They are secure."

On the 9th of November, 1864, K. J. Stewart writes from Toronto, C. W., to Jefferson Davis, in which he says:—

"If Mr. B. has not as yet sent me the triplicate of check for $20,000.000 I will thank your Excellency to have the enclosed put in teh Richmond *Enquirer* among the "Personals," and inclose a cipher message through to me with a line to Hon. J. Thomson, stating the fact that the check has been sent, advising him to consult me in any future raids. These raids, of which Mr. Thompson has said to me they have all gone wrong, have only served to create additional espionage and vexation to our friends, without materially crippling the resources of the enemy. We should strike hard when we do strike, or we begin hatred instead of fear. I am desire to express my conviction that much, very much, can be done from this side, if you will give me time and money, and these further raids are stopped."

It is probable that Stewart was insincere in his condemnation of the raids undertaken by Thompson, for in another paper, which was probably sent to Davis, he says:—

"In order to deceive the enemy I will send to your Excellency, by signal corps, an occasional communication decrying these raids, &c. As I have caused already a letter to be sent to Mr. B., containing a manifesto inciting the negroes in Washington City to revolt."

In the communication but referred to he says:—

"I propose that the men used here shall be formed into a partisan corps, after present service is performed, and each one be regarded as an officer, who shall have the privilege of raising five or more colored servants. We can enlist ten men here where the enemy can get one. The employment of an aggressive character can be used here to tremendous effect. If Colonel T —— has already created so much alarm and annoyance—and I acknowledge it is very great and expensive, by so many failures—how much more can be done by one great success."

It is probable also that a letter to Davis, dated Toronto, Canada West, December 12, 1864, in which he condemns the act of sending boxes of small-pox clothing to Washington, was written for the purpose of deceiving the authorities of the United States in reference to the character of the policy by which he and his associates in Canada were controlled. The letter, however, an admission that 2000 public money was there paid to one Hynes, a shoemaker, for services rendered in converting boxes of small-pox clothing to be sold at Washington. In the same letter he says:—

"I record it as a kind and special Providence that has delayed my own return to Canada the check for $25,000, sent by the signal corps, to fall into the enemy's hands, for otherwise I should have been endangered by those abortive attempts of others."

While in his letter of the 20th he desires to have a triplicate of the check sent, and a notice published in the Richmond *Enquirer*, of which the following is a copy:—

"The Hon. Jacob Thompson will please advise Mrs. Jacobs that she is authorized to pay Mr. Richmond the amount specified by him for the benefit of my children. J. DAVIDS."

This notice is interpreted as a direction from Davis himself to Jacob Thompson to pay $30,000 of secret service money in Thompson's hands to Stewart, for the purpose indicated in his despatch to Davis, of the 20th of November.

As will be seen hereafter, the secret service money was placed in the hands of Davis and subject to his exclusive control, and applied to those purposes only that received personal approval.

On the 25th of October, 1864, J. P. Benjamin, Secretary of State, writes to J. Seddon, as Secretary of War, asking for a pass for Colonel Jacob T. Cameron, who is, he says, employed with Mr. Stewart on the secret service, according to an understanding with the President, and the Chaplain will want to pass through our lines on his way to Canada, accompanied by two friends. It appears that the pass was given, and it establishes the fact that Stewart was secret agent of Davis, "employed by his directions, and that he was paid out of the secret service fund.

It appears from the records obtained from Richmond that on the 15th of February, 1864, J. B. Holcomb was commissioned by Davis as special commissioner to proceed to the British Provinces of North America. He was directed to report at Halifax to the Lieutenant Governor. His despatch was signed by J. P. Benjamin.

On the 24th of the same month Benjamin writes to Holcomb, and incloses eight thousand dollars to accomplish the object in his letter of the 19th instant. He says further:—

"As this sum is furnished by the President, from the secret service fund, your accounts will not pass through the Treasury, but will be settled in the Department. The remaining $3,068 are paid in compensation of your personal services, &c.

Benjamin then proceeds to say:

"For any sum that you may pay out of these $5,000 under circumstances or for purposes that do not permit your taking receipts, you will furnish a certificate on honor, which will be received as a sufficient voucher."

On the 16th of March, 1864, J. A. Seddon, as Secretary of War, authorizes one J. S. C. Blackburne to enlist a company of men, not to exceed fifty in number, for special service on the Mississippi river. In lieu of pay and subsistence they were to receive such compensation as might be awarded by an officer selected by the department in charge of such duty, but in no case to exceed fifty per cent of the value. When Blackburne had enlisted twenty-five men he was to receive a commission as captain in the provisional army, but without pay. Other orders of a similar character were issued to various persons. Among others, J. T. Houll was commissioned in the special service of the rebels for the destruction of our commerce on the Chesapeake Bay and the Northern Lakes. This Houll is the person who was afterwards executed in New York. The following entry is in one of the books of the rebel War Department, marked "Ladies receipts":

Alston, Lieut. W., offers his service to rid the country of some of its deadliest enemies. Endorsed A. G. For attention C.

This letter hereafter is referred to and quoted by the committee in connection with other documents. Evidence tending to show that Davis entertained propositions for the assassination of the principal officers of the United States government. There is also a letter from Thomas N. Conrad, the rebel Secretary of War, dated "Headquarters Morgan's Command, Decatur, Ga., February 28, 1865." The writer says:—

"I addressed you a communication about ten days ago in regard to the matter which you were kind enough to discuss with me when I was in Richmond. I have anxiously awaited your reply, and for fear that my letter may have miscarried, I begin take the liberty of calling your attention. General Morgan, with such of his men as he can get mounted, will start on an expedition in about eight days. I will accompany him unless I hear from you in the meantime."

This communication may be from the person referred to as Lieutenant W. Alston; but in any event both persons, if there were two, belonged to Morgan's command, and the letter of R. A. Alston is conclusive upon the point it at the subject which he had discussed with Seddon when in Richmond, and not relate to the business in which General Morgan was engaged with his command, as is apparent from the last sentence of R. Alston's letter.

The following entries are found in books containing the record of letters received in the rebel War Department:—J. Thompson, Nov. 17, 1864—Relating to Physicians' Bureau of War proper, in index of letter received No. 4, page 41. In the same volume is the following entry:—Dr. J. W. Redds, Nov. 19, 1864—Appeals Bureau of War proper, index letters received No. 4, page 43. The fact that the subject of Thompson's letter was physicians, and that of Booth is styled "Doctor," renders it probable that both letters related to the same matter. The letters themselves have not been found. A letter was found among the Clay papers, dated "Toronto, Sept. 2, 1864." The address and signature in the original have been cut off, but upon the outside is an endorsement of the word "Youngs." It is in the handwriting of C. C. Clay, Jr.; on the outside of the first sheet the superscription, "Hon. C. C. Clay, Jr.," has been partially erased. There cannot be much reason to doubt that the letter was written by R. B. Young to C. C. Clay, Jr. The following is a copy of the communication:—

TORONTO, Sept. 2, 1864.

In accordance with your orders I left St. Catharine's Friday evening, August 27, for Chicago, to engage with my company in the enterprise contemplated by yourself and Colonel Thompson, for the release of Camp Douglas prisoners. Upon reaching Chicago we found that already a strong guard had been collected, and veteran regiments were still arriving. One regiment was placed in the enclosure with the Confederates, and sixteen pieces of field artillery were parked ready to open upon those defenceless men in case an attack was made. It required no great amount of perception to see that an attempt to accomplish our object would result not only in their indiscriminate slaughter, but our own certain death. Under the circumstances Captains Hines and Castleman decided to make to effect in that direction. We quietly waited until Wednesday night, hoping something would turn up by which we could benefit our suffering comrades and enhance the glory of the Confederacy. It was then determined to make an attempt upon Rock Island if the copperheads would furnish a small portion of the long promised aid. When brought to the test, Walker, Barret, Dodd & Co., could not furnish fifty men for the purpose. Hines and Cushman then admitted the thing a failure, and gave the men choice of returning to Canada, or accompanying them to "Egypt," (Southern Illinois). The men, with few exceptions, decided to return. Thinking my instructions justified me, I ordered their return to Canada for the purpose of carrying out my original mission.

After acting so unselfishly in this affair, and also obeying strictly my orders from Mr. Seddon, I was somewhat surprised to find my own name and those of my men coupled with the epithet "deserter" by the other Commissioner, and that to ladies in a public hotel. Had not my conduct been justified by my instruction, certainly the chances offered by Captain Castleman would exonerate me well as myself. I have a desire to sustain my reputation as a soldier. I was sent here to perform a mission. I yielded all to your request, and do you now deem it justice to me to return me to Richmond without an opportunity to do that for which I was sent? This other expedition failed through no fault of mine, and all I now demand is justice, and a fair trial which I certainly have earned by other duties. Since being here I have tried to do my duty, and hardly imagine you can charge me as failing to do the same. I ask nothing nor make no demand save that which justice and equality accord. If money is scarce, little will suffice. I will indictment and make this trip pay the expenses of the next. Colonel Thompson orders me home. I refuse for two reasons:—First, the Secretary of War reserved that right and nowhere is it delegated to Colonel Thompson alone to order me; second, before an attempt and failure to do that for which I was sent have I any right to foreign orders from Mr. Seddon in favor of those issued by Colonel Thompson, again demanding justice and are good for my own reputation. I remain, yours respectfully."

In apparent connection with the foreign letter is one from Jacob Thompson, which has been largely mutilated, but states that same person has received from Jacob Thompson, in gold $33,614, between July 29 and August 23, 1864, $10,000 of which was paid by J. P. Holcombe.

Following this statement Thompson says:—"Above you will find account as it appears on my books." He then proceeds to say:—

"While I am not prepared to justify your belief that Barrett is a spy, yet I am fully satisfied that the whole effort has been a miserable failure. It is too late for Singleton to say this, since he has received and not accounted for $15,000 from this same spy. I agree with you that we have fallen into the hands of men whose performance has fallen far short of their professions and apparent expectations.

I shall take steps for my departure from this city and from Canada.

On yesterday, Mr. Burleigh, of the Johnson Island men, was arrested, so we shall now have that affair fully vendetta. After the miserable failure at Chicago, by discovery, and the quiescent state of the Northern public mind, I have but little hope of aid to the Confederacy from this quarter. I have been expecting you for some time.

Inclosed you will find a letter from Mr. Melnaix, whom I advised to go to Montreal and pay into your hands the money he had obtained on the offered to pay over the money, when I told him I should at once turn it over to you, and therefore he had better to pay it to you at once; and this he agreed to do. I suppose I shall see him no more. He wishes a statement from me, and it is just I should detail for him our conversation. Yours, truly,

J. P. HOLCOMBE.

Although this letter is mutilated, and the name of the person to whom it was addressed effaced, it is still apparent that it was written to C. C. Clay, Jr. The letter itself furnishes internal evidence leading to the same conclusion.

On the 15th November, 1864, J. D. Melnaix,* who is undoubtedly the person referred to in Thompson's letter without date, writes to Jacob Thompson, from Montreal, and says that "upon arriving at this place I found that the raiders had refused to give up their money to Clay, and that he had left the place in a huff." Then he says "I wish you to give me a letter stating the facts in the case and how I expressed my willingness to give up the money to Mr. Clay if it would have saved the lives of Hines and his companions. It seems extremely hard that the prime mover in the affair should speak so severely of those who only did his bidding, and to whom he promised a release in twenty-four hours, provided they were arrested in Canada."

This letter convicts Clay and Thompson of the crime of inciting and organizing a raid which resulted in the destruction of St. Albans.

Another letter, dated Hamilton, September 20, is believed to be in the handwriting of Bennett H. Young, and a portion of the signature remains, showing that it was signed by Young. The name of the person to whom it was written is not given. Some of the words are removed, but the meaning of the whole is very clear. The following is a copy:—

HAMILTON, Sept. 20.

I am here this morning on my way to the Falls to see Higbee, Denny & Co. The river has fallen five feet three inches in the last four days, and by a week from to-day will be in a condition for us to act. I am as hopeful and as confident as ever. Our chances are improving. The river shows thirty times, and will kill a man at eighty yards. I would rather, though, you would send Hundly to New York. He is a splendid mechanic, and I think we can secure a better article at a cheaper rate than here. Higbee, myself and one other, a messenger, will leave Thursday or Friday for the scene of our operations, unless you advise to the contrary. We can thoroughly arrange and perfect our plans by the time the men will be there. We will send you by messenger a concise and exact statement thereof. You can prepare greenbacks for us and send them by any messenger. In the meantime I will wait for Higbee, Price and myself $500 on $25. I will send or come in person for the balance. Our prospects will not equal $20 or $25 in New York. They are needful, and will assist greatly in the safety, certainty and despatch of our work. Six or eight men have returned from Southern Illinois, and they go with me. I will leave Denny as Executive officer in my absence. I will see you probably to-morrow, for the telegraph is noisy. You know now what I want. Let your messenger through to me with a line to Hon. J. Thompson, stating the fact that the check has been sent, and advising him to consult me in any future raids. These raids, of which Mr. Thompson has said to me they have all gone wrong, have only served to create additional espionage and vexation to our friends, without materially crippling the resources of the enemy. We should strike hard when we do strike, or we begin hatred instead of fear. I am desire to express my conviction that much, very much, can be done from this side, if you will give me time and money, and these further raids are stopped."

It is probable that Stewart was insincere in his condemnation of the raids undertaken by Thompson, for in another paper, which was probably sent to Davis, he says:—

"In order to deceive the enemy I will send to your Excellency, by signal corps, an occasional communication decrying these raids, &c. As I have caused already a letter to be sent to Mr. B., containing a manifesto inciting the negroes in Washington City to revolt."

In the communication but referred to he says:—

"I propose that the men used here shall be formed into a partisan corps, after present service is performed, and each one be regarded as an officer, who shall have the privilege of raising five or more colored servants. We can enlist ten men here where the enemy can get one. The employment of an aggressive character can be used here to tremendous effect. If Colonel T —— has already created so much alarm and annoyance—and I acknowledge it is very great and expensive, by so many failures—how much more can be done by one great success."

It is probable also that a letter to Davis, dated Toronto, Canada West, December 12, 1864, in which he condemns the act of sending boxes of small-pox clothing to Washington, was written for the purpose of deceiving the authorities of the United States in reference to the character of the policy by which he and his associates in Canada were controlled. The letter, however, an admission that 2000 public money was there paid to one Hynes, a shoemaker, for services rendered in converting boxes of small-pox clothing to be sold at Washington. In the same letter he says:—

"I record it as a kind and special Providence that has delayed my own return to Canada the check for $25,000, sent by the signal corps, to fall into the enemy's hands, for otherwise I should have been endangered by those abortive attempts of others."

While in his letter of the 20th he desires to have a triplicate of the check sent, and a notice published in the Richmond *Enquirer*, of which the following is a copy:—

"The Hon. Jacob Thompson will please advise Mrs. Jacobs that she is authorized to pay Mr. Richmond the amount specified by him for the benefit of my children. J. DAVIDS."

This notice is interpreted as a direction from Davis himself to Jacob Thompson to pay $30,000 of secret service money in Thompson's hands to Stewart, for the purpose indicated in his despatch to Davis, of the 20th of November.

As will be seen hereafter, the secret service money was placed in the hands of Davis and subject to his exclusive control, and applied to those purposes only that received personal approval.

On the 25th of October, 1864, J. P. Benjamin, Secretary of State, writes to J. Seddon, as Secretary of War, asking for a pass for Colonel Jacob T. Cameron, who is, he says, employed with Mr. Stewart on the secret service, according to an understanding with the President, and the Chaplain will want to pass through our lines on his way to Canada, accompanied by two friends. It appears that the pass was given, and it establishes the fact that Stewart was secret agent of Davis, "employed by his directions, and that he was paid out of the secret service fund.

It appears from the records obtained from Richmond that on the 15th of February, 1864, J. B. Holcomb was commissioned by Davis as special commissioner to proceed to the British Provinces of North America. He was directed to report at Halifax to the Lieutenant Governor. His despatch was signed by J. P. Benjamin.

On the 24th of the same month Benjamin writes to Holcomb, and incloses eight thousand dollars to accomplish the object in his letter of the 19th instant. He says further:—

"As this sum is furnished by the President, from the secret service fund, your accounts will not pass through the Treasury, but will be settled in the Department. The remaining $3,068 are paid in compensation of your personal services, &c.

Benjamin then proceeds to say:

"For any sum that you may pay out of these $5,000 under circumstances or for purposes that do not permit your taking receipts, you will furnish a certificate on honor, which will be received as a sufficient voucher."

On the 16th of March, 1864, J. A. Seddon, as Secretary of War, authorizes one J. S. C. Blackburne to enlist a company of men, not to exceed fifty in number, for special service on the Mississippi river. In lieu of pay and subsistence they were to receive such compensation as might be awarded by an officer selected by the department in charge of such duty, but in no case to exceed fifty per cent of the value. When Blackburne had enlisted twenty-five men he was to receive a commission as captain in the provisional army, but without pay. Other orders of a similar character were issued to various persons. Among others, J. T. Houll was commissioned in the special service of the rebels for the destruction of our commerce on the Chesapeake Bay and the Northern Lakes. This Houll is the person who was afterwards executed in New York. The following entry is in one of the books of the rebel War Department, marked "Ladies receipts":

Alston, Lieut. W., offers his service to rid the country of some of its deadliest enemies. Endorsed A. G. For attention C.

This letter hereafter is referred to and quoted by the committee in connection with other documents. Evidence tending to show that Davis entertained propositions for the assassination of the principal officers of the United States government. There is also a letter from Thomas N. Conrad, the rebel Secretary of War, dated "Headquarters Morgan's Command, Decatur, Ga., February 28, 1865." The writer says:—

"I addressed you a communication about ten days ago in regard to the matter which you were kind enough to discuss with me when I was in Richmond. I have anxiously awaited your reply, and for fear that my letter may have miscarried, I begin take the liberty of calling your attention. General Morgan, with such of his men as he can get mounted, will start on an expedition in about eight days. I will accompany him unless I hear from you in the meantime."

This communication may be from the person referred to as Lieutenant W. Alston; but in any event both persons, if there were two, belonged to Morgan's command, and the letter of R. A. Alston is conclusive upon the point it at the subject which he had discussed with Seddon when in Richmond, and not relate to the business in which General Morgan was engaged with his command, as is apparent from the last sentence of R. Alston's letter.

The following entries are found in books containing the record of letters received in the rebel War Department:—J. Thompson, Nov. 17, 1864—Relating to Physicians' Bureau of War proper, in index of letter received No. 4, page 41. In the same volume is the following entry:—Dr. J. W. Redds, Nov. 19, 1864—Appeals Bureau of War proper, index letters received No. 4, page 43. The fact that the subject of Thompson's letter was physicians, and that of Booth is styled "Doctor," renders it probable that both letters related to the same matter. The letters themselves have not been found. A letter was found among the Clay papers, dated "Toronto, Sept. 2, 1864." The address and signature in the original have been cut off, but upon the outside is an endorsement of the word "Youngs." It is in the handwriting of C. C. Clay, Jr.; on the outside of the first sheet the superscription, "Hon. C. C. Clay, Jr.," has been partially erased. There cannot be much reason to doubt that the letter was written by R. B. Young to C. C. Clay, Jr. The following is a copy of the communication:—

TORONTO, Sept. 2, 1864.

In accordance with your orders I left St. Catharine's Friday evening, August 27, for Chicago, to engage with my company in the enterprise contemplated by yourself and Colonel Thompson, for the release of Camp Douglas prisoners. Upon reaching Chicago we found that already a strong guard had been collected, and veteran regiments were still arriving. One regiment was placed in the enclosure with the Confederates, and sixteen pieces of field artillery were parked ready to open upon those defenceless men in case an attack was made. It required no great amount of perception to see that an attempt to accomplish our object would result not only in their indiscriminate slaughter, but our own certain death. Under the circumstances Captains Hines and Castleman decided to make to effect in that direction. We quietly waited until Wednesday night, hoping something would turn up by which we could benefit our suffering comrades and enhance the glory of the Confederacy. It was then determined to make an attempt upon Rock Island if the copperheads would furnish a small portion of the long promised aid. When brought to the test, Walker, Barret, Dodd & Co., could not furnish fifty men for the purpose. Hines and Cushman then admitted the thing a failure, and gave the men choice of returning to Canada, or accompanying them to "Egypt," (Southern Illinois). The men, with few exceptions, decided to return. Thinking my instructions justified me, I ordered their return to Canada for the purpose of carrying out my original mission.

After acting so unselfishly in this affair, and also obeying strictly my orders from Mr. Seddon, I was somewhat surprised to find my own name and those of my men coupled with the epithet "deserter" by the other Commissioner, and that to ladies in a public hotel. Had not my conduct been justified by my instruction, certainly the chances offered by Captain Castleman would exonerate me well as myself. I have a desire to sustain my reputation as a soldier. I was sent here to perform a mission. I yielded all to your request, and do you now deem it justice to me to return me to Richmond without an opportunity to do that for which I was sent? This other expedition