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GENT'S FURNISHING GOODS. MOTT & HAIGHT, HAVE JUST OPENED A Splendid Assortment of GENT'S FURNISHING GOODS FOR THE Fall and Winter Trade. AT NO. 136 BANK ST, aug19 Opposite the Weddell House.

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DAILY LEADER

A REBEL GENERAL ON JEFF. DAVIS.

Interesting Bits of Secret History.

Major General Jorden, late chief of staff to General Beauregard, has written for the October number of *Harper's Magazine* an article on Jefferson Davis, which will "kick up a row" in the southern states, we suspect. He shows him up as a vain, pig-headed, incapable person, not fit, in any way, to lead a movement or to command men. He gives, too, incidentally, some curious bits of the private history of the "Confederacy."

ONE OF DAVIS'S FAVORITES.

Mr. Davis had been at West Point, and subsequently served for several years in the dragoons at a frontier post with a subaltern officer to whom it happened he became attached. About the time the former resigned his commission to turn planter in Mississippi, the latter was disabled by an accident, quit his border post likewise, went to his home, studied medicine, and turned parish doctor. Mr. Davis became in time a politician, Lieutenant Northup a Catholic convert, but so eccentric and full of mental crotchets as to be generally regarded in Charleston as of unsound intellect, and unfit for the management of his own small affairs. He had not served long enough in the army, nor been thrown in connection with considerable operations, to acquire familiarity with military administration; neither had his retired habits of life, his cast of thought, or avocations in Charleston, brought him in relation with men engaged in large commercial affairs, or turned his mind to the study of such subjects, and in that way attained that breadth of view and knowledge of general business details and of men, which may make up for the want of professional bureau experience after a separation of twenty five years from army life.

This man, with whom Mr. Davis had no personal association since they were cavalry lieutenants together on the Indian frontier, he did not hesitate to make his chief of subsistence, nor scruple to entrust with the organization and administration of a bureau upon which the very existence of the Confederate armies must depend, and for the labors of which it is apparent the soundest practical order of intellect was essential. One member of Mr. Davis's Cabinet at least knew the local repute of Dr. Northrop; and we assert that had the inquiry been made in Charleston, his pre-eminent unfitness would have been universally certified. As might be anticipated, his administration at once took all the characteristics of that unhealthy brain. Mr. Davis supported him, however, in every vagary, permitted him to override all opposition, and ignored the views and wishes of every army commander when, as was of daily occurrence, they chanced to differ from those of Col. Northrop. Indeed, the crazy courses in which this man was suffered to indulge, to the mortal injury of every Confederate army, are incredible.

But we have not the space for their relation, which would fill a volume. One example must serve to illustrate the surprising character of an administration which made success impossible. All reinforcements, ammunition, ordnance and the greater part of the quartermasters' supplies were necessarily transported to the Confederate forces assembled at Manassas Junction by the Alexandria and Orange Railroad, which, of course, was thus tasked to the utmost tension of its resources. But another railroad, branching from it at Manassas, communicated with the most fertile region of Virginia, the famous Shenandoah Valley, which teemed with subsistence that was also abundant in the adjoining counties of Fauquier and London. Not required for transportation of troops or ordnance supplies, that road was therefore available for the almost exclusive use of the Subsistence Department; and substantial supplies, we repeat, lay convenient to it, sufficient for all the forces the Confederates could possibly muster in that quarter. Nothing, indeed, could be more favorable for the Confederates than the arrangement of these two divergent roads.

But all this was lost sight of by Colonel Northrop, who by some influence was led to determine that subsistence officers with General Beauregard should not draw their flour or meat either from the rich garners and stores of Loudon, Fauquier or the Valley counties. Forbidding his subordinates, imperatively and angrily, from purchasing supplies within easy reach and with ample means of otherwise idle transportation at hand, leaving them to fall into the hands of the enemy, he set other subordinates to gathering subsistence in the rear of the army, which he was obliged to send over the already overburdened Alexandria and Orange Railroad, for which he had to pay much more than such supplies could have been bought for in the Valley or in Loudon. The consequences were that there was never in depot such a supply of subsistence as General Beauregard needed, and there was not one day's rations for the army at the time of the battle of Manassas (or Bull Run, as it is usually styled,) nor more than forty-eight hours' supplies for weeks afterward of the material part of the ration. General Beauregard having urged the provision of a fortnight's supply for some twenty or twenty-five thousand men, Northrop fell into a passion, wrote to the General a letter of surpassing insolence and at the same time relieved the staff officer from duty who, under General Beauregard's orders, had attempted to remove the evil. Mr. Davis, blind to the consequences, obdurately sustained this extraordinary conduct.

THE REBEL ARMY.

Davis, like McClellan, opposed the division of the army into corps:

Meantime Mr. Davis had visited headquarters. A discussion had likewise grown up between him and his Generals relative to the organization of their army. He had taken it into his head to direct that the troops of a State should all be brigaded together and commanded by Brigadiers from such State. With some exceptions, thought to be especially for the good of the service, this had been already done. But it chanced that one of these very exceptions was in the way of the promotion of a brother in-law to the command of a brigade, and could not be tolerated. At the same time the division of the army into two corps was objected to. Long communications were written on this subject by Mr. Davis and his Secretary of War that will amaze the military reader, who, we are sure, will be at a loss to understand with what possible end, other than an "apple of discord," this discussion was cast between Mr. Davis and his generals.

On the 20th of October Mr. Davis himself characterized the division as irregular, and in conflict with law as well as "the plainest principles of military organization." Intermixed was also the question of the position of General Beauregard, who, as "second in command," Mr. Davis thought should not have "special charge of any subdivision"—that is, corps—of that army; "because in the absence of General Johnston' Beauregard's "succession to the command of the whole would not disturb the relations of the officer and troops," nor "involve any changes of position on the line occupied." Moreover his acquaintance with the whole body of the army, and the absence of any identification with a part of them, would better qualify him for the succession."

Mr. Benjamin, thrown forward to reinforce these curious notions of his chief, with "nice sharp quillets of the law," does it with characteristic assumption of superior knowledge even of the details of military organization, while attributing ignorance to the generals of the laws germane to the subject. "I beg to say, in all kindness," writes the lawyer, "that it is not your position which is false, but your idea of organization of the army as established by the acts of Congress, and I feel confident you cannot have studied the legislation of Congress relative to the army * * * I have entered into these details because in a conversation with the President since his return from your headquarters, he has informed me that he found the same views as to the organization of the army which you seem to entertain very generally prevalent."

ONE OF DAVIS'S PLANS.

He could not give up his own settled plan of dispersion, his waste of defensive resources in the attempted defence of every threatened position. He proposed, however, an operation instead, which may not be fairly taken as a measure of his calibre in war affairs. General Sickles was posted at the time with an isolated force—about one week division—on the Maryland shore, opposite to Evansport on the Virginia shore of the Potomac, occupied by the Confederates. This force Mr. Davis proposed to capture by a *coup de main*. A glance at the map will show that the attacking party (with the scantiest possible means of ferriage in small boats) must cross the Potomac—there over a mile wide, navigable, and full of steam ships of war of the class of the Pawnee. Were a surprise effected, it would be nevertheless impossible for the Confederates to get away with impunity, much less to carry off the fruits of victory. From close proximity to Washington the alarm must be immediate; Federal war ships would take positions above and below Evansport, so as to command and render repassage of the impracticable, it being impossible, from the features of the country, for the Confederates to occupy two points on the river with batteries within which the movement might be securely made. These views, forcibly presented by his generals, he could not combat, and the project fell still born. He then returned to Richmond, thenceforward to look with marked disfavor upon all the wishes and views of both Johnston and Beauregard affecting the army they commanded, even declining to confer the grade of Brigadier General on their respective chiefs of staff, which had been asked not only as due to these officers for their services and professional experience, but as calculated to enhance their usefulness in their delicate and most responsible posts.

GRANT'S CAMPAIGN

About the middle of May, 1864, General Beauregard reached Drury's Bluff, below Richmond, and had an interview with General Bragg, at the time exercising a species of general command. This officer appeared to apprehend that General Lee, yielding to the pressure of superior numbers, must before long give way and lose Richmond. Beauregard replied that he did not regard the situation as so unfavorable if the right remedy were promptly applied. He then pointed out the isolated position of Butler, south of the James, as affording an opportunity for his destruction with a superior force, and that such a force might be assembled if General Lee would furnish ten thousand men.

Falling upon Butler under such circumstances General Beauregard thought his capture was inevitable, and with him must fall the depot at Bermuda Hundred. This effected, at a concerted moment he would throw his whole force upon General Grant's flank while General Lee made an attack in front. All circumstances favored the plan, and General Bragg expressed his approbation. Mr. Davis, informed of it, came at once to see General Beauregard, who explained all its details and earnestly urged the attempt. Mr. Davis seemed much impressed, but objected that it would involve the retrograde of General Lee from his position at Spottsylvania Court House, which "could not be thought of." "Yes," rejoined the General, "what of that when it will enable him in two or three days at most to gain a great victory?" That is, when like the Titan he would touch the earth to spring up refreshed and all the stronger.

This line of argument was fruitless. Nothing that affected General Lee's army, however temporarily, could be entertained. Beauregard had said that he might beat Butler without the force he desired, though it would be, like so many other Confederate successes, without material profit. This ability to gain the color of victory caught Mr. Davis' attention, and the attempt must be made. It was made. Butler was driven from his position the next day; but, just as Beauregard predicted, no substantial results followed the success. In the end, too, as might have been anticipated, unless some such decided success as that sought over Butler had been gained and enabled the concentration of the scattered Confederate forces, General Lee was forced step by step to follow the march of his opponent.

DAVIS' STRATEGY AGAINST SHERMAN.

Great sacrifices had now become inevitable; the "heroic treatment" could alone serve the "sick man" now. Especially after the fall of Savannah was this urged upon those in power, who as little comprehended the crisis as the antidote. Even when General Beauregard directed the evacuation of Charleston, and urged a similar course with respect to Wilmington, so as to provide a force with which to fall upon Sherman, Mr. Davis wrote such a dispatch to General Hardee, commanding in Charleston, as led him to suspend the evacuation, and obliged Beauregard to assume command and to direct imperatively the measure to be completed. Of course Wilmington, of no use since the fall of Fort Fisher, was held to the last; and with no force still to check his course Sherman marched like Fate through the heart of the country.

HIS CIVIL ADMINISTRATION.

When Mr. Toombs quit the Cabinet to become a brigadier general, Mr. Hunter, of Virginia, took his place, which he soon left, for reasons best known to himself, to take the seat of senator in Congress, only secured after a warm contest. There was a Virginia statesman pre-eminently fitted to succeed Mr. Hunter in the Cabinet. We mean W. C. Rives, whom all recognized as a man of great breadth and accuracy of culture, enlarged views of statesmanship, and who, having served as a diplomatist with high credit, was regarded as of a grade superior to those generally employed in that capacity by the United States. His connection with the Cabinet must have given weight to the cause abroad. But Mr. Davis could not stifle that characteristic distrust and intolerance of superior men of independent minds, which have made him, by his course as President of the Confederate States, at once a patricide and a moral suicide. It was enough that Mr. Rives was brought to his notice as one whom the people would like to see among his advisers. That looked like dictation—like an interference with his prerogative. Mr. Judah P. Benjamin was transferred to the State Department; General Randolph—as it happened, a gentleman of real administrative ability, as well as of too much independence to remain a Cabinet officer merely in name—was made Secretary of War, though at the time little known for capacity beyond the place of his residence.

A little later Mr. Davis also appointed as his Attorney General—the law adviser of his government—a gentleman doubtless of much civil worth, but who at the same time was a Lieutenant Colonel under General Bragg, in arrest under charges for an act of recent insubordination of such flagrant character as to make General Gladden place him for a time in close arrest in his tent in charge of an armed sentinel.

As a natural consequence of the predominant qualities of the man, there immediately grew up in the South a party of "President's Friends," from whose ranks, as far as possible, were drawn the occupants of all civil places. Men for the most part malleable to his will, who, looking up to him as the source of the highest wisdom in both civil and military affairs, upheld his views and wishes as the only safe rule and law for the times. Thus in a little while almost every person of ability, nearly every one of spirit, was driven from the councils of the South and the direction of affairs, leaving the government to a large degree in the hands of those from whom efficient administration was not to be expected—selected as they were for instruments thought to be best adapted to his purpose; that of absorbing in himself all the substantial functions of the State.

The longer he held power the narrower grew his conceptions, the more imperious his will, until to differ from or cross the orbit of his fancies, or even to run counter to the plans and wishes of his favorites, became a personal affront. No man in as high and critical a position ever less understood the value of wise, independent ministers, or was less able to give up a minor personal object for the sake of a major ad-

SEWING MACHINES.

THE FLORENCE. It has many improvements over any and all SEWING MACHINES. Has the reversible feed, feeding the cloth either to the right or left, to sewer a seam or fasten the ends of seams. It takes four different stitches, the Lock, Double Lock, Knot and Double Knot—each being alike on both sides of the fabric. Its motions are all positive; sews the thickest or thinnest fabrics without change of tension. Hems, stitch hem, fells, braids, quilts, binds, gathers, and sews in a ruffle at the same time. E. W. GLEASON & CO., Agents, 65 Public Square, Cleveland, and No. 7 Merrill Block, Detroit. Agents wanted. jul27:R3

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