MEMPHIS DAILY APPEAL.

BY M'CLANAHAN & DILL. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1862. VOL. XXIII, NO. 286

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 24.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST DISTRICT, DEPARTMENT MISSISSIPPI AND EAST LOUISIANA, Jackson, Mississippi, December 22, 1862.

I. In conformity with special Order No. 62, headquarters Department Mississippi and East Louisiana, December 20, 1862, all Louisiana State troops, now serving in the First Military District of this department, taken prisoners at New Orleans and now exchanged, will report without unnecessary delay, to his Excellency Thomas O. Moore, governor of the State of Louisiana.

II. Colonel Szymanski, acting assistant inspector general will communicate this order without delay to all troops coming within its requirements to proceed to their destination in accordance with instructions, which will be furnished for their guidance. He will also require lists in duplicate to be prepared, comprising the names of all commissioned and non-commissioned officers and privates coming under the operation of this order with as little delay as is practicable.

III. Commanders of posts, stations, camps and all provost marshals, and all officers on special service within the first military district of this department, will take prompt and effective measures to aid in the execution of these orders by sending immediately to this place all officers and soldiers coming within those requirements. Other commanders and provost marshals through the department Mississippi and East Louisiana are requested to aid in the execution of this service.

By command of Brigadier-General D. RUGGLES.

IG SZYMANSKI,
A. A. and Inspector General.

dec23-1w

GENERAL ORDERS No. 96.

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE, RICHMOND, November 27th, 1862.

HEADQUARTERS, TANGIPAHO, CAMP OF INSTRUCTION, CAMP MOORE, La., December 6 h, 1862.

I. All commissioned officers and enlisted men, who are now absent from their commands from any other cause than actual disability, or duty under orders from the Secretary of War, or from their department commanders, will be furnished by the commandant of conscripts for enrollment in the ranks.

II. All enlisted men who shall fail to comply with the provisions of paragraph I of this order, within a reasonable length of time, shall be considered as deserters and treated accordingly; their names to be furnished to the commandant of conscripts in their State, for publication, or such other action as may be deemed most efficacious.

III. All enlisted men who shall fail to comply with the provisions of the foregoing paragraph, within a reasonable length of time, in no case to exceed twenty days after the publication of this order, shall be dropped from the rolls of the army in disgrace, and their names will be furnished to the commandant of conscripts for enrollment in the ranks.

IV. In order to insure the efficient co-operation of all concerned, to carry this order into immediate effect, department commanders are directed to require from the commanding officer of each separate command in their departments a prompt report of the names of all commissioned officers and enlisted men now absent from their commands. These reports must state in each case the cause of absence; and any regimental, battalion or company commander, who shall neglect to furnish such a report, or who shall knowingly be guilty of concealing any case of unauthorized absence, shall, on conviction thereof, be summarily dismissed.

V. Under the provisions of the second clause of paragraph 2 of General Orders No. 82, commissioned officers and privates who are incapable of bearing arms in consequence of wounds received in battle, but who are otherwise able for service, are required, if not otherwise assigned, to report to the nearest commandant of conscripts in their respective States, who will, if they are fitted for such duty, assign them to the collection of stragglers and the enforcement of the provisions of this order, with full powers to call upon the nearest military authority for such assistance as may be necessary therefor.

VI. Officers of the Quartermaster's department, charged with payment of troops, are hereby directed not to pay any commissioned officer, non-commissioned officer or private who does not furnish satisfactory evidence that he is not liable to the penalties described in the foregoing order. Any disbursing officer who shall make payment in violation of this order, shall be liable on his bond for the amount of such payment. By order of

S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.

F. DUMONTEIL,
Major and A. A. General,
Commanding Camp of Instruction and Post.

dec22-15t

NOTICE!

HEADS PAROLED AND EXCHANGED PRISONERS, Jackson, Miss., December, 1862.

THE following deaths have been reported from Vicksburg hospitals by Surgeons R. R. Richardson and Somerville Burke:

	COMPANY.	REGIMENT.	
Lieut. A Cooper	K	30th Georgia Regim't	
J R Jones		3d Florida	
D L Hellman	B	30th Mississippi	
Hy Symington	E	54th Georgia	
L Gillespie	F	1st Mississippi	
J W Batenghugh	G	30th Georgia	
P Hanock	I	30th Alabama	
W J Brown	H	42d Mississippi	
S T Tellery	K	37th Alabama	
S Gassell	B	1st Mississippi	
J B Monday		Morgan's Cavalry	
J R Mebl		Morgan's Cavalry	
W C Pendergrass	D	35th Tennessee	
G W Wain		2d Missouri Cavalry	
C S Green		54th Georgia	
A L Davenport	F	21st Louisiana	
H Bryant	A	1st Florida	
John Wood		42 Kentucky	
J Reese	C	40th Georgia	
J Robinson		Ala Sharpshooters	
J Quick	B	27th Mississippi	
A Collins	H	20th North Carolina	
Dolley		1st Kentucky Infant.	
Wm Paul	A	19th Arkansas	
R P Thompson	A	2d Missouri Cavalry	
J H Robertson	C	31st Tennessee	
J W Wilmon		Dickland's Cavalry	
J B Rodgers	B	44th Mississippi	
W L Sandifer	H	Morgan's Cavalry	
P M Young	F	31st Alabama	
A Bigham		15th Virginia	
E Pitts	H	15th Virginia	
J Bringewater	B	1st Tennessee	
A Jones		2d Missouri Cavalry	
J Patterson		Buckner's Command	
Cartis		2d Missouri Cavalry	
J M Robinson		Forrest's Cavalry	
Thos. Hall	H	2d Missouri Cavalry	
H Balding	B	38th Georgia	
F M Warren	D	63d Georgia	
S M Walker	G	56th Georgia	
J W Hemd		27th Mississippi	
T J Christian	C	Clark's Cavalry	
R Willis	B	1st Missouri	
Wm Richmond	B	18th Virginia	

By order of Brigadier-General D. RUGGLES.

IGN SZYMANSKI,
A. A. and Inspector General.

dec23

Important to Absent Soldiers.

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, Richmond, November 27, 1862.

General Order 39 (S.)

COMMANDANTS of conscripts will cause the following order to be published for at least seven days in a sufficient number of newspapers in each State of the Confederacy, to insure its reaching every part of the country:

I. All commissioned officers and enlisted men, who are now absent from their commands from any other cause than actual disability, or under orders from the Secretary of War, or from their department commanders, are hereby ordered to their commands without delay.

II. Commissioned officers failing to comply with the provisions of the foregoing paragraph, within a reasonable length of time, in no case to exceed twenty days after the publication of this order, shall be dropped from the rolls of the army in disgrace, and their names will be furnished to the commandant of conscripts for enrollment in the ranks.

III. All enlisted men who shall fail to comply with the provisions of paragraph one of this order within a reasonable length of time, shall be considered as deserters, and treated accordingly; their names to be furnished to the commandant of conscripts in their State, for publication, or such other action as may be deemed most efficacious.

IV. In order to insure the efficient co-operation of all concerned, to carry this order into immediate effect, department commanders are directed to require from the commanding officer of each separate command in their departments a prompt report of the names of all absent commissioned officers and enlisted men now absent from their commands. These reports must state in each case the cause of absence; and any regimental, battalion or company commander, who shall neglect to furnish such a report, or who shall knowingly be guilty of concealing any case of unauthorized absence, shall, on conviction thereof, be summarily dismissed.

V. Under the provisions of the second clause of paragraph 2 of General Orders No. 82, commissioned officers and privates who are incapable of bearing arms in consequence of wounds received in battle, but who are otherwise able for service, are required, if not otherwise assigned, to report to the nearest commandant of conscripts in their respective States, who will, if they are fitted for such duty, assign them to the collection of stragglers and the enforcement of the provisions of this order, with full powers to call upon the nearest military authority for such assistance as may be necessary therefor.

VI. Officers of the Quartermaster's department, charged with payment of troops, are hereby directed not to pay any commissioned officer, non-commissioned officer or private who does not furnish satisfactory evidence that he is not liable to the penalties described in the foregoing order. Any disbursing officer who shall make payment in violation of this order, shall be liable on his bond for the amount of such payment. By order of

S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General, C. S. A.

[Official.] M. R. CLARK,
Major and A. A. General, Chief Commandant of Conscripts, State of Mississippi.

dec20-7t

H. L. SCHLUTER,

General Agent and Commission Merchant,
Jackson, Miss.,

ATTENDS to the receiving, forwarding and selling of all kinds of merchandise entrusted to his care. Office one door from Spangler's corner. A general assortment of all kinds of goods on hand for sale.

de15-1m H. L. SCHLUTER.

The Memphis Appeal.

PUBLISHED
Daily, Tri-Weekly and Weekly
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JOHN R. McCLANAHAN.....BENJAMIN F. DILL
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The location of the Appeal office is on State street, a few doors below the Post office.

THE BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG

Official Report of General Lee.

GRAPHIC NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY NORTHERN VIRGINIA, December 14th, 1862.

The Honorable Secretary of War, Richmond, Va.

SIR: On the night of the 10th instant the enemy commenced to throw three bridges across the Potomac—two at Fredericksburg, and the third about a mile and a quarter below, near the mouth of Deep Run.

The plain on which Fredericksburg stands is so completely commanded by the hills of Stafford, in possession of the enemy, that no effectual opposition could be offered to the construction of the bridges or the passage of the river, without exposing our troops to the destructive fire of his numerous batteries. Positions were, therefore, selected to oppose his advance after crossing. The narrowness of the Rappahannock, its winding course and deep bed, afforded opportunity for the construction of bridges at points beyond the reach of our artillery, and the banks had to be watched by skirmishers. The latter sheltering themselves behind the houses, drove back the working parties of the enemy at the bridges opposite the city; but at the lowest point of crossing, where no shelter could be had, our sharpshooters were themselves driven off, and the completion of the bridge was effected about noon on the 11th.

In the afternoon of that day the enemy's batteries opened upon the city, and by shell had so demolished the houses on the river bank as to deprive our skirmishers of shelter—and, under cover of his guns, he effected a lodgment in the town.

The troops which had so gallantly held their position in the city, under the severe cannonade, during the day, resisting the advance of the enemy at every step, were withdrawn during the night, as were also those who, with equal tenacity, had maintained their post at the lowest bridge. Under cover of darkness and of a dense fog, on the 12th, a large force passed the river and took position on the right bank, protected by their heavy guns on the left.

The morning of the 13th, his arrangements for attack being completed, about 8 o'clock—the movement veiled by a fog—he advanced boldly in large force against our right wing. Gen. Jackson's corps occupied the right of our line, which rested on the railroad; Gen. Longstreet's the left, extending along the hights to the Rappahannock above Fredericksburg. Gen. Stuart, with two brigades of cavalry, was posted in the extensive plain on our extreme right.

As soon as the advance of the enemy was discovered through the fog, Gen. Stuart, with his accustomed promptness, moved up a section of his horse artillery, which opened with effect upon his flank, and drew upon the gallant Pelham a heavy fire, which he sustained unflinchingly for about two hours. In the meantime the enemy was fiercely encountered by Gen. A. P. Hill's division, forming Gen. Jackson's right, and, after an obstinate combat, repulsed. During this attack, which was protracted and hotly contested, two of Gen. Hill's brigades were driven back upon our second line.

General Early, with part of his division, being ordered to his support, drove the enemy back from the point of woods he had seized, and pursued him into the plain, until arrested by his artillery. The right of the enemy's column extending beyond Hill's front, announced the right of Gen. Hood, of Longstreet's corps. The enemy took possession of a small copse in front of Hood, but were quickly dispossessed and repulsed with loss.

During the attack on our right the enemy was crossing troops over his bridges at Fredericksburg, and massing them in front of Longstreet's line. Soon after his repulse on our right, he commenced a series of attacks on our left, with a view of obtaining possession of the hights immediately overlooking the town. These repeated attacks were repulsed in gallant style by the Washington artillery, under Col. Walton, and a portion of McLaw's division, which occupied these hights.

The last assault was made after dark, when Col. Alexander's battalion had relieved the Washington artillery (whose ammunition had been exhausted) and ended the contest for the day. The enemy was supported in his attack by the fire of strong batteries of artillery on the right bank of the river, as well as by his numerous heavy batteries on the Stafford hights.

Our loss, during the operations, since the movements of the enemy began, amounts to about eighteen hundred killed and wounded. Among the former I regret to report the death of the patriotic soldier and statesman, Brigadier-General Thomas R. R. Cobb, who fell upon our left, and among the latter that brave soldier and accomplished gentleman, Brigadier-Gen. Maxcy Gregg, who was very seriously, and, it is feared, mortally wounded during the attack on our right.

The enemy to-day has been apparently engaged in caring for his wounded and burying his dead. His troops are visible in their first position in line of battle, but, with the exception of some desultory cannonading and firing between skirmishers, he has not attempted to renew the attack. About five hundred and fifty prisoners were taken during the engagement, but the full extent of his loss is unknown.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant, [Official] R. E. LEE, General.

CHARLES MARSHALL, Major and A. D. C.

Graphic Description of Saturday's Fight.

Special Correspondence of the Richmond Enquirer.]

BATTLE FIELD, Saturday, December 13, 1862.—This morning the sun struggled up through the obscuring mists which overhung the land-cape, but his rays were for an hour or two intercepted by some white clouds slowly drifting overhead. Everything was still as on any mild December morning. Scarcely a breath of air wafted the falling leaves, or stirred the fringes of the pine. The fog and smoke, thoroughly mingled through the sight, and shrouded hill and plain in a greyish, dun tint.

As the fog began to rise, about eight o'clock, the roar of the enemy's artillery woke the stillness of the scene, and signaled the coming great battle. Hastening to the front, I obtained a view of the enemy.

Birds-eye View of the Battle Field.

The observer who stands on the hights that rise abruptly from the suburbs on the western side of Fredericksburg, and casts his eye to the southwest, sees stretching before him a level plain, to where the Rappahannock, making a broad curve, with the rising hills on the northern bank, forms the horizon. This plain is about six miles long, with a mean breadth of two and a half miles. On the right the plain is scolloped by spurs of hills, gradually sloping down into the bottom land, at intervals of about a mile, clotted with dark pines and leafless oaks. On the left, where the Rappahannock sweeps along, hill by its high banks, a succession of hills rise much more abruptly than on the right, the face of the hills here or clotted with straggling pines, and the summits crowned with dense timber. These hillsides are white with the enemy's tents and trains, and from the crests his batteries bristle in countless profusion, as far as the eye can reach.

Now, let us cast our eye again down this broad stretch of bottom land and note what a bird's eye view affords. First in the town of Fredericksburg, some of the ruins still sending up wreaths of pale blue smoke, but the town not so much demolished as some excited imaginations may have supposed, and hardly enough to attract the attention of the casual observer. Then the plain sweeping lowest in the middle, but actually nearly level. A few long, narrow groves of leafless oaks breaks the monotony, and here and there some clumps of cedars are seen. The fields, containing on an average, a hundred acres, are separated by worn fences and ditches, the latter indicated by lines of low hedge. The enemy's line occupies the left of this plain, and in some places their columns, which the casual observer, from this point, would take to be dark clumps of cedar, spot far out into the fields. In the center of their line, near the river, on rising ground, is posted a battery of twenty-one heavy guns—there may be more—but these only are distinguishable by the eye.

Just in the rear of these, so far as one is able to judge by the long line of ambulances which disappear on the opposite bank of the river and emerge near by, a pontoon bridge spans the river—a single bridge, I am told. This battery forms a prominent part of the picture, especially when it fires regularly by section, sending its shells across the plains and into the rising hills on the right. A short distance above this battery, that is, next to the observer, a narrow grove of oaks extend diagonally into the plain, half a mile, perhaps, terminating in low marshy ground. A deep gully extends the length of this grove, and is spanned in the middle by a railroad bridge, the line of the railroad indicated here and there by patches of red earth which marks its length down the left side of the valley. In this grove the enemy find concealment for a brigade, which keeps up a random fire on our troops until dislodged by a regiment sent from Hood's division.)

Nothing but volumes of smoke struggling up through the under growth and forests on the hills to the right, indicate the presence of our forces.

The Battle.

Now the fog has lifted, revealing the dark and heavy columns of the enemy moving down the opposite bank of the river. Far down near the lower part of the valley, they are seen debouching. Whole fields are gleaming with bayonets. They continue to pour out upon the plain in a stream which seems to come from an inexhaustible fountain. The meadows are black with them; teas of thousands in solid columns. We can only vaguely conjecture at this distance the number. Old soldiers think there are sixty thousand. Where are our men? A solitary battery of four guns, commanded by Captain Carter Braxton, is to be seen on the plain. The fire from the enemy's battery of twenty-two guns opens upon it, but it makes no reply. Other batteries direct their shots toward it, but it has evidently made up its mind not to be hurried.

The enemy, now formed in three heavy columns, advances to attack our right; on they go at double quick toward the woods, making the earth shake under their tread with colors flying and arms glistening in the sunlight. Where are our men? A long sheet of flame from the skirt of woods at the foot of the hills, a cloud of smoke, a roar and rattle of musketry tell their whereabouts. The advanced column halts, delivers a hasty fire. A continuous stream of fugitives from the front scour across the fields rearward; some are halted and formed in squads, but can never be forced again to go to the front except at the point of the bayonet. The smoke now mostly shuts the combatants from the view of the distant spectator. There is breaking of ranks among the enemy, rallying and re-rallying, but to no avail. They cannot stand the murderous fire. They give it up as a bad job. Meanwhile the battery in the field (Braxton's) has opened after long endurance, and at the right moment makes its mark. The coolness and precision with which it is handled, wins the admiration of all observers. The manner of its action will be noticed hereafter in complimentary terms in official reports. Other batteries did their work nobly, but they with other particulars of the engagement on the right, must be noticed where each can have justice done in an extended account.

The Storming of the Hill.

The Yankees commenced the storming of the hill at 11½ o'clock A. M., with six brigades, and were repulsed four times, with immense slaughter. Two hundred and fifty bodies were counted on a space occupied by only one regiment. The firing was kept up incessantly until 3 o'clock. Col. Walton's battery held the heights, pouring a murderous fire into the advancing columns. The batteries on the various hills nobly assisted the batteries on the heights, keeping up a continual stream of fire, each volley thinning the ranks of the enemy in a terrible manner.

The battery of Capt. Miles C. Macon, of Richmond, covered itself with glory. The fire was opened on the storming regiments by this battery. The railroad gap, at one time, was filled with Yankees, when a well directed shot from the battery exploded in their midst, killing about fifty of the hirelings. Capt. Macon's battery was hotly engaged on 11th, 12th and 13th, and won the admiration of all the commanding officers, by the coolness and precision exhibited by the men in handling their guns. Actually, I may say, not a man of this company was killed or wounded.

One rifle piece of Capt. Ewbank's battery, near the center, has been engaged. On Saturday afternoon it played upon the Yankee brigade driven by Hill's men from the woods, in front of Barnard's. This portion of the battery has been under a heavy fire for three days past, but has fortunately suffered no loss. The remaining five of Capt. Ewbank's guns have not disposed that they will perform efficient service when called upon, in which event we expect to chronicle a brilliant achievement on the part of this gallant command.

Late in the afternoon comes the magnificent charge of a regiment of Hood's division, across the plain, routing of a brigade from the line of the railroad, and while under the concentrated fire of a battalion of artillery, driving the enemy from the skirt of woods before mentioned, capturing forty-one prisoners, representing six regiments, and, on the whole, covering themselves with ineffacable glory.

The first company Richmond Howitzers, Capt. McCarthy, was engaged near the center on Friday and Saturday. Private Maury, of this company, was slightly wounded in the arm.

The loss in killed and wounded, in Cook's brigade, in the fights on Morris' and Willis' hills may be estimated as follows:

Twenty-seventh North Carolina—killed, 3; wounded, 15. 15th N. C.—killed, 17; wounded, 113. 46th N. C.—killed, 5; wounded 75. 48th N. C.—killed, 15; wounded, 140. Total—killed, 40; wounded, 343.

Particulars of the Death of General Cobb.

A group of officers, consisting of Gen. Cobb, his adjutant, Capt. Herring, Gen. Cook and his adjutant, Capt. Butler and Capt. Brewster were standing in the telegraph road, near the scene of action, when a shell exploded in their midst, a piece of which struck Gen. Cobb on the thigh, the same piece also striking Gen. Cook on the left temple, fracturing his skull. By the same explosion Capt. Brewster was badly wounded just above the knee, and Capt. Herring seriously in the hip. Gen. Cobb, on being struck, quietly asked for a tourniquet. A silk handkerchief was made to serve the purpose as far as possible, but to little avail. He was led from the field, and all the aid rendered that medical skill could devise, but in vain. He expired in a few hours, freely giving up his life in defense of his country's freedom. 108.

TUESDAY, 12 O'clock.—On Monday afternoon the Yankee forces in the field, on the left, near Fredericksburg, were reviewed, their entire length, by Burnside. The column appeared about a mile in length. Some of their big guns to the left threw a few shells to aid to the display. 108.

From Fredericksburg.

Special Correspondence of the Richmond Enquirer.]

NEAR FREDERICKSBURG, December 16, 1 P. M. Yesterday was comparatively calm and quiet. Save some little artillery duelling, the day passed off without any demonstration of a hostile character. It is reported that two flags of truce were sent in for the purpose of obtaining permission to bury the Yankee dead. It is said Gen. Lee refused the first, because it did not come from Gen. Burnside, but that the latter was granted. Our men during the day seemed as careless and unconcerned as if nothing had occurred, and could everywhere be seen collecting up and cooking their rations.

The road from the point to the immediate rear of the battle-line was lined during the whole day with the ambulances and wagons which were engaged in conveying the wounded to this point, from whence they will be sent by the waiting trains to your city, where fair and gentle women will much better attend to their wants and allevate their sufferings than the surgeons can do here, though I must say, I think every effort has been put forward here to do all that it was possible to do for the sufferers.

True, in some instances, there may have been cases of negligence on the part of the surgeons, but these cases form the exceptions, not the rule.

I have been at some pains to ascertain our loss, and, as the result of my effort, have obtained from Dr. J. C. Herndon, the polite surgeon on General Lee's staff, the following statement, which may be relied upon as correct:

McLaws' Division.—Barksdale and Cobb's brigades,	111
Semmes' brigade	1
Kershaw's brigade	259
Straggling cases	6
Anderson's Division.—Wilcox's brigade	9
Mahone's brigade	5
Ransom's Division.—Cook's brigade	295
A. P. Hill's division, about	400
Early's and Taliaferro's commands, about	300
D. H. Hill, about	10
Washington artillery	24
Total	1,019
Picket's Division	40
Hood's Division	100
Total	1,750

The most moderate estimate of the Yankee loss is five thousand, and some put it at eight thousand. That they have suffered severely is evident to the most casual observer, and as a confirmation of it they withdrew during last night across the river, and, it is conjectured, are moving in the direction of Port Royal. While I write, it is reported that our cavalry hold the town of Fredericksburg. I comprised from near there this morning, and was also the report then in the vicinity.

The additional casualties of the death of Mrs. Hogan and her daughter are reported to have occurred in the shelling of the town. The Yankees, on Saturday and Sunday, had Professor Lowe on hand with his balloon but we think he was welcome to all the information which he was able to get.

In Fredericksburg, the Baptist church was being used as a hospital, as was recognized by the yellow flag floating from it on yesterday; also A. H. H. Bernard's house, just below town.

The town, on yesterday, was shelled by our troops in consequence of the houses being occupied by the enemy's sharpshooters.

There was some firing with artillery, on yesterday, on the right; but it did not last long.

Everything is bustle and confusion about the camps to-day on the part of the "rebels," who have great difficulty in keeping up with Lincoln's mob, who profess to be in arms to crush "a rebellion," yet never come into a fight but to get most outrageously whipped.

I could tell you what their prisoners have told me, but if you have as little respect for their words as I have you will not credit what they say, and hence it was useless to trouble you with their outpourings. They profess to want peace, and believe it near at hand, on the basis of our independence. They curse Lincoln, curse Burnside, and swear that they will never fight to free the negro! Can their words be believed? Others, less skeptical than myself, most decide. They all agree that our army gave them a decent drubbing. X.

Retreat of the Enemy.

HEDQUARTERS, December 16.

To Hon. J. A. Seddon, Secretary of War:

As far as can be ascertained this stormy morning, the enemy has disappeared in our immediate front, and has re-crossed the Rappahannock. I presume he is meditating a passage at some other point.

R. E. LEE.

FREDERICKSBURG.—The town of Fredericksburg, Va., having suddenly became a point on which public interest centres, we deem it appropriate to give a brief description of the place. It is pleasantly situated in a fertile valley, in Spotsylvania county, on the south side of the Rappahannock river, at the head of tide water, sixty-five miles north of Richmond and 110 miles above Chesapeake bay. The population in 1860 was 5,069. The town was named in honor of Prince Frederick, father of George III, and was established at an early period of the colonial era. It contains a courthouse, several churches, an orphan asylum, three banks, several mills and foundries, three semi-weekly newspaper offices, etc. The Rappahannock affords valuable motive power, available at the falls above. A canal extending to a point forty miles west of the town, affords means of transportation for the products of a rich farming country, and the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac railroad connects the city with the State capital. Just beyond the limits of the city an unfinished monument, begun in 1833, marks the tomb of the mother of Washington, who died there in 1789.

ON THE WING.

To Horatio Seymour, Dean Richmond, John Van Buren, Charles O'Connor, Washington Hunt, Fernando Wood and James Brooks, Representative Men of the Triumphant Revolutionary Party of New York:

December 19th, 1862.

GENTLEMEN: I congratulate you upon the glorious successes of November, 1862. The world has already accepted it as evidence that there still exists in the North an appreciation of State and individual rights, and a genuine respect for progressive civilization, so horribly outraged during the conduct of this war by abolition officers, both civil and military. I trust that you will reflect by resolute and decisive action the indication signaled by the people at the ballot in this massive and successful effort, this outpouring of righteous scorn, against the mulatto usurpers who have kept you in leash for two years agone; the hucksters of your national reputation; the revelers in your national wealth—the fruits of long years of Democratic and Southern statesmanship, fidelity and forecast. Civic Law bleeds and Humanity stands agast at the atrocities of [illegible] tarians. State lines obliterated; rights of every kind, popular, religious and commercial, all swept into one common ruin; homes violated, rifled and burned; private papers—sacred mementoes, national rewards for honorable conduct—remorselessly destroyed or thievingly appropriated. Even the abodes of dead patriots, whose memory should be as dear to you as to us, desecrated and pillaged. Venerable citizens, matrons, maidens and infants driven out to seek the protection of charity. Mothers and daughters imperiously domineered over and insulted in the absence of their natural protectors. Even the negroes, that children-people who have never yet reached their majority in any age or country, and who owe whatever they possess of goodness, civilization, modesty and religion to the Southern matrons who have been their friend, nurse and guide, in benefits to them which generations of faithful service on their part cannot pay, and whose fidelity under all the cheating temptations and lying delusions to which they have been exposed, is truly creditable to them, enticed or dragged away in ropes, the men cruelly worked down, the women, shrieking for help, brutally outraged in the presence of their husbands, children and mistresses; men, women and children left at last to suffer and starve and die on the roadsides. This is a slight synopsis of the memories of the Abolition army of your baboon President.

Can you longer stand still while these things are being enacted before you? A programme of peace and settlement is what the people expect of you. All eyes are resting upon you for action.

You should at once proclaim to the world that not a dollar of the bonds—Federal, State or municipal—issued by the Federal usurpers for the prosecution of this unholy war, shall ever be paid. Few strangers have taken shares in the despotic loans, and this just blow will fall almost exclusively upon the usurpers. There is need that history should be marked by the utter annihilation of the debt created by the conspirators against the rights and liberties of American citizens and States. The licentious dollar should now receive such a retributive lesson that a bar shall be raised for all time against its being had on this continent for the usurpation of the rights and liberties of sovereign citizens and States.

Not only do you owe it to yourselves to repudiate every dollar of this unconstitutional debt, but you owe it equally to your posterity to pay the half, if not all the debt that the people of the South have had to incur to maintain the rights of citizens and of States, in the establishment of free trade.

Do these things generously, heroically, and New York city, as if by magic, will re-assume the enviable position she held before the black sixth of November, 1860. Her magnificent streets will continue their march upon Manhattan Island, and her Central Park will progress in municipal mazes of beauty, in statuary, and fountains and foliage. True, your political relations with the South will probably never be restored, and it is now useless to discuss. But you will nevertheless gain much by the revolution. You will be rid of infidel puritan rule, which has been nearly as oppressive and intolerable in New York as in the South. You will have free navigation and free trade with the South and (freer trade than ever) with the world.

Let heart and brain into the revolution; accelerate and direct the movement; get rid of the Baboon, (or what is it?) Abraham Lincoln, pacifically if you can, but by the blood of his followers if necessary. Withdraw your support, material and moral from the invading armies, and the South will make quick work with the Abolitionists that remain on her soil. Suffer no degenerate son of the South, upon howsoever plausible pretext, to idly embarrass your action, by throwing into your way rotten planks of reconstruction. Unity is no longer possible. The very word Union, once so dear, has been made a cover for so many atrocious acts, that the mere mention of it is odious in the ears of Southern people. The State Legislatures will be called upon to obliterate the hated name from counties and towns.

The ocean-bound republic was the dream of my life, the end of my labors, the principal object of my aspirations for my country. That political monster, the fatal election of 1860, abruptly and forever dissipated the illusion.

Commercial relations are attainable, and every hour of alienation from the South is your loss. The recent elections show that New York city is the centre of a circle of one hundred miles radius, with a compact, organized majority of two hundred thousand against your abolitionized government. It has but to will, to do. Half-way measures, always unsuitable to revolutionary necessities, will not avail you. Immediate, wholesale repudiation is your only safety valve.

Against the Abolition invasion the whole nation of the Southern Confederacy is now resolved into an army, the most numerous, intelligent and spirited the world ever saw—in good health and high discipline, ready to fall upon the enemy with that momentum which belongs only to the patriotic soldier, fired with indignation against the insolent invader. While the Abolition generals have been successively withdrawn in disgrace from the field, our generals and subordinate officers, brave and efficient from the first, have steadily increased in character and number. Never has an army been officered by such a body of accomplished, high-toned and gallant men, as the Confederate army boasts to-day. And while her generals give the grandest proofs of their skill and science in the management of the war in whole, the country shows itself, through the cheerful sacrifices and noble aid of its women, and the daring strategy of its partisan chiefs and their intrepid followers, alive at its every extremity.

On a recent visit to Europe, I found that of all Americans, past or present, none stand so high in public estimation, for exalted patriotism and statesmanship, as the President of the Southern Confederacy. Our governors, orators and statesmen furnish you with models for emulation. Our women have excelled the virtuous daughters of the colonial revolution. Our clergy have nobly endured exile and imprisonment, without falter.

Men of the revolution in New York, a redeeming career lies open to you, in which you can protect yourselves and all that is so dear to you as citizens and Americans. I trust you will walk in it at whatever personal cost. Release your press from censorship, your citizens from bastiles, your trade from shackles, your name from ignominious reproach!

GEORGE N. SANDERS.

DEATHS OF SOLDIERS.—The Cincinnati *Gazette* gives a list of about thirteen hundred deaths of Federal soldiers in the Nashville hospitals since March last.

INTERESTING DIPLOMATIC LETTERS.

The Northern papers contain the diplomatic correspondence of Secretary Seward with Mr. Adams, the United States Minister at the court of St. James, as well as the officials of the English government, in reference to the numerous questions that have arisen between the two governments during the past year. We extract the following:

Seward's Opinion of Emancipation.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, February 17, 1862.

SIR: It is represented to us that equally in Great Britain and France the cause of the Union is prejudiced by the assumption that the government which maintains it is favorable—or, at least, not unfavorable—to the perpetuation of slavery. This incident is one of the most curious and instructive ones which has occurred in the course of this controversy.

The administration was elected and came into its trust upon the ground of its declared opposition to the extension of slavery. The party of slavery, for this reason, arrayed itself against, not only the administration, but the Union itself, and inaugurated a civil war for the overthrow of the Union and the establishment of an exclusive slaveholding Confederacy.

Without surrendering the political principle, we meet them in the battle-field, and in the defense of the Union. The contest for life absorbs all the interest that had extended growing out of the previous contest of ideas. But what must be the effect if the Confederacy prevails, slavery will have a constitutional, legitimate, and acknowledged state, devoted to itself as the paramount object of the national existence. If the Union prevails, the government will be administered by a majority hostile to the fortification and perpetuation of slavery. Slavery in the slaveholding States will there be left in the care of the people of those States. Yet, as it was left at the organization [illegible] States except Massachusetts. It might admit of doubt whether it would not have been able to recover its former strength, had the slaveholding States acquiesced in the election and avoided civil war. But what ground is there to fear such a renewal of strength, after having been defeated in arms against the Union?

What is the operation of the war? We have entered Virginia and already five thousand slaves emancipated simply by the appearance of our forces, are upon the hands of the Federal government there. We have landed on the coast of South Carolina, and already nine thousand similarly emancipated slaves hung upon our camp.

Although the war has not been waged against slavery, yet the army acts immediately as an emancipating crusade. To proclaim the crusade is unnecessary, and it would even be inexpedient, because it would deprive us of the needful and legitimate support of the friends of the Union who are not opposed to slavery, but who prefer Union without slavery to disunion with slavery.

Does France or does Great Britain want to see a social revolution here, with all its horrors, like the slave revolution in St. Domingo? Are these powers sure that the country or the world is ripe for such a revolution, so that it must certainly be successful? What, if insurgrating such a revolution, slavery protesting against its ferocity and inhumanity, should prove the victor.

Who says this administration is false to human freedom? Does it not acknowledge the citizenship as well as the manhood of men without respect to color?

Has it not made effective arrangements with Great Britain to suppress the slave trade on the coast of Africa? Has it not brought into life the Federal laws against the African slave trade, and is it not executing their severest penalties? Besides, is it not an object worthy of practical men to confine slavery within existing bounds, instead of suffering it to be spread over the whole unoccupied portion of this vast continent?

Is it not favoring emancipation in the Federal district, to be accomplished at government's cost, and without individual injustice or oppression?

Does it not receive all who come into the Federal camps, to offer their services to the Union, and hold and protect them against disloyal claimants? Does it not favor the recognition of Hayti and Liberia?

The tale that Mr. Cameron was required to give up his place because of his decided opposition to slavery is without foundation; that distinguished gentleman resigned his place only because he could be useful in a diplomatic situation, while the gentleman appointed his successor, it was expected, would be more efficient in administration. His successor has no more sympathy with slavery than Mr. Cameron. These facts and thoughts are communicated to you confidentially for such use in detail as may be practicable, but not to be formally presented in the usual way to the government to which you are accredited.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Charles Francis Adams, Esq.

Seward to Adams—The Humanity of England.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, July 28, 1862.

* * * What are the reasons urged upon these governments by shortsighted politicians for such a proceeding? They are various, but none of them will bear examination. First, it was said that civil war among us endangers the commerce of foreign nations, and that they have a right to practice neutrality. So, indeed, they have, if their commerce is endangered, and if pronounced neutrality will save their commerce. But no slaveholding enemy from this country ever attacked, or even menaced the commerce of Europe before the attitude of neutrality was adopted. Then it was said that the United States resorted to a blockade; but the blockade is an application of force allowed by the laws of nations to all belligerents. Then the blockade was represented as being imperfect; but if it had been so, it was, therefore, the less injurious. Then it was too rigorous, and prevented the export of cotton and the import of fabrics. Is not this the lawful object of a blockade? Then it was alleged that the closing of the cotton ports by the blockade was continued too long. We opened them to trade, and invited it; the insurgents refused to let cotton be sent forward to market. We apply all our means and energies, confessedly greater than any nation ever before applied to suppress insurrection and restore the freedom of our inland and foreign commerce, and we gain victory; yet this does not satisfy our enemies abroad. Defeats, in their eyes, prove our national incapacity. Victories won in conformity with the most humane practices of war are attended with such destruction of life as to shock and confound their sensibilities.

Complaints against an increase of duties on foreign merchandise, and against the rigor of our taxation, come upon us in the very same breath with representations that our engagements will never be fulfilled, and our bonds not yet matured are advised to be forced back upon our newly filled money market for sale. The same voices which are proclaiming to the world that the preservation of the Union is a task too expensive for the government, denounce the revenue measures adopted to secure the accomplishment of that object as hostile to foreign commerce. At first, the government was considered as unfaithful to humanity in not proclaiming emancipation, and when it appeared that slavery, by being thus forced into the contest, must suffer, and perhaps perish in the conflict, then the war had become an intolerable propagandism of emancipation by the sword.

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*Purpose of the