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ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GEN'L'S OFFICE,
Richmond, Nov. 27th, 1862.

GENERAL ORDERS,

No. 96.

Commandants of conscripts will cause the following order to be published for at least seven times in a sufficient number of newspapers in each State of the Confederacy to ensure 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 duty under orders from the Secretary of War, or from their department commanders, will return 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 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.

IV. In order to ensure the efficient co-operation of all concerned to carry this order into immediate effect, Department Commandants are directed to require from the commanding officer of each separate command in their Department 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 2d clause of paragraph I. 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 fit 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 power to call upon the nearest military authority for such assistance as may be necessary thereto.

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,

(Signed) S. COOPER,
Adj. and Insp. General.

Dec. 2—8w.

BRIGADE HEAD QUARTERS,
ABINGDON, VA., Nov. 24th, 1862.
SPECIAL ORDERS,
No. 138.

All the members of the various Companies belonging to the 5th Ky. Regiment who have not faithfully served their term of twelve months, according to the term of their original enlistment—all those who have re-enlisted in said Regiment—all the members who have an unexpired term yet to serve, or who have enlisted—all members of Ficklin's Battalion, are requested to report to Col. Hawkins at the earliest moment for duty without further notice, at the Camp near Osborne's Ford.

By Order of
H. MARSHALL,
Brig. Gen. Com'g.
CHAS. E. MARSHALL, A. A. Gen.
Nov. 28, 1862—1f

ATTENTION CONSCRIPTS.

I HAVE received orders from the commandant of the Camp of Instruction, Dublin Depot, to enroll, as conscripts, all persons not legally exempted from military duty, between the ages of eighteen (18) and forty (40) years, and I call on all such persons to report promptly to me, at Abingdon, on Monday, the 24th, and save me the painful duty of calling at their domicils.

D. A. P. CAMPBELL,
Enrolling Officer, Washington, Va.
Nov. 21, 1862.

ROPE-MAKER WANTED.

A MAN who can work up rotted hemp into a Rope, can find a job, if application is made at the office of the Quartermaster of this Post.
Dec. 5—3t. WM. RODEFER, A. Q. M.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA. A PROCLAMATION.

HAVING received a communication from the President of the Confederate States, invoking the aid of the State Executive on several important points, I deem it proper, in giving my cordial co-operation, to call upon the officers of the State, civil and military, and upon the people of the Commonwealth generally, to lend their assistance.

By united and harmonious action our independence can and will be obtained. A cheerful and ready obedience to the laws should be given until they are pronounced by competent tribunals to be unconstitutional.

It is the duty of every good citizen to sustain the constituted authorities in their just endeavors to promote the public welfare.

The President asks for assistance "in the enrollment of conscripts and the forwarding of them to the proper points of rendezvous." To render his appeal effectual, I invoke the aid of the Commissioners of the Revenue, the Sheriffs and Constables, and the Justices of the Peace. From their general knowledge of all the inhabitants of their several districts, they have it in their power to find out and to report to the enrolling officers all persons liable to conscription, and will render efficient service by expediting the conscripts to their several destinations.

The cause in which we are engaged, the holy purpose we have at heart, requires that every man, liable to military duty, should be stimulated by moral suasion, and, if need be, by compulsory process, to give to the country the advantage of his intellect and his physical energies. The country has a right to the services of all, and none should be allowed to sneak or skulk from duty.

The President asks assistance "in restoring to the army all officers and men now within the State absent without leave, or whose term of absence has expired, or who have recovered from disability, and are now able to return to duty."

This absence is the cause of the fruitless victories heretofore gained. If in any one of the great battles in which our armies have been victorious, all the force composing those armies had been present, none can entertain a doubt but that the enemy would have been utterly crushed and destroyed, and that our State would have been relieved from the curse of invasion and the consequent desolation of the fairest portion of our territory. How essential then is it that this fruitful source of ill should cease to exist. An officer or private absent without leave is nothing but a deserter. Let the finger of scorn of the young and the old, of the matron and the maiden, be pointed at such delinquents, and if shame will not cause them to return to duty, let them be hunted from the neighborhoods in which they are skulking and be carried back under a guard to their encampments. The law of Virginia prescribes that—"If any person shall fail to appear at the place of rendezvous when ordered, or shall absent himself without leave, the commandant of the detachment or of the regiment to which he belongs may order him to his proper officer, and such person, without justifiable excuse, shall be treated as a deserter."

There is reason to believe, and I regret to state it, that it is too common for men who have recovered from disability, and are now able to return to duty, to continue to absent themselves and to draw their pay while rendering no manner of equivalent. This is a burning disgrace, and no family should tolerate an inmate who will thus act in times like these. It becomes their friends not only not to ask them to stay, but to implore them to go, that they may aid their comrades in conquering a speedy peace. Then, and not till then, will they be able with honor and gratification to recline under their own vine and fig tree, and to enjoy the blessings they will have secured by their manly exertions for themselves and their posterity.

The President, with an anxious solicitude, asks assistance "in securing for the use of the army all such necessary supplies as exist within the State in excess of the quantity indispensable for the support of the people at home." I have heretofore with earnest appeals in my proclamation, invoked from the people these necessary supplies. I report now, that the necessity for such supplies still exists, and that prompt assistance will prevent or at any rate alleviate much suffering. Men who are fighting for us and risking their lives for the common cause, have a right to expect that proper exertions shall be made to protect them, by suitable clothing from inclement weather and to provide them with necessary food. I am happy to testify that I have had presented to me, by individuals, noble examples of liberal gifts, to add to the comfort of our troops, and that I have seen in all our public prints ample evidences of unbounded charity, which would reflect the highest honor upon any people. Virginians have not been lagard of their means, but have opened their hearts and their purses in generous acts. Such conduct deserves the thanks of the State and is worthy of all emulation.

It is asked of the different States to provide such laws "as will enable the Governors to command slave labor to the extent which may be required in the prosecution of works conducive to the public defence." The State of Virginia has already responded to this call, and the Legislature has passed an act ample for the purpose, but I regret to say that the counties heretofore called on, with few honorable exceptions, have not complied with the requisitions as fully and promptly as could have been desired. These are proper laws. The slave population is a large one, nearly one-third of the population of the whole State, not far from being one-half of the population of the loyal part of the State. The slaves are exempted from serving in our armies, they are freed from all military duty, and it is but reasonable that a small portion of their time and labor should be devoted to the prosecution of works conducive to the public defence. The law is a liberal one to the owners. It allows sixteen dollars per month as compensation for the labor of each slave, besides rations, medicines and medical attendance. It provides that "the value of all such slaves as may escape from the Confederate authorities and not returned to their owners, or be seized or killed by the public enemy, or may, by want of due diligence on the

part of the authorities of the Confederate States in any manner be lost to the owners, shall be paid for by the Confederate States, to the owners, and in like manner allows compensation "for any injury to slaves arising from a want of due diligence on the part of the authorities of the Confederate States."

As our army is constituted, it is but right to lessen the burdens they have to bear and to cause the earthworks upon our fortification to be constructed by the laborers who are inured to such service. The County Courts are authorized to apportion the slaves called for in their respective counties, and they ought to make the apportionment in such manner as to be least onerous upon their fellow citizens, particularly as there is no appeal from the decision they make. By a careful exercise of this power, much hardship may be averted. If the courts fail or refuse to comply with the requisitions, the law invests the Executive with authority, by officers and agents of his own selection, with the aid of the commissioners of the revenue, to impress the proportions of slaves demanded from the county, not exceeding five per centum of the entire slave population thereof. The performance of this duty the Executive would gladly forego, greatly preferring that the justices elected by the people, and who know their situation and circumstances, should discharge it, but if the failure continues after due notice, the duty will be performed with unshrinking fidelity, under the full belief that the labor called for is necessary, and that the prompt completion of the fortifications will greatly conduce to the public defence.

In addition to these several subjects I deem it to be my duty to call the attention of the people generally, but of the country and corporation courts especially, to the necessity that now exists for increased vigilance in regard to domestic and county police. Our slaves have hitherto been contented and happy, peaceable and trustworthy, and I doubt not they will continue so, notwithstanding the proclamation of the president of the United States and the shameful attempts of abolition emissaries and arnates to render them discontented and insubordinate. But in times like these it is proper to be ever watchful, ever on the guard. I therefore recommend earnestly that the several county and corporation courts shall forthwith proceed to execute the provisions of the State law relative to establishing a patrol in each county and corporation, to visit within such bounds as the courts may require, all negro quarters and other places suspected of having therein unlawful assemblies, or such slaves as may stroll from one plantation to another without permission. Let every master keep a watchful guardianship over his plantation and cause his slaves to keep within their own premises, and prohibit others from making unnecessary visits. If the county courts cannot assemble promptly, let such justice of the peace order out patrols, as the law authorizes him to do, to continue in service until the next term of the county or corporation court.

And finally, the President denounces, in appropriate terms, the vile spirit of extortion, now so rife in all portions of the Confederacy, and urgently appeals to the Executives of the States, to urge upon their several Legislatures the necessity of passing such laws as will effectually restrain and crush it. I earnestly invoke the patriotic everywhere, to discountenance extortion and extortioners, and if patriotic appeals will not induce them to change their policy, and abandon a course of conduct calculated to prejudice our holy cause, then I urge them, to impress upon their Senators and Delegates in the General Assembly the necessity of adopting such legislation as will remedy the evil, at the next session in January.

We have another struggle to make against our unscrupulous foe. It may not be the last, but let it be at least worthy of our ancestors and ourselves. Let it be a gallant fight in which we shall put forth all of method, of vigor and of courage that has been given us from Heaven. Let it be recorded in future time that Virginians emulated their glorious sires and fought with determined coolness and valor, leaving nothing undone that might have been done to ensure success.

Given under my hand at Richmond, and under the Seal of the Commonwealth, this 8th day of December, 1862, and in the 87th year of the Commonwealth.

JOHN LETCHER,
By the Governor.

Geo. W. MIFFORD,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.
Dec. 12, 1862—2w.

Important Disclosure.

Relations of English Diplomacy to the American Question.

[Correspondence of the New York World.]

LONDON, Nov. 14th.—The tone in which the Emperor's proposals for an armistice in America have been treated by our press will be so likely to blind you on the other side of the Atlantic to the real origin and objects of these proposals, that I think it right to inform you of certain facts which must eventually come to light in connection with the diplomatic history of this crisis in the United States. While neither the French nor the English government has for some time past believed a reunion in America as probable in any event, and when both governments regard such a reunion as utterly impossible if the war is prosecuted in the interest of abolitionists, there is this important difference to be noted between the attitude of the two powers: France desires to see America united under one government; England prefers the establishment of two Confederacies. The reasons for this divergence of view are obvious, and in my judgment perfectly compatible with real good will to the people of both sections on the part of each of the powers which have formed such contrary opinions in respect to the best solution of the existing difficulty. Be this as it may, each power has recently been acting upon its own theory. The date of the dispatch of

M. Drouyn de l'Euys is October 30. You will remember that Lord Lyons sailed for America on the 25th, having originally intended to leave on the 11th of that month. His departure was delayed to enable him to receive instructions based on the result of propositions made by this government to the governments of France, Spain, Italy, Russia and Prussia, earlier in the autumn. The tenor of these propositions was similar to that of the subsequent propositions of Napoleon, with this vital difference, that the English propositions contemplated what M. de l'Euys, in his subsequent dispatch, describes as a "pressure," in the case of their non-acceptance.—"The powers, as I am well informed, replied substantially as follows:

Spain as a maritime and colonial State, nearly interested, declined committing herself to any action which might at once expose her possessions to immediate annoyance, and bring her the imputation of availing herself ungenerously of the distresses of the United States to secure indemnity for the past and security for the future.

Italy regarded that her relations with the United States were such as to indispose her to become a party to any untimely pressure upon that country while passing through a crisis analogous in many respects, though in an inverse sense, with that from which the Italian kingdom itself is just emerging.

Russia regarded the moment as inopportune for a demonstration of the kind intended, and did not consider herself sufficiently interested to warrant any action so emphatic, at this time.

France was unwilling to adopt measures which might indeed bring on a peace, but at the expense of the Union, the hope of seeing which re-established she was not yet fully prepared to forego.

Such, I have reason to believe, was the tenor of the replies which finally determined the English cabinet to hold their action on the American question in suspense. The French propositions were intended to take the place of those just rejected, and had they been accepted by Great Britain, they would probably have commanded the adhesion of the other powers. Failing in this they have been published as a part of the history of the times, and to put the French government right in regard to its intentions in this momentous matter.

This, I think, you will find to be the true story of these interesting negotiations. Comment upon it I leave to you, for you will doubtless perceive at once that it has a grave importance for the future as well as for the past.

Remarkable Spirit and Endurance of the South.

The Feeling of Confidence at the Confederate Capital.

Whatever may be the result of the war, there cannot be a doubt that for years to come the States of Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee must suffer under the devastations caused by it, and that the most flourishing districts, of the former States especially, must be re-colonized, as if the first settlers had just come into the wilderness. But we can well imagine that, in spite of this gloomy future, there is no depression at Richmond or anywhere else, except where the Federal armies actually have taken possession. The Confederates now know the worst. For a year and a half they have had to make war against an enemy three times as numerous as themselves, and with a complete command of the sea and an inexhaustible supply of every provision and munition of war. The South has had to grow its own grain, breed its own hogs and sheep, manufacture out of cotton its own clothing, produce gunpowder as best it could, cast cannon, make rifles, and with its small population not only fight the North but manufacture against Europe. The Confederates now know they can do all this and maintain their independence against the invader. With all the chances in favor of their enemies, they have won a series of victories unexampled in brilliancy and completeness, and repelled two invasions of their territory. The consequence is that, in spite of suffering and privation, there is a spirit of joyfulness abroad. Richmond is probably more lively now than ever it was as a city of the United States. The Confederates do not allow even the prospect of defeat to interfere with their cheerfulness. Such feeling is, no doubt, rightly attributed to the courage and stern determination of all classes, but there is also a reason for it arising from the nature of the country. If England were threatened with invasion, and London were exposed like Richmond, to the possibility of capture, we should hardly look forward to the event with such indifference as these Confederates. But the truth is, in so vast a country the fall of a city has much less importance than in a European State. Mr. Davis said before the last campaign that if Richmond were taken the war in Virginia might be continued twenty years, and this no doubt, expresses a true conception of the struggle. If McClellan had succeeded last spring in capturing the city, he would have come into possession of so many acres of bricks and mortar; and if a second Butler could be found, there might be a series of indignities in store for a few thousand Confederate citizens. But the effect on the independence of the Southern States would have been small. The Southerners feel that their best protection is the great extent of their country, which makes even the gigantic armies of the North insufficient to hold the post they have gained, and at the same time keep up their communications with the Federal States.

Horrible Barbarities of the Enemy in Kentucky.

From different sources we are informed of unparalleled atrocities committed upon our helpless soldiers who were left in Kentucky, after the retreat of Gen. Bragg, by Union bushwhackers of that State. A correspondent of the Knoxville Register details the particulars of one case—that of Willie M. Woods, of Col. Porter's Tennessee Regiment, who was wounded at Perryville, and who, on his way out of Kentucky, near Rockcastle river, had his leg broken by a wagon, and was left at the house of John Pitman, three miles beyond London. He had been there about two weeks when a notorious Unionist named King, with five others, went to Pitman's, tied a rope around his neck, and dragged him from the bed to a wagon and threw him in, breaking his leg anew. They drove a short distance, and bring her the imputation of availing herself ungenerously of the distresses of the United States to secure indemnity for the past and security for the future.

McClellan's Farewell.
HEADQ'S ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
Camp near Rectortown, Va.,
Nov. 7, 1862.

Officers and Soldiers of the Army of the Potomac:—An order of the President devolves upon Major General Burnside the command of the Army.

In parting from you, I cannot express the love and gratitude I bear to you. As an army you have grown up under my care. In you I have never found doubt or coldness.—The battles you have fought under my command will proudly live in our nation's history. The glory you have achieved, our naval perils and fatigues, the graves of our comrades fallen in battle and by disease, the broken forms of those whom wounds and sickness have disabled—the strongest associations that ever can exist between men—white or black—are an indissoluble tie. We shall ever be comrades in supporting the Constitution of our country and the nationality of its people.
Geo. B. McCLELLAN,
Major Gen. U. S. Army.

Brig. Gen. Edwin Price.

The Jackson Mississippiian says: "A paragraph, copied from abolition sheets, has been extensively republished at the South, in relation to Gen. Edwin Price, which contains a bald, groundless and malignant falsehood.—Gen. Edwin Price never held any commission in the Confederate service, but was an officer in the Missouri State Guard, which organization is now disbanded. He was captured on the Osage last February, while conducting a body of recruits to join Major General Price in Arkansas, and was confined in months in the Penitentiary at Alton, Illinois, whence he was released on parole. When the cartel for the exchange of prisoners was perfected, he repaired to the army at Holly Springs. Having no command, he did not regard his presence in the army as important, and returned to his home in Missouri, as a citizen, without taking any oath, or being placed under any restriction. He is a true and gallant man, and has done nothing, and submitted to nothing which can compromise him in the estimation of his friends.

Condition of Jackson's Army.

Hermes, of the Mercury, writes from Richmond on the 20th:

A letter from Jackson's army, received yesterday, is couched in glowing terms. The command was never so full, never so thoroughly organized, never so healthy and high spirited. The men are "cheerful, even to recklessness." They received the order to break camp with demonstrations of great joy, for they were sick of inaction. "They feel," says the writer, "able to hold 100,000 at bay, to whip 75,000, and will contract to annihilate 50,000." As to the present position of this army, I can only say that a Colonel belonging to it reported yesterday for duty, and was told to remain in the city, as the Department could not furnish transportation to an unknown point.

From the West and Southwest.

KNOXVILLE, December 8th.—Three notorious leaders of bushwhackers, of Cliff's renegade regiment, were captured in Anderson county, and lodged in jail here yesterday.—One of them, Vance, has been the terror of the mountains for years.

Thirty-four Abolitionists and four negroes in Yankee uniform, captured by Col. Palmer, at Big Creek Gap, have been sent here.

MOBILE, December 6th.—A special dispatch from Saultillo, 5th, says the report of the enemy's advancing down the Mobile & Ohio R. R. on this place is without foundation. Our pickets were not fired upon as reported. No enemy is nearer than Corinth.

Paroled prisoners state that Corinth is garrisoned by 2000 troops.

Only 200 of our wounded are remaining at Iuka.