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LAKE CHARLES, PARISH OF CALCASIEU, LA., THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1875.

[NO. 10]

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[AVOCAT]

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aug2-3m

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7

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Feb 13 1y

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n28y

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6c " " " " " " " " " " " "

7c " " " " " " " " " " " "

8c " " " " " " " " " " " "

9c " " " " " " " " " " " "

10c " " " " " " " " " " " "

11c " " " " " " " " " " " "

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Jan9

Letter from Gen. Beauregard to Gov. Porter, of Tennessee.

GEN. BEAUREGARD ADMINISTERS A STINGING REBUKE TO GEN. FRANK SHERMAN—INTERESTING PARTICULARS OF THE LATE CIVIL WAR.

From the New Orleans Bulletin.

NEW ORLEANS, La., April 23, 1875.

DEAR SIR—Your favor of the 18th instant has been received, enclosing the form of an invitation adopted by a general meeting of the soldiers, sailors and citizens of Chicago, to be sent "to all who recognize the American flag as an emblem of nationality, undivided and indivisible, to attend a grand reunion of all the soldiers and sailors of the United States, to be held at Chicago May 12, 13 and 14, 1875," and inquiring how much truth there is in the remarks of a certain Gen. Frank Sherman, who objected to the invitation being sent to me, as "he was not in favor of extending an invitation to a man who had said he was in favor of shooting all prisoners taken under the American flag." I had hoped that the passions and enmities occasioned by the late war were replaced by kinder feelings, but it seems that there are hearts still rancorous enough to be ever anxious to stir again into a flame the dying embers of the war.

In this section of our country such exhibitions of animosity are confined to those who, during the war, were farthest from the enemy, gathering up the spoils in the wake of the contending armies. Is not this Gen. Frank Sherman one of those despicable characters?

Not for any regard for such windy declamation, nor for the man mean enough to sink to such base pandering to popular opinion, but out of respect to myself, and to that cause whose high and holy purpose history will one day vindicate, I will very briefly and frankly state the position I took in regard to the conduct of the late civil war, as concerned Federal prisoners.

After the battle of the first Manassas, when it was reported that the Federal Government refused to recognize Confederate prisoners as "prisoners of war," that Christian hero and able soldier, Gen. Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson, and myself advocated that the Confederate Government should then proclaim a "war to the knife," neither asking nor granting quarter. We moreover thought that the war would thereby come sooner to an end, with less destruction, finally, of life and property. We thought, also, that such a mode of warfare would inspire greater terror in the armed invaders of our soil; and reduce greatly the number of army followers, bummers, etc., who are ever the curse of all armed invasions.

Subsequently, when the Federals had penetrated certain portions of the South, and developed a system of warfare in their operations in Louisiana, Mississippi and Virginia, so diametrically opposed to the one practiced by the Confederates, when they invaded Maryland and Pennsylvania under their great commander, Gen. R. E. Lee, and I saw the emaciated forms and wretched condition of our returned Southern prisoners, I again advocated the hoisting of the black flag, willing at any time to forfeit my life in the deadly struggle. This policy was rendered still more justifiable by the inexorable burning of Atlanta and Columbia, and the destructive passage of General Sherman through Georgia and South Carolina, whose track was marked by smoking ruins and blackened chimneys; by the suggestion of Gen. Halleck to destroy Charleston, and sprinkle salt on its site, that not even grass should grow thereon, to which Gen. S. replied that no salt would be needed, as one of his most reliable corps formed the right wing of his army, and that it always did its work thoroughly; by the devastating march of Gen. Sheridan

through the Shenandoah Valley, relative to which he reported to the General-in-Chief of the armies, that "a crow flying over the country would have to carry its own rations," but he did not say what became of the old men, women and children who then lived in that fertile valley.

With regard to the mortality of prisoners on both sides, the Washington Union (Radical), of October, 1868, contained the following article:

"In reply to a resolution of the House of Representatives, calling upon the Secretary of War for the number of prisoners of either side held, and that died during the war, he makes the following report:

"Number of Union prisoners South, 260,940; died, 22,596; number of Confederate prisoners North, 200,000; died, 26,435."