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J. J. BRUNER,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

AN EXTRAORDINARY CHAPTER IN THE WAR—BRILLIANT TELE- GRAPHIC FEAT.

Col. Morgan, in his late tour through Kentucky, was accompanied by a telegraph operator named G. A. Ellsworth, whose feats in intercepting Federal messages seem to be more brilliant than any yet recorded. They show that, with a bold, active foe, the telegraph can be made injurious rather than beneficial to those who enjoy it. The Louisville and Nashville line was first tapped by the operator near Bowling Green, thus:

I took down the telegraph wire and connected my pocket instruments, for the purpose of taking off all dispatches as they passed through. Owing to a heavy storm prevailing South, the atmospheric electricity prevented me from communicating with Bowling Green or Nashville. The first I heard was Louisville calling Bowling Green; I immediately put on my ground wire southward, noticing particularly at the same time what change it would make in the circuit. It did make it stronger; but the storm mentioned affecting telegraphs more or less, Louisville did not suspect anything wrong, and I answered for Bowling Green, when I received the following message:

"LOUISVILLE, July 10.
"To S. D. Brown, Bowling Green:
"You and Col. Houghton move together. I fear the force of Col. H. is too small to venture to Glasgow. The whole force should move together, as the enemy are muffled. We cannot venture to leave the road too far, as they may pass round and ruin it.

J. T. BOYLE,
"Brigadier Gen. Comdg."
I returned the usual signal, "O. K." after receiving the message.

Louisville immediately called Nashville; and I answered for Nashville, receiving business for two hours. This business was mostly of a private nature, and I took no copies. It could be plainly perceived from the tenor of the messages that Morgan was in the country, and all orders to send money and valuables by railroad, were countermanded—as they supposed. Little did the operator at Louisville think all his work would have to be repeated the next day. Louisville also sent the news of the day, and thus we were furnished with N. York and Washington dates of that day. During the whole of this time it was raining heavily, and my situation was anything but agreeable—one sitting in the mud with my feet in the water up to my knees. At 11 o'clock, P. M., the General being satisfied that we had drained Louisville of news, concluded to close for the night, and gave me the following message to send, dating and signing as below:

"NASHVILLE, July 10.
To Henry Dent, Provost Marshal, Louisville:

Gen. Forrest, commanding a brigade, attacked Murfreesboro', routed our forces, and is now moving on Nashville. Morgan is reported to be between Scottsville and Gallatin, and will act in concert with Forrest, it is believed. Inform the General commanding.

STANLEY MATTHEWS, Prov. Mar.
I am not aware that Gen. Morgan claims to be a prophet, or the son of a prophet, but Forrest did attack Murfreesboro', and rout the enemy."

On arriving at Lebanon, July 12th, I accompanied the advance guard into town and took possession of the telegraph office immediately. This, as you know, was 8.30 A. M. I adjusted the instrument, and examined the circuit. No other operator on the line appeared to be on hand this early. I then examined all the dispatches of the day previous. Among them I found the following:

"LEBANON, July 11.
Gen. J. T. Boyle, Louisville, Ky.:

I have positive information that there are 400 marauders in 20 miles of this place on the old Lexington road, approaching Lebanon. Send reinforcements immediately.

A. Y. JOHNSON,
Lieut-Col. Commanding."

At 7.50 an operator, signing "Z," commenced calling "B," which I had ascertained by the books in the office, was the signal for the Lebanon office, I answered the call, when the following conversation between "Z" and myself ensued:

"To Lebanon: What news; any more skirmishing after your last message?"

"To Z: No. We drove what little cavalry there was away."

"The taking of Murfreesboro' by Forrest, was three days afterwards—on the 15th.—Ed. Conzra.

"To B: Has the train arrived yet?"

"To Z: No. About how many troops on the train?"

"To B: 500—6th Indiana, commanded by Col. Owens."

My curiosity being excited as to what station "Z" was, and to ascertain without creating any suspicion, I adopted the following plan:

"To Z: A gentleman here in the office bets me the cigars you cannot spell the name of your station correctly."

"To B: Take the bet: L-e-b-a-n-o-n-J-u-n-i-o-n. Is that not right. How did he think I would spell it?"

"To Z: He gives it up. He thought you would put two B's in Lebanon."

"To B: Ha! Ha! He is a green."

"To Z: Yes; that's so."

"To Z: What time did the train with soldiers pass?"

"To B: 8.30 last night."

"To Z: Very singular where the train is!"

"To B: Yes, it is; let me know when it arrives."

At 8.20 Lebanon Junction called me up and said:

"To B: The train has returned. They had a fight with the rebels at New Hope. The corresponding officer awaits orders here."

"To Z: Give us the particulars of the fight. Col. Johnson is anxious to know all about it."

"To B: Here is Moore's message to General Boyle."

This message, sent by the confiding operator, was of no importance, merely describing a skirmish. The next day the party moved on to Midway, on the Louisville and Lexington road. The operator says:

At this place I surprised the operator, who was quietly sitting on the platform of the depot, enjoying himself hugely. Little did he suspect that the much-dreaded Morgan was in his vicinity. I demanded of him to call Lexington and inquire the time of day, which he did. This I did for the purpose of getting his style of handling the "key" in writing dispatches. My first impressions of his style, from noticing the paper in the instrument, were confirmed. He was, to use a telegraphic term, a "plug" operator. I adopted his style of writing, and commenced operations. In this office I found a signal book, which proved to be very useful. It contained the calls for all the offices. Dispatch after dispatch was going to and from Lexington, Georgetown, Paris, and Frankfort, all containing something in reference to Morgan.

On commencing operations at this place, I discovered that there were two wires on the line along this railroad. One was what we term a "through wire" running direct from Lexington to Frankfort, and not entering any of the way offices. I found that all military business was sent over the wire. As it did not enter at Midway of fice, I ordered it to be cut, thus forcing Lexington, on to the wire that did run through the office.

I tested the line and found that, by applying my ground wire, it made no difference with the circuit, and as Lexington was headquarters, I cut Frankfort off. Midway was called. I answered and received the following:

"LEXINGTON, July 15.
To J. W. Woolums, Operator Midway:

Will there be any danger in coming to Midway? Is everything right?"

TAYLOR, Conductor."

I inquired of my prisoner (the operator) if he knew a man by the name of Taylor. He said Taylor was conductor. I immediately gave Taylor the following reply:

"MIDWAY, July 15.
To Taylor, Lexington:

All right—come on—no signs of any rebels here."

Woolums."

The operator at Cincinnati then called Frankfort. I answered and received about a dozen unimportant dispatches. He had no sooner finished, when Lexington called Frankfort. Again I answered and received the following message:

"LEXINGTON, July 15.
To Gen. Fennell, Frankfort:

I wish you to move the force at Frankfort on the line of the Lexington railroad immediately, and have the cars follow and take them up as soon as possible. Further orders will await them at Midway. I will, in three or four hours move forward on the Georgetown Pike; will have most of my men mounted. Morgan left Versailles this morning at 6 o'clock, with 850 men, on the Midway road moving in the direction of Georgetown."

Brigadier-General WARD."

This being our position and intention exactly, it was thought proper to throw Gen. Ward on some other track. So, in the course of half an hour, I manufactured

and sent the following dispatch, which was approved by Gen. Morgan:

"MIDWAY, July 15.
To Brig. Gen. Ward, Lexington:

Morgan, with upwards of 1,000 men came within a mile of here, and took the old Frankfort road, bound as we suppose, for Frankfort. This is reliable."

Woolums, Operator."

In about ten minutes Lexington again called Frankfort, when I received the following:

"LEXINGTON, July 15.
To Gen. Fennell, Frankfort:

Morgan with more than 100 men came within a mile of here and took the old Frankfort road."

The dispatch received from Midway, and is reliable. The regiment from Frankfort had better be recalled."

Gen. Ward."

I received for this message, and again manufactured a message to confirm the information Gen. Ward had received from Midway, and not knowing the telegraph from Frankfort to Lexington, I could not send a formal message; so appearing greatly agitated, I waited until the circuit was occupied and broke in telling them to wait a minute, and commenced calling Lexington. He answered with as much gusto, as I called him. I telegraphed as follows:

"Frankfort to Lexington: Tell General Ward our pickets are just driven in—great excitement—pickets say the force of the enemy must be two thousand."

Operator."

It was now 2 o'clock, P. M., and Gen. Morgan wishes to be off for Georgetown. I run a secret ground connection and opened the circuit on the Lexington end. This was to leave the impression that the Frankfort operator was meddling, or that Morgan's men had destroyed the telegraph.

We arrived at Georgetown about the setting of the sun. I went to the telegraph office, found it locked, inquired for the operator, who was pointed out to me on the street. I hailed him and demanded admission into his office. He very courteously showed me in. Discovering that his instruments had been removed, I asked where they were. He said he had sent them to Lexington. I asked what time he had Lexington last? He said "nine o'clock, and since that time the line had been down." I remarked that it must be an extraordinary line to be in working condition when it was down, as I heard him sending messages to Lexington when I was at Midway at 1 o'clock. This was a stunner; he had nothing to say. I immediately tested the wires to my tongue, and found the line "O. K." I said nothing to him, but called for a guard of two men to take care of Mr. Smith until I got ready to leave town. I did not interrupt the line till after tea, when I put in my own instrument, and after listening an hour or two at the Yankees talking, I opened the conversation as follows, signing myself "Federal Operator":

"To Lexington: Keep mum; I am in the office reading by the sound of my magnet in the dark. I crawled in when no one saw me, Morgan's men are here, camped on Dr. Gault's place."

Georgetown."

"To Georgetown: Keep cool; don't be discovered. About how many rebels are there?"

Lexington."

"To Lexington: I don't know; I did not notice. As Morgan's operator was asking me about my instruments, I told him I sent them to Lexington. He said '—in the lock, and went out, Georgetown."

"To Georgetown: Be on hand and keep us posted."

Lexington."

"To Lexington: I will do so. Tell Gen. Ward I'll stay up all night if he wishes."

Georgetown."

"To Georgetown: Mr. Fulton wishes to know if the rebels are there."

Cincinnati."

"To Cincinnati: Yes Morgan's men are here."

Georgetown."

"To Georgetown: How can you be in the office and not be arrested?"

Cincinnati."

"To Cincinnati: Oh! I am in the dark and am reading by sound of the magnet."

Georgetown."

This settled Cincinnati. Question after question was asked me about the rebels, and I answered to suit myself.

Things had been going on this way about two hours, when Lexington asked me where my assistant was. I replied, "Don't know." He then asked me, "Have you seen him to-day?" I replied "No."

This was the last telegraphing I could do in Georgetown.

On arriving at Somerset, Ky., another operator was captured, and after some Yankee messages were received the following dispatches were sent:

"SOMERSET, July 22.
George D. Prentiss, Louisville:

Good morning, George D. I am quietly watching the complete destruction of all of Uncle Sam's property in this little burg. I regret exceedingly that this is the last that comes under my supervision on this route. I expect in a short time to pay you a visit, and wish to know if you will be at home. All well in Dixie."

JOHN H. MORGAN,
Commanding Brigade."

"Gen J. T. Boyle, Louisville:

Good morning, Jerry. This telegraph is a great institution. You should destroy it, as it keeps you too well posted. My friend, Ellsworth, has all of your dispatches since the 10th of July on file. Do you wish copies?"

JOHN H. MORGAN,
Commanding Brigade."

"Hon Gen. W. Danlap, Washington City:

Just completed my tour through Kentucky—captured seventeen cities, destroyed millions of dollars worth of U. S. property—passed through your country, but regret not seeing you. We paroled 1500 Federal prisoners."

Your old friend,
JOHN H. MORGAN,
Com'g Brigade."

The foregoing dispatches were all calculated to demoralize these Yankee dignitaries—who, no doubt were half inclined to pronounce them some spiritual freak; but for concentrated audacity, the following is unequalled:

"Headq. Tel. Dep't of Ky., C. S. A.,
Georgetown, Ky., July 16, 1862.

General Order, No. 1.

When an operator is positively informed that the enemy is marching on his station, he will immediately proceed to destroy the telegraph instruments and all material in his charge. Such instances of carelessness as were exhibited on the part of the operators at Lebanon, Midway and Georgetown will be severely dealt with."

By order of G. A. ELLSWORTH,
General Military Sup't S. S. Tel'ph Dep't."

"THE GREAT WEST."

There is, very evidently, in the West, and particularly in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, a strong opposition to the present war upon the South. The tone of the press of those States, the public meetings, and the Democratic conventions, all prove this, conclusively. This feeling does not display itself as boldly opposed to the war, *per se*; but assumes the form of opposition to Abolitionism, coercion, and subjugation. It would not be safe to exhibit it otherwise; for, in that event, the individuals giving expression to it would soon find themselves incarcerated within the walls of some Yankee bastille, and their opposition thus speedily and effectually crushed out. But by professing devotion to the Union, the Constitution, and the Administration of Abraham Lincoln, they can organize thoroughly for work, and thus secure a way to triumph in the approaching fall elections.

Whether, so far as we are concerned, this amounts to anything or not, we will not pretend to say; but of one thing there can be no doubt; there is no longer a united North—but divided councils prevail, and "Conservatism" now dares to raise its head, where, a few short months ago, its expression would have been followed with the severest punishment.

This Conservatism, however, is pretty much confined to the great West, where the light of freedom has not yet entirely departed, and where men still dare, sometimes, to speak, act, and reason for themselves. In witness of this, we refer to some recent extracts from Western papers, which we have published, and to the proceedings of the Indiana Democratic Convention, on the 20th July last.

In that Convention, all the speakers denounced the Abolitionists unapologetically, and condemn Lincoln's emancipation policy severely. Mr. Wyckliffe, of Kentucky, is reported to have said, that he was "for the Union, if the South and slavery were not interfered with; but if the war was waged to free the slaves, another drop of blood ought to be spilled."

"Your Lovejoys," Phillips, and Greeleys say they can't fight this fight any longer, unless you will arm the niggers. Will you ever consent to this?" [Cries of "No! never!"]

"I have already said that slavery was the cause of the rebellion." "The Constitution, with its prohibitions, its guarantees, and its restrictions, has been no more regarded by the party now in power, than you do a last year's almanac."

"I am for a white man's war against the Abolitionists."

Mr. Carlisle, of Pennsylvania said:

"No other war than such as was recognized in the resolutions of the extra session, a year ago, could be justified by the civilization and Christianity of the age—a war, not for conquest or subjugation, but for

restoration of peace. The instant we dissent we divert it from such ends, then we place ourselves side by side with the rebels."

"The policy inaugurated by them will continue the war forever, and bring you under a military despotism."

"The subjugation or extermination of the South was impossible. He said that the interests of the Western States were with the South. There was their grain market—you have a northern market, the same as ever; but your corn is rotting in your granaries; and you walk on the ruins of your prosperity. Free the negro, exterminate the whites, and give the land to the Yankee Norway rats, and you'll never have a market there. Indiana was more interested than slave owners themselves in perpetuating slavery in the South. To free four millions blacks will be to keep up taxation, increase debt, ruin property, degrade our children, and make this country a second Mexico."

Mr. Richardson, of Illinois, followed in the same strain. He said:

"If the Republican party is retained in power the Government is gone forever. Only conservative men is there any safety. He denounced the President's emancipation scheme as calculated to 'wreak the white while freeing the black, and fostering that New England was making all the money, holding all the contracts, and occupying with fewer soldiers in the field, and lighter burdens of taxation than the West. We are made their hewers of wood and drawers of water, while they run the nigger exclusively for money."

This is, certainly, very plain talk, and shows clearly that the "great West" is by no means bound to the car of the grasping, cunning East. Her interests, says one of speakers, are with the South; and we may add, if she would only act upon this idea, she might by cutting loose from her Eastern master, secure her prosperity now and forever.

Mr. Vallandigham, in one of his speeches in Congress, said: "There is a West!—The words were, perhaps ominous; and the 'beginning of the end,' which so many hearts are anxiously beating to witness, may have commenced in the facts and sentiments to which we have just alluded."

A meeting in Butler county, Ohio, has also declared that "The Federal Government should be taught that the Great West will not permit itself to be utterly ruined by a partial Congress!"

Her obvious policy then is, as we have already intimated, to cut loose from the North and East; and, if she will not unite her destiny with that of the Southern Confederacy, at least establish a bond of peace and unity with it, by which means she may be able to retain her trade with the South, and become, really and truly, "the Great West."

How Canada Behaves.—The New York Express says:

A large number of our countrymen are traveling in Canada, and under circumstances we should suppose most mortifying to some of them, from what we see and read. At Clifton, Niagara Falls, they are regaled with secession music, discussions and combinations intended purposely, we are assured, as an insult to Union travelers. Further on, at Montreal and Quebec, the taunts grow louder, and the combinations more marked. Some of the travelers, and letters we have seen, report these jeers and insulting remarks to be both common and unbearable."

The Secession Steel War Gun.—We have seen a new steel war gun manufactured in Birmingham, England, recently brought to this country through the blockade, which bids fair to take a high rank among the articles of warfare in the Confederate States. It is somewhat lighter than the Enfield rifle, and it is claimed for strength and accuracy—is excelled by no weapon in use. It is the invention of a Southern man, and the patent for it has been taken out solely with a view to its manufacture for the use of the Confederates. It will not be for sale to any other parties until the independence of this country is achieved.—Montgomery Advertiser.

Yankee Robbery.—On last Monday when a train-load of Yankee prisoners arrived at the Rail Road Station at this place, Mr. L. M. Kirkman happened to be near the Station with a load of watermelons; and during the stay of the train they stole the whole of Mr. Kirkman's melons before his eyes without paying a cent for them. We are not surprised at the stealing propensity of the Yankees; but we are surprised that those who had been placed as a guard over them, should with impunity permit such a trespass on the rights of our own loyal citizens, by the Yankee Huns under their charge.—Greens. Patriot.