

The Weekly Raleigh Register.

VOL. LXII

RALEIGH WEDNESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 27, 1862.

NO. 34

The Raleigh Register.

"Ours are the plans of fair delightful peace
Unwary'd by party rage to live like brothers."

RALEIGH, N. C.

SATURDAY MORNING, AUG. 23, 1862.

A WAR OF EXTERMINATION.

We publish to-day the correspondence between Generals Lee and Halleck. The idea of Halleck's breaking off the correspondence on the ground that Gen. Lee's letter was insulting, is a fine specimen of combined Yankee impudence and knavery. Halleck knew that he was cornered—knew that his government had broken, and was constantly breaking through the usages which mitigate the horrors of war, and attempts to escape under the cloak of offended dignity, instead of telling what he knew to be the truth. But this Yankee ruse will not serve his purpose. It is manifest now that the Lincoln Government has, in its desperation, commenced, and for some time past persistently pursued, a course which will make this war one of mutual extermination. It is a fact horrible to contemplate, but it is one which must be looked fully and firmly in the face, unless our Yankee enemy ceases his atrocious violations of all the laws of civilized warfare, and all the instincts and principles of enlightened humanity. This business of hanging, shooting, robbing and imprisoning Confederate prisoners and harmless non-combatant old men, women and children, must be stopped, or the South, while it will, under no circumstances, wreak on the heads of women and children the vengeance due to men, will show no quarter to a Yankee prisoner taken with arms in his hands or fighting by the side of armed negroes. The Confederate authorities have forbidden long enough, and their constituents imperatively demand of them that they accept, at once, that mode of warfare which, in spite of their earnest and repeated remonstrances, the Lincoln Government has determined to wage. If this war is to be fought under the pall of the Black Flag, let the responsibility for the outrage upon humanity rest upon the demons who first tainted the pure air of heaven by unfolding to it the horrid banner. Our captured soldiers and non-combatant men, women and children must be protected from such treatment as they are now receiving in many quarters at the hands of the Yankees, if it costs the shooting down or hanging of every Yankee officer and private who falls into our hands. The people of the Confederacy demand this of their government, and will be content with no less, although the curtain shall rise upon a scene on this continent at which all Christendom will stand aghast.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Our readers will find the message of President Davis in to-day's paper, and we think that they will agree with us that it is an excellent State Paper. It is business-like, clear, and concise, and possesses that merit of brevity which is so often and so sadly found wanting in American State Papers. The spirit of hope and confidence in the success of our arms, and the ultimate triumph of our cause which it breathes, will find an echo in every true Southern heart. Its account of the condition of our finances is cheering in the extreme, and in fine contrast with what we know to be the case with the pecuniary affairs of our enemy.

The determination expressed to retaliate upon the Yankees for the atrocious outrages inflicted by them on our soldiers and people, will be gladly hailed by the entire country. As we have said elsewhere, will be satisfied with nothing less.

Some difference of opinion may be entertained as to the views of the President in regard to the enlargement of the sphere of the Conscription Law, many persons believing that the enlargement should be made at once, and the additional troops which will be raised by it be immediately called to the field. Steps on this subject have already been taken in Congress, and we have no doubt that action commensurate with the emergency, and therefore satisfactory to the country, will be soon taken.

McCELLAN GONE FROM JAMES RIVER.
There is no doubt now that McClellan, with his entire force, has left James River and turned up at Fredericksburg, to assist in an onward march to Richmond by a third route. By this movement the youthful Napoleon has proclaimed to the world that his address is to his army at Harrison's Farm, and his dispatches to his government made up a bundle of outrageous falsehoods, for, if the series of fights on the Chickahominy was a series of successes obtained by him for the purpose of securing a "strategic" point, whence Richmond could be more efficiently assailed than on the line first adopted, why was that point or "base" abandoned? There can be but one reply.

GEN. BRANCH'S BRIGADE.

It seems that we were right in stating that the North Carolinians who participated in the Battle of Cedar Run were those composing the Brigade of Gen. Branch. This brigade did essential service in the battle, as our readers will see by an account of it published in to-day's paper. Looking at the fact that Branch's appointment to a Generalship was sneered at and denounced by a no less judge of military capacity than that brave and war-worn veteran, the Editor of the Raleigh Standard, we cannot help thinking that the General has, thus far, done almost as well as his merciless military critic, Captain Holden, himself could have done had he taken the field, instead of staying at home to manufacture military renown for those who have not as yet earned it, and sneer at those who, despite his predictions, have rendered service to their country and earned enviable fame for themselves.

We, however, express this opinion with all commendable diffidence, as we are not, and never have been a Captain of a company of Wake County militia, and have been taught "never to discourse of war in the presence of Hannibal."

THE BATTLE ABOUT TO COME OFF.

We are in momentary expectation of hearing of the commencement of the greatest battle of modern times.

The movement of the Yankee troops from western Virginia, James River and the region about Suffolk, indicates a purpose on the part of the enemy to concentrate all his available force on the line lately chosen by him in the region of the Rapidan and Rappahannock, and there give us battle. All accounts agree that we have accumulated an immense force to meet, and as we trust in God, drive back this host of Goths and Vandals. If we succeed in doing so, we devoutly hope there will be no pause "in the order" of our following them into their own country, and making them drain to the dregs the cup of invasion and desolation which they have commended to our lips.

DEATH OF THE HON. WARREN WINSLOW.

We chronicle with deep regret the death of the Hon. Warren Winslow. He died at his residence in Fayetteville, on Friday the 15th instant, aged about 58 years. He had been in wretched health for several months.

Mr. Winslow was well known throughout the country, having filled many important public offices, both under the State and National Governments. He had been a leading member of the Bar, Senator in our State Legislature, Speaker of the Senate, and by virtue thereof Governor of the State for a short period on the election of Governor Reid to the U. S. Senate; afterwards for four years Representative in the U. S. Congress from the Cumberland District, and member of the State Convention from Cumberland and Harnett.

WARREN WHITE SULPHUR AND CHALYBEATE SPRINGS.

We call attention to the advertisement of Mr. Wm. D. Jones, offering for sale the Warren White Sulphur and Chalybeate Springs, with the tract of land on which they are situated. We know this property well, and it is in no spirit of puffing that we say that such a valuable property as that now offered by Mr. Jones is rarely found in market. Independent of its value as a popular watering place and summer resort, the plantation is one of the best and most profitable in the State.

We are glad to hear that our friend and fellow-townsmen, Seaton Gales, has been appointed Adjutant of the 4th Brigade N. C. T., commanded by Gen. Geo. B. Anderson. Mr. Gales, while Lieutenant of Co. K., of the 14th Regiment, filled the post of Adjutant of that regiment with great credit to himself and satisfaction to all concerned. We doubt not that as Captain Gales, he will, in his larger sphere of operations acquit himself in a like creditable manner.

FINE RAIN.

We had a delightful rain on Thursday night, which came just in time to make a good deal of the late corn. From all sections of the South we hear of most abundant corn crops. Corn has fallen in this market from \$1.40 to \$1 per bushel, and will fall yet lower.

GEORGIA TROOPS.—It has been officially ascertained that Georgia has in the Confederate service 59 regiments of infantry; 4 regiments of cavalry; 2 legions, consisting of cavalry, infantry and artillery; 14 independent battalions of artillery and infantry; 5 independent companies, and a number of partisan corps of which no account has been stated.

THE CORN CROP.—The Marion Star informs us that the corn crops through the middle of North Carolina are unusually promising, so much so that the price of corn is declining in Charlotte. A gentleman engaged in the grain trade thought that corn would sell for fifty cents. It is now selling in some parts of Georgia for twenty-five cents per bushel.

MEETING OF CONGRESS.

Both Houses of Congress reassembled at Richmond on Monday last, the 18th inst. There being a quorum of the members of each House present, they immediately proceeded to business.

In the Senate, Mr. Yancy gave notice that on the next day (Tuesday) he should offer a resolution to strike out the 43rd and 46th rules of the Senate, and insert the following words: "All legislative sessions shall be held with open doors, except those ordered by a vote of two thirds of the members voting, the said vote to be taken by yeas and nays." The 43rd and 46th rules relate especially to the matter of secret sessions. We are glad to see this movement, as by far too much of the business of previous sessions has been done in secret session.

The President's message was then received and read, when the Senate ordered 1000 extra copies to be printed, and then adjourned.

In the House several important bills were introduced. One by Mr. Gartrell, of Ga., making Treasury notes a legal tender, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. Mr. Gartrell also offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into the expediency of compelling the Commissary Department to furnish our soldiers with more and better food, which was agreed to.

Mr. Miles, of S. C., offered a bill to extend the application of the Conscription Act to all citizens under 45 years of age; also a bill to punish slaves taken in arms, and the white men assuming to be their officers. This bill provides that the slaves so taken shall be delivered up to the authorities of the State in which captured, to be disposed of by its laws; and the white officers either to be hung or also delivered up to the State authorities. Both these bills were referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Foote of Tenn., offered a bill for retaliatory purposes. [It recites that the enemy refuse to treat our partisan soldiers as prisoners; and have also punished innocent private citizens for their acts. It provides that an officer who may have ordered such atrocities, to be put to death if captured. An equal number of persons (officers to be preferred) taken from the enemy to suffer the fate inflicted on our captured soldiers or citizens.]

Also a bill for the treatment of captives. [It provides that any officer or private captured by our army who shall have committed any offence pronounced felonious by the laws of the Confederacy or any State, shall be delivered up for trial.]

Also a bill to punish negroes in arms. [It provides that Federal armies inconspicuously composed of white and black, shall not be held entitled to the privileges of war, or to be taken prisoners. Of such as may be captured, the negroes shall be returned to their masters or publicly sold; and their commanders to be hung or shot, as may be most convenient.]

Also a bill to retaliate for the seizure of citizens by the enemy. [It provides that if the citizens seized shall be held as hostages for their safety and subjected to like treatment; any officers, civil or military, concerned in their seizure, shall be imprisoned during the war.]

All the bills of Mr. Foote were, on his motion, referred to the Military Committee.

Mr. Foote also presented an argumentative preamble and resolution in favor of open sessions of Congress, and providing that henceforth a motion to go into secret session shall require a majority vote, by yeas and nays.

On motion it was laid over.

Mr. Foote offered a bill to provide for raising an additional force of 250,000 men. On his own motion it was laid on the table.

Also, a bill providing an export duty of 20 per cent, on cotton and tobacco to aid in indemnifying the loss of citizens by the enemy.

Mr. Russell, of Va., offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire whether the Cartel for the exchange of prisoners had not been violated by the enemy, in failing to restore certain prisoners, and administering to them an oath of allegiance to their government, and retaining them within their lines; and, also, what legislation is thereby rendered necessary.

Also, a bill to repress the atrocities of the enemy. Referred without reading.

Mr. Chambliss, of Va., offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into the expediency of regulating the imprisonment of slaves by the military authorities, and report. Agreed to.

TUESDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

In the Senate on Tuesday no business was done, save the reference of the different branches of the President's Message to appropriate Committees.

In the House a resolution offered by Mr. Chilton, of Ala., as a substitute for the one offered yesterday by Mr. Foote, declaring that it shall require a majority of the members present to resolve the House into secret session, was adopted by a large majority. A resolution was adopted referring the President's Message, with accompanying documents, to appropriate committees. The House then adjourned.

In the Senate on Wednesday, Mr. Brown, of Miss., adverted to the abuse of the substitute system, in a few pertinent remarks, the object of which was to direct the attention of the Committee on Military Affairs to the subject. The session was a short one, as no bills have yet been introduced from the standing Committees.

In the House, a committee was appointed to investigate the alleged ill treatment of soldiers in the hospitals in the Department of Mexico. A resolution was adopted to provide for facilitating privateering. Also, a resolution of thanks to Col. John Morgan and his command for distinguished services rendered in the recent brilliant campaign through Kentucky. Resolutions to abolish the office of the Secretary of the Navy, and declaring Brute Butler an enemy to the human race, were offered and referred to appropriate committees.

FATAL AFFAIRS.

At an hospital in Lynchburg, Va., on Monday, C. McDaniel, of the 14th Tenn., was killed in an affray with J. Holmes, of the 13th Ga., who stabbed him in the heart. James Read was accidentally killed on the same day. On entering his house, he in a playful manner snatched a pistol at his sister two or three times, and upon her remonstrating with him, to show her it was not loaded, put it first to his mouth and then to his breast, when the loaded barrel exploded, the ball passed entirely through his body. He fell into his brother's arms, exclaiming, "I am killed," and died in a few moments.

BRAGG'S MOVEMENTS.—The Mobile Tribune of the 12th says that orders have been issued by General Bragg limiting the baggage of our army to what the men can carry in their knapsacks, and there was every other indication that it would make a forward movement immediately.

LATER FROM THE NORTH.

Northern papers of the 16th instant have been received in Richmond.

On the night of the 13th inst. the steamer West Point, with 137 convalescent troops from Newport News, for Burnside's army, was run into Aquia Creek by the steamer General. Capt. Travers, and sunk in a few minutes. Seventy-three lives were lost, including the wives of Major Dort, Lieut. Col. Scott, and Capt. Cummings, of the 6th N. H. regiment.

The negro brigade of General Hunter, at Hilton Head, S. C., has been disbanded, as "the negroes could not be made soldiers."

A large number of Yankees are going over the Canada line and taking the oath of allegiance to the British government, to avoid being drafted.

In Washington, on the 14th, Lincoln addressed a delegation of "colored men" who waited on him by invitation, to "talk over" the subject of emancipation. His address is reported in two columns of the New York Herald, and includes two verses of poetry! The following is an extract from his speech:

"When you cease to be slaves, you are yet far removed from being placed on an equality with the white race. You are out of many of the advantages which the other race enjoy. The aspiration of men is to enjoy equality with the best when free; but on this broad continent not a single man of your race is made the equal of a single man of ours; where you are treated the best and the best is still upon you."

The New York Herald sustains Mr. Lincoln, and says that the negroes should be put to work in digging trenches, driving teams, felling timber, taking charge of the ambulances and the wounded, cooking and other operations of a camp, and the field, but never let weapons be put in the hands of a race not destined for political equality.

Hope, in his official report of the battle of Cedar Run, says that his loss was 1,500 killed and wounded, and that Monday night the Confederates fled from the field, leaving their dead unburied and allowing lying along the road.

The Quincy Herald says twenty-one Confederate prisoners were shot at Macon, Mo., on the 12th, for breaking their parole, and twelve more were under sentence of death. Capt. A. D. Dobbins of the Baltimore American died on the 14th instant.

There is a general dissatisfaction expressed in the papers at the result of the battle at Cedar Run. The New York World says that it is the old story over again, but consoles itself with the announcement from Washington that the Federal army is to "try it over again," by advancing on the Confederate forces.

A correspondent of the New York World gives the following account of the battle:

As I approached my destination the cannonading had commenced. A line of dust above the woods indicated the road upon which our troops were advancing. Gen. Bayard had been driven back from the Rapidan and Gen. Crawford's brigade had been sent out to support him. Their forces joined him at Cedar Run and took position. Besides his four well tried regiments, the 28th New York, 48th Pennsylvania, 10th Maine, and 5th Connecticut, General Crawford had with him three batteries of artillery—Boomer's, Knapp's, and Best's. With this command he had stood and resisted the advance of Jackson during the afternoon of yesterday, successfully repelling him in regard to his actual strength.

The Confederates had now advanced all along their lines from beyond the Rapidan. Gen. Banks was this morning ordered to the front. Cannonading commenced at 3 o'clock P. M. and the accuracy of the enemy's aim was unusual. Gen. A. J. Gaur, who commands the second division of Gen. Banks's army, was upon the left, and suffered much from their shell. He was himself wounded. Gen. Geary was also wounded.

The guns were less heavily upon Gen. Williams's division on the right. For then was reserved the shock of the terrible fire of musketry which commenced at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Crawford's and Gordon's brigades were spread out upon the right under the shelter of a line of woods. A right flank movement was determined upon, intended to have been the decisive stroke of the day. Crawford's brigade was ordered to advance. Slowly and steadily they were moving on, and though they knew it not, almost to their entire destruction.

Having passed nearly through an opening in the woods beyond which the enemy were supposed to lie concealed, volley on volley of shots and bullets were poured out upon them, causing an unprecedented slaughter. They gained and held the woods and fought well half a dozen of the enemy's shots were responded to by but one of our own.

Col. Donnelly, of the 28th New York, was carried from the field mortally wounded. Col. Knipe, of the 48th Pennsylvania, was wounded; and when the brigade of two thousand men retired from the field, it was well nigh annihilated. Three field officers only escaped harm—Col. Beale, of the 10th Maine; Lieutenant Colonel Seiffert, of the 48th Pennsylvania; and Major Walker, of the 10th Maine. Captains and Lieutenants were also nearly every one killed, wounded or captured.

General Gordon's brigade, which came up to support them, came out of the action almost as badly injured. The General and his staff were unhurt, but his regiments suffered heavily. The remnants of the two brigades will now scarcely make a single regiment.

General Crawford remained on the field long after his men had been driven back, and barely escaped being captured. He was so near the enemy as to have overheard the address of Gen. Jackson to his men after the fight. Prisoners reported the enemy to have been no less than 25,000. General Banks's force was only 10,000. The enemy have not pursued us. We held the ground at night occupied during the day. We have not been defeated, though we have suffered terribly.

FROM THE COAST.

Rumors of various kinds have reached here, within the last few days, of aggressive movements being made from Newbern by the Yankee force there under Foster.

From the best information we can receive they landed, on Friday or Saturday, a force at Swansboro', in Onslow county, which has been stated as amounting to between two and three thousand; a part of this force consisting of cavalry and artillery. They succeeded in capturing one of Captain Ward's pickets.

Among other depredations committed by them, we learn that they destroyed Mr. Scott's and Mr. Sanders' Salt Works, and perhaps other Salt works on that part of the coast. In fact, we have just learned that they destroyed every salt work, or arrangement for making salt, within ten miles of Swansboro'. They are the same marauders who recently advanced in the direction of Kinston.

To the great value of these works—their indispensable necessity at this time—we think the attention of the Confederate and State Governments ought to be called. No doubt the enemy contemplate further depredations of the same character nearer Wilmington.—Wilmington Journal.

HEAVY ARRIVAL.—We have a seemingly authentic statement of a late heavy arrival for account of the Confederacy at a Confederate port. One million pounds of powder and thirty-five thousand stand of arms are among the items of the cargo, the aggregate value of which was such that the Government agreed to pay \$800,000 sterling on delivery—a sum equivalent, at present rates of exchange, to about \$3,000,000. [Mobile Advertiser and Register, 14th.]

THE LAW OF RETALIATION. HIGHLY INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN GENERALS LEE AND HALLECK.

The President communicated to Congress on Monday the following correspondence between Gen. Lee and Gen. Halleck:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF VA.,
July 21st, 1862.

To Major General G. B. McClellan,
Commanding Army of the Potomac.

GENERAL—It has come to my knowledge that many of our citizens, engaged in peaceful vocations, have been arrested and imprisoned because they refused to take the oath of allegiance to the United States, while others, by hard and harsh treatment, have been compelled to take an oath not to bear arms against that Government.

I have learned that about one hundred of the latter class have recently been released from Fort Monroe. This Government refuses to admit the right of the authorities of the United States to arrest our citizens and extort from them their parole not to render military service to their country, under the penalty of incurring punishment in case they fall into the hands of your forces. I am directed by the Secretary of War to inform you that such acts will not be regarded as obligatory, and persons who take them will be required to render military service. Should your Government treat the rendition of such service by these persons as a breach of parole, and punish it accordingly, this Government will resort to compelling the observance of the rules of civilized warfare.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
(Signed) R. E. LEE,
General Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF UNITED STATES,
Washington, Aug. 13, 1862.

To Major General G. B. McClellan,
Commanding Army of the Potomac.

GENERAL—I have just received from the Adjutant-General's office your letter of July 30th, enclosing a letter from Gen. R. E. Lee, of July 21st.

The letters of General Dix and Major Moore will furnish you with the proper information for a reply to Gen. Lee's complaints in regard to the treatment of prisoners at Fort Monroe. The Government of the United States has never authorized any extortion of oaths of allegiance or military parole, and has forbidden any measures to be resorted to tending to that end.

Instead of extorting oaths of allegiance and parole, it has refused the applications of several thousand prisoners to be permitted to take them and return to their homes in the rebel States.

At the same time this Government claims and will exercise the right to arrest, imprison, or place beyond a military line any persons suspected of giving aid and information to its enemies, or of any other treasonable act, and if persons so arrested voluntarily take the oath of allegiance, or give their military parole and afterwards violate their pledged faith, they will be punished according to the laws and usages of war. You will assure Gen. Lee that no uncertainty of retaliation on his part will deter this Government from exercising its lawful rights over both persons and property, of whatever name or character.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
(Signed) H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief U. S. Army.

To Gen. R. E. Lee, Commanding, &c.
GENERAL—Your letter of July 21st was received at the Adjutant-General's office on the 14th, but supposing from its endorsement that it required no further reply, it was filed, without being shown to the President or Secretary of War. I learn to-day, for the first time, that said letter had been received, and hasten to reply.

No authentic information has been received in relation to the execution of either John Owen or Mumford, but measures will be immediately taken to ascertain the facts of those alleged executions, of which you will be duly informed.

I need hardly assure you, General, that so far as the United States authorities are concerned this contest will be carried on in strict accordance with the laws and usages of modern warfare, and that all excesses will be duly punished.

In regard to the burning of bridges within our lines by persons in disguise as peaceful citizens, I refer you to my letter of the 22d of January last, to Gen. Price. I think you will find the views there expressed as not materially differing from those stated in your letter. In regard to retaliation by taking the lives of innocent persons, I know of no modern authority which justifies it except in the extreme case of a war with any barbaric foe, which has himself first established such a barbarous rule. The United States will never countenance such a proceeding unless forced to do so by the barbarous conduct of an enemy who first applies such a rule to our citizens.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
(Signed) H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief U. S. Army.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE "C. S.,"
Near Richmond, Aug. 2d, 1862.

To the General Commanding the Army of the United States, Washington:

GENERAL—On the 29th of June last, I was instructed by the Secretary of War to inquire of Major General McClellan as to the truth of alleged murders committed on our citizens by officers of the United States Army. The case of Wm. B. Mumford, reported to have been murdered at New Orleans by order of Maj. General B. F. Butler, and Colonel John Owen, reported to have been murdered in Missouri, by order of Major General Pope, were those referred to.

Major General McClellan has the honor to be informed by Major General McClellan that he had referred these inquiries to his Government for a reply. No answer has as yet been received.

The President of the Confederate States has since been credibly informed that numerous other officers of the army of the United States within the Confederacy have been guilty of felonies and capital offenses, which are punishable by all laws, human and divine. I am directed by him to bring to your notice a few of these best authenticated. Newspapers received from the United States announce as a fact that Major General Hunter has armed slaves for the murder of their masters, and has thus done all in his power to inaugurate a servile war, which is more than the act of the savage, inasmuch as it superadds other horrors to the indiscriminate slaughter of all ages, sexes, and conditions.

Brigadier General Phelps is reported to have initiated in New Orleans the example set by Major General Hunter on the coast of South Carolina. Brigadier General G. N. Fitch is stated in the same journals to have murdered, in cold blood, two peaceful citizens because one of his men, while invading our country, was killed by some unknown person while defending his home.

I am instructed by the President of the Confederate States to repeat the inquiry relative to the cases of Mumford and Owen, and to ask whether the statements in relation to the action of Generals Hunter, Phelps and Fitch are admitted to be true, and whether the conduct of the Generals is sanctioned by their Government.

I am further directed by His Excellency, the President, to give notice that, in the event of not receiving a reply to these inquiries within fifteen days from the delivery of this letter, it will be assumed that the alleged facts are true, and are sanctioned by the Government of the United States. In such event, on that Government will rest the responsibility of the retribution or retaliatory measures which shall be adopted to put an end to the merciless atrocities which now characterize the war against the Confederate States.

I am, most respectfully, your obedient servant,
(Signed) R. E. LEE,
General Commanding.

To the General Commanding,
U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.

GENERAL—In obedience to the order of His Excellency, the President of the Confederate States, I have the honor to make to you the following communication:

On the 23d July last a cartel for a general exchange of prisoners of war was signed between Major General D. H. Hill, in behalf of the Confederate States, and Major General John A. Dix, in behalf of the United States.

By the terms of the cartel it is stipulated that all prisoners of war heretofore taken shall be discharged on parole till exchanged.

Shortly after that cartel been signed when the military authorities of the United States commenced a practice changing the whole character of the war, from such as becomes civilized nations, into a campaign of indiscriminate robbery and murder.

The general order issued by the Secretary of War of the United States, in the city of Washington, on the very day the cartel was signed in Virginia, directs the military commanders of the United States to take the private property of our people for the convenience and use of their armies, without compensation.

The general order issued by Major General Pope on the 23d day of July, the day of the signing of the cartel, directed the murder of all peaceful inhabitants as spies, if found quietly sitting the arms in his rear, even outside of his line, and one of his Brigadier-Generals, Steinwehr has seized upon innocent and peaceful inhabitants to be held as hostages, to the end that they may be murdered in cold blood, if any of his soldiers are killed by some unknown persons whom he designates as "bushwhackers."

We find ourselves driven by our enemies to steady progress towards a practice which we abhor, and which we are vainly struggling to avoid. Under these circumstances this Government has issued the accompanying general order, which I am directed by the President to transmit to you, recognizing Major General Pope and his commissioned officers to be in the position which they have chosen for themselves, that of robbers and murderers, and not those of public enemies, entitled, if captured, to be treated as prisoners of war.

The President also instructs me to inform you that we renounce our right of retaliation on the innocent, and will continue to treat the private enlisted soldiers of General Pope's army as prisoners of war; but, after notice to your Government that we confine repressive measures to the punishment of commissioned officers, who are willing participants in these crimes, the savage practices threatened in the order alluded to be persisted in, we shall be reluctantly forced to the last resort of accepting the war on the terms chosen by our enemies, until the voice of an outraged humanity shall compel a respect for the recognized usages of war.

While the President considers that the facts referred to would justify a refusal on our part to execute the cartel by which we have agreed to liberate an excess of prisoners of war in our hands, a sacred regard for plighted faith, which shrinks from the semblance of breaking a promise, precludes a resort to such an extremity, nor is it his desire to extend to any other force of the United States the punishment meted by General Pope, and such commissioned officers as choose to participate in the execution of his infamous order.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
(Signed) R. E. LEE,
General Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, Aug. 3, 1862.

General R. E. Lee, Commanding, &c.

GENERAL—Your two communications of the 2d instant, with enclosures, are received. As these papers are couched in language exceedingly insulting to the Government of the United States, I must respectfully decline to receive them. They are returned herewith.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
(Signed) H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief U. S. Army.

CAPTURE OF A FEDERAL GUNBOAT.

A dispatch from Jackson, Miss., states that on the 6th inst. the Federal gunboat Sumter, in endeavoring to make a landing at Bayou Sara, ran aground. She was summoned to surrender by the Mayor on behalf of the military of the parish of West Feliciana, and volunteers from Mississippi. Her captain asked time to consider the demand, which was granted. In the meantime the transport Ceres arrived, and the Confederates being without artillery, she ran alongside the Sumter, when the officers and crew of the latter abandoned her and escaped on the transport. A large number of small arms and stores were found on the Sumter. After securing the property on board, the vessel was fired and destroyed. The flames unfortunately communicated to the depot of the West Feliciana Railroad, which, with one hundred and fifty hogheads of sugar, was destroyed. Most of this sugar had been seized and left there under claim of the gunboat Essex. Next morning gunboat No. 7 and a transport arrived at Bayou Sara and landed a small force, which was allowed to march half a mile inland. They were then attacked by the Confederates, and one of the invaders mortally wounded. Three others were badly wounded, the balance running back to their boats. The Confederate loss was one man.

The gunboat after this threw four shells into the town, but without doing any damage. Among the trophies captured from the Sumter were two United States flags, one pennant, and one chest of signal flags.

The following dispatch has been received at Jackson, Miss., dated Bayou Sara, August 17th:

The iron-clad Federal gunboat Essex is now lying opposite our town. She will be received. Heavy continuous firing was heard at Port Hudson last night.

CONTRIBUTIONS.
I have received from ladies in and near Raleigh, \$280; and from ladies in Chapel Hill, through the hands of Miss Susan C. Battle, \$124; and through Mr. G. W. McDowell, from Rev. Cyrus Waters, on behalf of the children of the Widow, \$50. It is understood that this money was collected to build a gunboat or found a "Widow's and Orphan's Asylum;" but as these objects were found to be impracticable, it has been appropriated to the purpose of providing for the comfort and welfare of our sick and wounded soldiers. Certainly it could not be given in a better cause.

CHAS. E. JOHNSON.