

Correspondence Between General Grant and Butler.  
Relative to the treatment of negro soldiers and the retaliation measures of General Butler.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY NORTHERN VA.,  
October 10, 1864.

LT. GEN. U. S. GRANT,  
Commanding U. S. Armies:

GENERAL: In accordance with instructions from the Hon. Secretary of War of the Confederate States, I have the honor to call your attention to the subject of two communications recently addressed by Major General B. F. Butler, an officer under your command, to the Hon. Robert Old, Commissioner for the Exchange of Prisoners.

For the better understanding of the matter, I enclose copies of the two communications.

You will perceive by one of them that the writer has placed a number of officers and men belonging to the Confederate service, prisoners of war captured by the United States forces, at labor in the canal at Dutch Gap, in retaliation, as is alleged, for a like number of Federal colored soldiers, prisoners of war in our hands, who are said to have been put to work on our fortifications.

The evidence of this fact is found in the affidavits of two deserters from our service. The other letter refers to a copy of a note issued by a Confederate officer commanding a camp near Richmond, calling upon the owners to come forward and establish their claims to certain negroes in the custody of that officer.

The writer of the letter proceeds to state that some of the negroes mentioned in the notice are believed to be soldiers of the United States army captured in arms, and that, upon that belief, he has ordered to such manual labor as he deems most fitting to meet the exigency, an equivalent number of prisoners of war held by the United States, announcing that he will continue to order to labor captives in war to a number equal to that of all the United States soldiers who he has reason to believe are held to service or labor by the Confederate forces, until he shall be notified that the alleged practice on the part of the Confederate authorities has ceased.

Before stating the facts with reference to the particular negroes alluded to, I beg to explain the policy pursued by the Confederate Government towards this class of persons, when captured by its forces.

All negroes in the military or naval service of the United States, taken by us, who are not identified as the property of citizens or residents of any of the Confederate States, are regarded as prisoners of war, being held to be proper subjects of exchange, as I recently had the honor to inform you.

No labor is expected from such prisoners by the Confederate authorities.

Negroes who owe service or labor to citizens or residents of the Confederates, and who, through compulsion, persuasion, or of their own accord, leave their owners, and are placed in the military or naval service of the United States, occupy a different position.

The right to the service or labor of negro slaves, in the Confederate service, is the same now as when those States were members of the Federal Union.

The constitutional relations and obligations of the Confederate Government to the owners of this species of property, are the same as those so frequently and so long recognized as appertaining to the Government of the United States, with reference to the same class of persons, by virtue of its organic law.

From the earliest period of the independence of the American States, it has been held that one of the duties incumbent upon the several common governments under which they have, from time to time, been associated, was the return to their lawful owners, of slaves recaptured from the public enemy. It has been uniformly held that the capture or abduction of a slave, does not impair the right of the owner to such slave, but that the right attaches to him immediately upon recapture.

Such was the practice of the American States during their struggle for independence. The Government under which they were then associated restored to the owners slaves abducted by the British forces and subsequently recaptured by the American armies.

In the war of 1812 with Great Britain, the course pursued by the United States Government was the same, and it recognized the right of the owner to slaves recaptured from the enemy. Both the Continental and United States Governments, in fact, denied that the abduction of slaves was a belligerent right, and the latter power insisted upon, and ultimately secured by treaty, pecuniary indemnity from the British Government for slaves taken by its forces during the war of 1812.

And it is supposed that if a negro belonging to a citizen of a State in which slavery is recognized, and which is regarded as one of the United States, were to escape into the Confederate States, or be captured or abducted by their armies, the legal right of the owner to reclaim him would be a clear one as in 1812, the

Constitution of the United States being unchanged in this particular, and that instrument having been interpreted in the judicial decisions, legislative and diplomatic acts and correspondence of the United States, as imposing upon that Government the duty of protecting, in all cases coming within the scope of its authority, the owners of slaves as well as of any other kind of property recognized as such by the several States.

The Confederate Government, bound by the same constitutional obligations, considers, as that of the United States did, that the capture or abduction of a negro slave does not preclude the lawful owner from reclaiming him when captured, and I am instructed to say that all such slaves when properly identified as belonging to citizens of the Confederate States, or persons enjoying the protection of their laws, will be restored, like other recaptured private property, to those entitled to them.

Having endeavored to explain the general policy of the Confederate Government with regard to this subject, I beg leave to state the facts concerning the particular transactions referred to in the enclosed communications.

The negroes recently captured by our forces were sent to Richmond with other Federal prisoners. After their arrival it was discovered that a number of them were slaves belonging to citizens or residents of some of the Confederate States, and of this class fifty nine, as I learn, were sent, with other negroes to work on the fortifications around Richmond until their owners should appear and claim them.

As soon as I was informed of the fact, less than two days afterwards, not wishing to employ them here, I ordered them to be sent to the interior.

By a misapprehension of the engineer officer in charge, they were transferred to our lines South of James river, but when apprised of the error, I repeated the order for their removal. If any negroes were included among this number, who were not identified as the slaves of citizens or residents of some of the Confederate States, they were so included without the knowledge or authority of the War Department, as already explained, and the mistake, when discovered, would have been corrected.

It only remains for me to say, that negroes employed upon our fortifications are not allowed to be placed where they will be exposed to fire, and there is no foundation for any statement to the contrary.

The author of the communications referred to has considered himself justified (by the report of two deserters, who do not allege that the negroes in question were exposed to any danger,) in placing our prisoners at labor in the canal at Dutch Gap, under the fire of our batteries.

In view of the explanation of the practice of the Confederate Government above given and of the statement of facts I have made, I have now, in accordance with my instructions, respectfully to inquire whether or the course pursued towards our prisoners, as set forth in the accompanying letters, has your sanction and whether it will be maintained.

Very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Signed) R. E. LEE, Gen'l.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE U. S. STATES,  
October 20, 1864.

Gen. R. E. LEE, C. S. A., Commanding Army of Northern Virginia.

General—Understanding, from your letter of the 19th, that the colored prisoners who were employed at work in the trenches near Fort Gilmer have been withdrawn, I have directed the withdrawal of the Confederate prisoners employed in the Dutch Gap canal. I shall always regret the necessity for retaliating for wrongs done our officers; but regard it my duty to protect all persons received into the army of the United States, regardless of color or nationality. When acknowledged soldiers of the Government are captured, they must be treated as prisoners of war, or such treatment as they receive will be inflicted upon an equal number of prisoners held by us.

I have nothing to do with the discussion of the slavery question, therefore decline answering the arguments adduced to show the right to return to former owners such negroes as are captured from our army. In answer to the question at the conclusion of your letter, I have to state, that all prisoners of war falling into my hands shall receive the kindest possible treatment, consistent with securing them, unless I have good authority for believing any number of our men are being treated otherwise. Then, painful as it may be to me, I shall inflict like treatment on an equal number of Confederate prisoners.

Hoping that it may never become my duty to order retaliation upon any man held as prisoner of war,

I have the honor to be,  
Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,  
U. S. GRANT, Lieut. Gen'l.

FLORIDA PREPARING.—We learn from the *Floridian* that under the late orders of Gov. Milton, the organization of the Militia of Florida has been perfected in every county in the State.

From the Petersburg Express, Nov. 4.  
FROM THE FRONT.

Within the past two nights, bodies of the enemy's troops have been crossed from the North to the South side of James river. In what force and for what purpose, we have been unable to ascertain. It is believed, however, that no very large force has thus been transferred, no official confirmation of such a movement has been received at headquarters.

It is now believed that the troops who recently went down the river in barges from City Point, were destined for Plymouth, N. C., in the attack on which place, they no doubt participated.

If Grant has reinforced the three stationary corps South of the Appomattox, he has as yet developed no movement by which his future operations can be prejudged. He may intend a reconnoissance in little larger force towards the South Side railroad than his recent one, or he may deliver battle, and endeavor to push ahead to the road. We await his next move in this direction without uneasiness, feeling entirely confident that he is destined to meet with a more disastrous repulse than he did on Thursday last when he retreated in such confusion.

Some thirty or more deserters and prisoners reported, under guard, at the Provost Marshal's office yesterday—fresh from the enemy's lines. They could impart no intelligence of an interesting nature relative to affairs inside the Yankee camp.

The reported massing of the enemy's troops on our right yesterday, was without foundation, or to say the least, premature. Such may be the case in a few days, or within a day or two, but it has not yet taken place. It is the prevailing opinion that another attempt will be made upon our right flank, and that at no distant day, but it is unnecessary for us to hurry the event forward.

Yesterday was a cold, rainy, disagreeable day, unpleasant everywhere, but particularly so in the trenches. The troops found it more comfortable to sit around their huge log fires, than with muskets in hand to keep up the usual desultory picket firing. The same, we presume, was the case with the Yankees, and hence, we find, there was an unbroken quiet along the lines.

We are pleased to learn that Lt. Colonel Pegram, of Richmond, commanding a Battalion of Artillery, has been commissioned Brigadier General and assigned to the command of Archer's brigade. General Pegram has nobly won his promotion. He is now the youngest General in the Confederate service, being only about twenty-three years of age. In all the campaigns of the glorious old Army of Northern Virginia, his command has taken a most active part, and rendered signal services.

We understand that the Yankees, during their recent "reconnoissance" to the Boydton Park road, played destruction with the private property of farmers on their route. At Mr. Burgess, they broke the furniture, stole the crockery, ransacked trunks and wardrobes, carried away clothing and cooking utensils, tore up some thousands of dollars worth of Confederate four per cent certificates, and last, but not least, stole fourteen hundred dollars in gold, which was locked up in a safe.

We are inclined to doubt the statement that any considerable body of the enemy's troops has been shifted from the north to the south side of the James River, and sometimes divisions, are occasionally changed backwards and forwards, without a view to active hostilities.

The enemy keeps entirely quiet, and shows no intention of an immediate resumption of hostilities. During his recent visit to Burgess' Mill he threw up some basty fortifications, no doubt with the idea of occupying and completing them at some future time, but if we are not mistaken he will never find them. If another advance is made this fall, it must be in that direction, for he where else can Grant go, unless it be towards Weldon.—*Pet. Express*, 5th.

The West Florida News says: The negroes engaged in the late raid on this place, (Marianna,) are said to have been brought from Nassau.

THE REVERSES IN EAST TENNESSEE.

The Lynchburg *Republican* of Tuesday, has intelligence of a fight between our forces under General Vaughan, and the Yankees in East Tennessee, in which our troops were routed and compelled to fall back. The fight occurred on Friday last at or near Morristown. But very few particulars were received by the Western cars Monday night, but it was stated that Gen. Vaughan lost four pieces of artillery and between 200 and 300 in killed, wounded and missing.

Among our killed were Col. Lilly and Capt. Gammon. Col. Summerman is reported to have been mortally wounded, and was yet in the hands of the enemy.

The fight was a hand to hand one, and our troops held their ground until forced back by the sheer weight of numbers.

The enemy have been largely reinforced in East Tennessee, and unless a corresponding increase is made in our force, the country will again be overrun by them.

Referring to the same unwelcome intelligence, the *Charlottesville Chronicle*, of Tuesday, says:

The train from Lynchburg brought down yesterday the unpleasant report that General Vaughan had been surprised in East Tennessee, and had lost his artillery. Our forces, as we had understood, were in the vicinity of Morristown, and the enemy at and around New Market and Strawberry Plains—the former on the railroad about 25 miles this side of Knoxville. Morristown is also on the railroad, about 12 miles farther this way. The enemy had at Knoxville two negro regiments, number some 1500, and about 300 Ohio troops. At Strawberry Plains they had two regiments, the 16th Kentucky and 10th Michigan. Between Morristown and Strawberry Plains there were three East Tennessee Federal regiments, the 5th, the 9th, and 10th, estimated at 2400 men, with Kirk's cavalry, some 500 strong.

THE FALL OF PLYMOUTH.

On the evening of the 28th ult., Gen. Baker commanding this Department, received information by telegraph, that the enemy had succeeded in surprising and destroying the gunboat *Albatross* near her wharf at Plymouth. Gen. Baker, accompanied by personal staff, immediately left Goldsboro for Plymouth, at which place he arrived on the afternoon of the 30th in the midst of a fierce bombardment of the town from the fleet of gunboats which had stationed themselves in the middle of the river out of sight of our batteries. The sudden appearance of Gen. Baker among the troops was hailed by the whole garrison with shouts of welcome. Each man felt assured by the voluntary presence of this veteran soldier, and sprang with alacrity to their duty.

From their concealment the enemy kept up a continual shower of canister and shell on the devoted town. Nervous by the calm and cheering voice of the General, each man stood bravely to his post ready to execute any order which should emanate from him. Finding all their attempts to run up to Plymouth direct, foiled by the stout resistance from the batteries, under command of Col. Whitford, the enemy retired and ascended Middle River. There they met obstructions which they soon removed, and re-entering the Roanoke from this direction they attacked the town in reverse. General Baker attempted to prevent this by throwing out sharpshooters, but owing to the exceedingly heavy fire of the gun boats and the accuracy of their fire these were driven back; and the enemy finding no opposition they ascended the Roanoke and came down upon the town. The first or upper fort was manned by the crew of the *Albatross*. This the gun-boat sailed past, though several times struck by the shots from its guns, the damage not appearing to be material. The fleet then paid their special respects to Fort Jones, where they succeeded in dismantling all the guns and exploding the magazines. Meanwhile the enemy threw a very respectful shell or hot shot over into the town, which caused several of the buildings to fire. At this juncture, in view of the conflagration of the town the necessary evacuation of the several forts, and the landing of the enemy, General Baker issued his orders to blow up the magazine and withdraw the garrison. The manoeuvre of falling back was done with such perfect order that nothing of any value fell into the hands of the enemy with the exception of two guns belonging to Lee's battery, the horses to which, had all been killed. The total loss in killed, wounded and taken prisoners, will not exceed 25 or thirty men. Gen.

Baker has fallen back only to Jamestown and seems determined to dispute every foot of ground around Plymouth, he having decided not to evacuate Washington. Thus ended this eventful affair, though and in its results to the Eastern part of our State, its defence under such forbidding circumstances forms another brilliant episode of gallantry in the history of this State. [State Journal.]

DIED.

On the 19th of October, on the battlefield of Middletown, in the Valley of Virginia, Mr. RICHARD HARRISON, 1st Serg't of Co. A, 5th Regiment N. C. Troops, aged about 35. True to the instincts of a noble patriot, he buckled on his armor, and sacrificed his life, fighting for his Country. The deceased was most favorably known to a large circle of once admiring, but now lamenting friends. To the writer of this notice, he was known as an humble, upright, conscientious and pious Christian. He was a most worthy communicant of the Protestant Episcopal Church. Indeed so spotless was his life, that he was an ornament to that communion. And perhaps no truer man, no purer patriot, no better Christian has fallen in battle, than Richard Harrison. He was an affectionate brother, an ardent friend, and a devoted husband. He died suddenly on the field of action, and has left a widow to mourn his loss. Whether in the quiet of private life, or on the field of battle, he was ever to be found at the post of duty. A faithful soldier of Christ, he could not but be a true soldier of his Country. The good man has fallen in that country's defence—but "Blessed is the dead"—for he lived and "Died in the Lord"—and on the morning of the Resurrection, he will wear the crown of Glory reserved in Heaven for the Righteous.—(Con.)

JAS. D. GOODMAN, Co. F, 1st N. C. Regt., son of M. W. Goodman of this county, was wounded in the fight of the 28th, and died the next day. Aged 19 years.

GOODS, GOODS.—The subscriber has to hand the following articles to wit:—  
Alabaster Dress Goods.  
Sheeting 4-4 wide.  
Shirting 7-8 do.  
Spool Thread.  
Flax do.  
Linen Cambric Handkerchiefs.  
Pant Buttons.  
Needles.  
Envelopes and Paper.  
Spun Cotton.  
Pocket Knives.  
Rifle Powder.  
10 Boxes fine Chewing Tobacco  
Sugar and Salt.  
Nails 6, 8, 10, 12.

MICHAEL BROWN,  
Salisbury, Oct. 29, 1864.—d142&w23c

Boxes for Soldiers.

ALL BOXES FOR SOLDIERS OR Prisoners of War from North Carolina, delivered to the following named persons will be promptly forwarded free of charge:

- Dr. D. F. Sumner, Asheville,
- Dr. W. A. Collett, Morganton,
- Dr. J. W. Allison, Statesville,
- Dr. J. L. Neagle, Greensboro,
- Mr. A. Huggins, Charlotte,
- Mr. Edward Hege, Salem,
- Capt. J. N. McNeill, Raleigh,
- Joseph A. Worth, Fayetteville,
- E. Murray & Co., Wilmington,
- Mr. F. L. Bond, Fayetteville,
- Mr. J. A. Askew, Columbia,
- Mr. F. L. Roberts, Murfreesboro.

The boxes should be well hooped, properly marked, and delivered in time for my Special Messenger, who leaves Raleigh on the first day of every month. EDWARD WARREN,  
Surgeon General N. S.  
Raleigh, Oct. 31—d&w1m—144

Valuable Property for Sale.

I HAVE a saw log (2 wheels) wagon, wheels 7 feet in diameter, steel tire iron, one inch thick, good hubs—axle and tongue inferior—for sale. The tire will weigh over 300 pounds. Also, a hand-car rail-way, with bolts and fixtures, turned true and runs easy. I would like to hire for next year, 4 or 5 farm hands—would take some that would be considered an encumbrance. An aged farm blacksmith would be desirable. Address the subscriber at Wind Hill, Montgomery Co., N. Carolina. T. J. FORNEY,  
Oct. 24, 1864.—14w22

LOST OR MISLAID.—A certificate, (No. 2224, for \$500) of deposit at the Depository in Salisbury, signed M. W. Jarvis, Depository, and dated March 30th, 1864. Notice is hereby given that application has been made for a new certificate for the same.

J. M. REID,  
Sept 28, 1864. 6w19\*

800 YARDS SHEETING.  
700 yds. Fine Shirting.  
10 frames fine Letter Paper.  
20 " fine Commercial Note Paper.  
Superior Chewing Tobacco, &c..  
For sale at the  
BOYDEN HOUSE.  
Sep 29—6rd176:2w19

NOTICE.—Is hereby given to the creditors of O. A. Burgess, dec'd., that I have funds and am now ready to settle any legal claims against said Burgess, any such claims presented against me before February Court, 1865, and they shall be paid. R. J. WEST, Adm'r.  
Oct 14th, 1864.—3w19d

SELLING BOOKS AND PRIMARY ARITHMETICS.—A few copies for sale at  
THIS OFFICE.  
July 7, 1864

PINE GROVE ACADEMY.—This Institution will open on Monday, 24th of October.  
The Classics (Latin and Greek) higher Mathematics &c., will be taught.  
Strict attention to training the morals will be given.  
Terms three dollars and seventy-five cents per session of five months. To be paid in advance at old prices, or the equivalent in current money. For further particulars address  
F. M. PHIFER, Principal.  
Rowan Mills, N. C. Oct. 27, 1864.—3w23

WANTED  
A SMALL FARM.—Prefer to rent. Apply at this office.  
Oct. 31, 1864. 4w22