March 20, 1862

My Dear Sir,

Enclosed I send you a copy from Mr. Carpenter of the advance to Frederickstown, received last night, and from which I extracted the telegram sent. The letter is much fuller in descriptive detail. The only part of it that can be considered "worthand" is the enumeration of the regiments composing General Anderson's brigade.

General McDowell was not with this advance. I saw him in the city at midnight on Thursday night.

You will see from this movement and those of Banks and Fremont, that the movement indicated in my letter to you a week ago is being executed. Banks and
Fremont are rapidly converging at Staunton where they will be within forty or fifty miles of Lynch-burg or if necessary within supporting distance of McDowell when he moves forward to the junction of the Fredericktown and Central Virginia Railroad, at the crossing of the Pamunkey River, twelve and five miles north of Richmond. Richmond will necessarily be left to its fate. The rebels dare not weaken Yorktown at this juncture and if McDowell, Banks and Fremont's forces succeed in getting in the rear with Bums sides on the Southern flank, the whole rebel army will be shut up on the Peninsula and McClellan's original project of passing the whole
force in one decisive battle will be realized, or Washington will be left at the mercy of the Southern army.

I sent you on Friday night brief telegrams, announcing the position of McDowell's, Banks's, and Fremont's forces, but I presume they were stopped although I knew that the facts would be published announced here on Saturday. The position had reached me by telegrams over the military telegraph from Carpenter and from other sources in advance of the official announcement to the Government, but I could not see the information.

Mr. Carpenter desires me to apologize for the hurried period speech he has forwarded, but he acted under my instructions to pay
more attention to the matter and the celerity of its transmission than to the manner of its words.

I enclose you a letter from the Herald Correspondent Mr. Bulkeley, who, with Mr. Hoarner, is attending to Keeyes’ corps d’armée. It contains some suggestions about office business, which might be referred to your business department.

Have you considered my proposition about a permanent office here?

Respectfully,

L. A. Whitley

Mr. Gordon Bennett Esq.
Confidentially

My Dear Sir,

A good deal of anxiety has been manifested here in reference to the visit of President McCollum. It was known confidentially that there had been brought to bear upon Mr. Lincoln an amount of pressure almost inconceivable to induce him to remove General McCollum from command. It was alleged chiefly that by his mismanagement and failure he followed up the victory of the battle of Antietam an opportunity for a decisive victory had been lost and the certainty of annihilating the rebel army had been allowed to pass unimproved. I am
2.

Told that the extent of this prepare was such as no Executive had ever before been called upon to resist. It was on this account that the President determined personally to visit McCollum and the evening of the Potomac and satisfy himself how far the representation made were correct and what would be the proper course in the premises.

I have not yet seen him since his return, nor has he been seen by any one who can speak positively of the result of his trip, but I am assured by some of those who attended him throughout the whole tour that there need be no apprehension entertained of any interference with McCollum.

The gentlemen of the President.
party, some of whom were
their violent opponents of
McClellan, returned complete
converts, and frankly admit
that his removal from the
command of the army of the
Potomac, except to be made
Commander in Chief, would
be a serious misfortune to the
country and that he is, next
to General Scott, by all odds
the greatest general we have.
The manner in which
this information is conveyed
induces me to believe that a
similar impression was made
upon the President himself;
I am sure these gentlemen say
that they do not believe
how Mr. Lincoln could avoid
receiving the same impression
as themselves: he was assured
by nearly all the corps com-
manders that not one of them was in a condition to renew the battle on the Thursday following that at Antietam and that he have done to [would have been] to hazard all that had been gained upon a very doubtful chance. I have been confidentially informed by an officer who came here for the purpose of conversing with the President in reference to McPherson's position, but who arrived the same day the President left, that either Genl. McPherson would be invested with more authority and power than he now has or that he would resign. This was not stated in the way of a menace but as a condition that he would be unwilling to
remain at the mercy of a superior officer whose willingness to promote his success is even more than doubtful and at the same time be subjected to the howling of the pack of political apathetic without any assurance of being able to retain even the position that he at present holds. I cannot yet speak positively but I am very much inclined to believe that the result of the President's visit will be at least the appointment of McClellan to the position of Commander in Chief, in which position General Halleck has proved himself a cypher, if not an empty substitution of Earl Banks for McClellan and the designation
of one of the fighting Generals such as Hooker or Burnside to the principal command of the army of the Potomac.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

[Signature]
Washington Dec 22, 1864

Sir

Commodore Porter wrote a very long and very bitter letter to the Navy Department on the war. He remarks that he sent from his office inclosure a new file with some very fine papers beginning to end complaining about Butler being sent to command of the land force and thinks that even if it is a success Butler will manage to steal all the credit. The letter

with other matters was cancer considerable doubt to be thrown over the result of the expedition.

I have received just a day which indicates that

Thompson does not intend to capture Savannah.
to order a movement upon Charleston. The movement which has been suggested to me is a way that leads me to infer it in the program as to take charge of the coast and Savannah as places to pro and strengthen it by occupying both with so many feet as there may be sufficient to hold the place and force at that point. Confined there and there by structures and attacks upon Savannah on the north, to the blare of the bugle, by a force and at Charleston, taking that place by surprise, a movement which is considered can't be accomplished in forty-eight hours from the time that it commences. Then such a force as to lead me
to see that there is more in
than other may appear on the
surface.

You know—how much he
has tried to get rid of Butler
and may think that having
so small a force makes him
with the expedition is a part
of his plan to accomplish
that point. In the 7000 or
half-colonel.

Then is also a dispute
as to what Sherman
should be brought to Richmond
with his force or remain
in the coast. Grant is for
the former and the South is
for the latter. It has
become a question of vital
which side holds at the longest
term of Grant's friends fear
that the administration will
lath this out of his plan. They are determined to
induct it if possible.

Program that if success should mean an immediate capture of Richmond the 
the at and a vicinit
of now, a day or two
more will decide it

Respectfully for

[Signature]

[Name] Culbreth
Washington, Feb 23rd 1865

James G. Bennett

Dear Sir,

There is considerable unrest over the fear that Gen. Sherman will slip large portions of his forces out of Richmond, unite with Beauregard and Hunt and give Sherman battle at or below Raleigh. That seems to be the only thing feared. If he does that it will be very
avoid unless it is done within a few days, for Gen. Schofield is ordered to make a junction with Sherman near Raleigh. Schofield has some 24,000 men which will bring Sherman gives up to 100,000 effective men with which Sherman says he can whip the Confederates.
Grant on the other hand, declare that the time is past for Lee & Co. to leave Richmond with force sufficient to accomplish anything. He has remained at Richmond so long that he has no other alternative but to remain there and make it the last ditch, an attempt to evacuate ends with

An official via Richmond, whose wife and family are here, they refusing to go with him at the entrance of the war—he has written a letter to his wife and sent it through the underground mail. She received it on Sunday last. This letter states that they are actually evacuating Richmond and are going to Lynchburg
He says that all the necessary preparations have been made, and that he can now proceed with his plans. In addition to that, the letter was delivered while she was away from home. Richmond. This was what the dispatches from him on Tuesday, March 20th, were based upon, referring to the evacuation of Richmond. The Lady referred to, towards where I was going, and gave me the details from which I made the dispatch. As the General was stated above,

"Mr. Lincoln, as you have been announced so far been opposed to Grant stuff, he said not intend to go to join Grant until after the inauguration. But Mrs. Lincoln said to me on Tuesday that Robert was coming..."
with Grant when he captured Richmond, and information was such that it excited the belief that if he pursued joining Grant after the surrender it would be too late, and that he had hopes of preventing the capture of Richmond and returning to Washington in time for the inauguration.

I spent last Sunday evening at the White House. Mr. Lincoln during the conversation alluded to a circumstance which explains his and Grant's success, and cannot fail to give renewed life to the movement. He said that during the month of October last a gentleman in Baltimore came to him and said that a person had arrived there from South Carolina who had valuable information which he desired to communicate to him and if desired to know whether he would desire to give him an audience and when Mr. Lincoln fixed the time and for an interview. At the appointed
time an intelligent and
gently mannered appearance
evidently of foreign birth
made his appearance. He stated
that his native land and said that
he was a civil engineer by
profession. That prior to the
war he had taken up civil
engineering at Columbia and
?• America and was engaged
in his profession in making
surveys for Portland and had
the opportunity to become
familiar with every river and
state. South America being
river to river and river. He
remained at Columbia after
the war broke out and had
all the time been in
sympathy with the South and
helped and prayed for the
cause of the Southern army.
He finally decided to make his
to ask him for the purpose of making such a speech which would be valuable in planning the movement of the armies. Mr. Lincoln said that he then went on to relate the position of several of the cities of the north and their importance to the Confederacy. Among other things, he related to him (Scribner) also he put down Columbia as the most vital point of all outside of the seaports. To this whole, he gave a detail of its fortifications, how it could be taken without a fight at that point, and then went on to say that it was the grand storehouse of the whole. That all the goods which ran the blockades absolutely needed to arrive as they arrived to point your
sent to Columbia and stored there, from which they were taken as they wanted. The
showed that medicines of all kinds of supplies, such as
leather shoes, capes, etc., were common. Medicine guns
were stored there at that time also. The
extent and nature of the
manufacture there, showing
that it was no very
important place.
The interview closed and
the great man left for Baltimore
for less than a week, new
came to him that he had
been arrested by some
government officials and
sent to one of the Southern
ports. That he (Savile)
immediately went to an
office for him and despatched
him to Abbott with a letter.
referring her to the information that she had given him and he seemed
as if he was going to Columbus.

Mr. Lincoln then stated
that he had never seen Mr. Grant before, it then occurred to him and he asked Mr. Grant of the
person who came to his headquarters and what he treated them with him.

Why says Grant to come
these and his story was so
straight forward and made such
an impression that I immediately
sent him to see Sherman once.

He joined Sherman at Dallas
and was with him on his march
through to Savannah and
I suppose that he is Sherman
Pilot on the maneuver of
Braxton and Coloma.

This being the case it is easy
to see how Sherman is able
to strike the right points at
very move and that he is
not acting around in the
same but anyone with little
knowledge of what he is about.
Political combinations are being rapidly made. Tesseran has turned up as a manifestor for the seat unknown for President in 1868. I have made an engagement with a person for this evening who has promised me the details of his operation to bring that about.

The ladies who are at the top ladder in Court circles say that Senator Harlan family of Iowa are making preparations to stay here this summer. That Harlan is to be the Secretary of the Interior. This stay may be brought about by Mrs. Lincoln who is delighted at the fact that Mrs. T. Lincoln is paying his addresses to Senator Harlan's daughter, and that Mrs. Lincoln is doing all she can to make a match. She is court gossip among the colonists.
and I give it for what it is worth.

Hamlin it is said goes into the navy department. And Mr. McDuffee as I am informed is appointed to try for Secretary of the Treasury. This upsetting all of the old second arrangements in that quarter.

Mr. Beale's and Judge Hughes of Indiana started for Richmond yesterday as peace commissioners. The latter is one of the Southern most conspicuous men. It is understood that they were sent to keep Blair quiet. J. P. Blair so insist that he can make peace in 48 hours and has been making preparations to come out with a council of war. Stewart charging him with treachery in the negotiation of and it is now stated that Stewart despatches the above gentlemen to Richmond to keep Blair quiet for a few
Blair say the United States government to protect the people of that country in a republican form of government with no military of connecting to the United States. Blair say is the only condition that the United States will ask. If this is done their enemies will be removed and the people permitted to take their own concern. Blair is preparing to show that it is not a change in our system to recognize Mexico without and it so completely the cards that he can be able...
to show to the public that
by recognising these wishes he
secures the direct oppo-
tion to Napoleon at the Jeff-
sen government and that by
carrying on he has incurred
the final overthrow of
its rebellion.
Mighty events are
now hanging on the slender
thread of intrigue here.

Respectfully yours,
Harrison Callan.