Diary
of
George A. Mercer
June 15, 1860 - December 17, 1865

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DIARY

of

GEORGE A. MERCER
June 15

This morning argued case of McGloin in Staley's Ct. then read a little & wrote until dinner. In afternoon read Greenleaf's Evidence, and examined titles to certain Lots. At night went to drill room.

The day has been pleasant: Thermometer at 2 P. M. 80°.

June 16


After dinner worked at deeds until near seven; walked until eight. We were instructed to draw Fifteen Deeds and trace the titles; we have in consequence been very busy. Tonight (Saturday) I have read a few chapters in Montesquieu & a portion of Measure for Measure: Shakspeare's power is finely exhibited in Isabella's entreaties to the stern Angelo to spare her Brother's life, and in her interview with Claudio.

The day has been very pleasant, the Thermometer less than 80° at 2 P. M.; 2 P. M. is the hottest portion of the day and our entry a very good place to test its range.

June 17

This has been a pleasant day: there was rain this morning after church. Thermometer at 2 - 78°. Walked at 6 P. M. round Lover's Lane, and on the A. & G. Road. I read Burke's speech on the Nabob of Arcots debts; nothing can surpass his splendid description of the desolation of the Carnatic by Hyder Ali, who hung upon the mountains like a great
black cloud which burst upon the plains. The English cruelties and abuses in India are drawn with a master's hand. This speech contains several of those filthy metaphors which sometimes mar Burke's productions. I now sit down to read some chapters in the Old Testament before going to sleep; it has just struck Eleven.

June 18

This morning drew Deed, examined titles and read in Kellys Ga. Reports; used Dumb bells, and have felt well and active. Dined with Mama. After dinner prepared papers in garnishment, and examined the law. Took tea with Aunt Lisa & then went to drill room. Day breezy & pleasant; Thermometer at 2 P. M. 84°. The northern papers are full — usque ad nauseam — of the reception of the Japanese in Philadephia & New York. The Democratic Convention wh. adjourned from Charleston is sitting at Baltimore. Bought today Campbell's Lives of the Lord Chancellors.

June 19

This morning drew deed, examined titles, read in Cobb's Analysis & Forms, and attended to office business. Studied tactics all afternoon. Tonight attended instruction meeting at Drill Room. Morning warm and steamy; thermometer 80° at 2 P. M.; heavy rain before dinner and this evening.

June 20th & 21st

Yesterday morning I was busily occupied in drawing five deeds, wh.
completed the batch from Germany to the Bank.

In the afternoon I read the Pickwick Papers - an unusual indulgence. At night attended drill. The day was quite warm. Today I was occupied most of the morning in a criminal examination in Staley's Court: I then read Law till dinner. In the afternoon read Kent's Commentaries. This afternoon at 4½ we had a heavy storm of wind & rain; the thermometer at 2 was 86°. at 6½ the Blues drilled in fatigue dress; notwithstanding the wet earth & still dripping skies. Fifty Two men were out. A painful swelling in the groin prevented me from joining my brother soldiers: it is the first parade I have missed.

I spent this evening over Boswell's Life of Johnson.

The Supreme Court has just closed its session in Savannah: owing to the presence of two new Judges, many decisions formerly made by the Court are altered or reversed; it exhibits in a painful light the evils of an elective judiciary: nothing is permanent or stable: this is itself an inconvenience; but the influence of this fickleness on the mind is the worst feature of the system: men should respect & revere the laws; but the mind is not constituted to reverence instability & uncertainty. -

The Covode Committee has made its report, and the House has passed a resolution censuring the President: the precedent is a bad one, & it is difficult to foretell the result of such inquisitorial committees: they are useful as far as they discover corruption: but unfortunately their whole object is to worry & scandalize political opponents: they are modern inventions for coining political capital. - The New York
papers are stuffed with the reception of the Japanese in New York; the Gothamites go mad over them as they have over Kossuth & other foreign celebrities.

June 22

Spent the whole morning reading law. After dinner studied question of Trustees, read a little Tactics, & at 5½ rode out to the Parade ground to see the prize drill of the Ogelthorpe Light Infantry. To night took tea with Aunt Liza & went to the drill room; my groin was too painful for me to drill.

Day very pleasant; thermometer at 2 P. M. 73°.

June 23

Spent the morning reading Kelly’s Georgia Reports, then the State Code; I endeavor to devote an hour on Wednesday & Saturday to the Code. After dinner read three chapters in Blackstone, and then devoted an hour to tactics. Tonight read Pickwick Papers; I am suffering a good deal of pain, with febrile symptoms, & needed an entertaining and mirth-provoking Book. The day has been cloudy & very chilly; thermometer at 2 P. M. 70°. This change was preceded by a violent hail storm on Thursday which did great damage to the crops and gardens East of the city; some of the hail stones pierced water melons to the core.

June 24

I have spent the whole day reading; I love on Sunday to become a literary vagrant and to vagabondize among my books; a record of my
course will show whether I have gratified this propensity. I spent nearly the whole morning reading Dr. Johnson's Tropical Climates. After dinner I read the Presbyterian, & a part of Hogg's Rapture of Kilmeny; I then read part of a Canto in Don Juan, next Alison's Essay on Napoleon: then looked over Rousseau's Confessions, and finished with the Pick Wick Papers. I took tea at Mama's: after tea read Paradise Lost. The day has been raw, rainy & chilly, with the thermometer 71° at 2 P. M. The tumor in my groin still causes me much pain; it prevents locomotion, and a violent headache has been the result of my inactivity. I have a weak stomach, which sedentary habits soon disorder.

June 25th & 26th

Yesterday I spent the morning reading Kelly's Ga. Reports. In afternoon read Greenleaf. Drove in buggy at six round Lover's Lane; the effects of the hail storm were painfully apparent. At night attended an enthusiastic Company meeting, & made a speech on the occasion.

The day was cool & pleasant. This morning I studied the subject of Bills of Exchange. This afternoon studied Battalion drill. To night attended instruction meeting. The day has been warm & humid; thermometer at 2 P. M. 80°. I have suffered much pain, & been annoyed by a distressing head-ache. The chief topic of interest is the disruption of the Democratic party at Baltimore; the Seceders from the Charleston Convention were denied admission; they accordingly retired, from the Convention which did not represent a single Southern State; the Convention
then nominated Douglas for Pres'dt & Senator Fitzpatrick for vice
Pres'dt. The seceders, representing twenty two states, then met in
Baltimore & nominated vice Pres'dt Breckinridge for Pres'dt & Senator
Lane of Oregon (native of North Ca.) for vice Pres'dt. Those of the
secessors who were not authorized to go to Baltimore (including South
Caro. & Florida) met at Richmond & ratified the action of the seceders
in Baltimore.

June 27

This morning read late decisions of the Supreme Court of Georgia;
but suffered so much with head-ache & pain c'd not read to advantage.
After dinner went to the office but c'd do nothing. Tonight sent for
Dr. King; he gives me the pleasing intelligence that I have delayed so
long the tumor in my groin may suppurate; but by an heroic course of
practice, and at once sapping & mining it with leeches, he holds out
encouragement of a capitulation. I begin now to realize that an ounce
of prevention is worth a pound of cure: how seldom we act with suf­
ficient promptness in the great & little exigences of life. The day
has been prostrating, with a warm, humid atmosphere: the thermometer
at 2 P. M. stood 85°.

June 28th & 29th

Yesterday the Dr. condemned me to my room: in the morning four
Leeches were applied to my groin. I read some, but felt weak and badly.
In the afternoon Peter drove me in the buggy to see the prize drill of
the Guards & the Thursday afternoon drill of the Blues. The day was
very hot with the thermometer at 90° at 2 P.M. I went to bed with a hot fever. Today I have been confined to the house and suffering much pain. Weather very hot: thermometer 90° at 2 P.M; skies cloudy, skin clammy, & heavy rain at 2½. I have found reading a great consolation: though I am obliged to confine myself to light, fragmentary pieces. I suffer with intense throbbing head-aches, and my inaction makes all the mental & corporeal functions feeble.

August 16

My health continued bad until the 15th of July, when my groin was opened with the lancet and a change for the better occurred. My journal for the interim would be a dull record of aches and pains. The weather was intensely hot, as the following record of the range of the thermometer will show: there was a wilting effect in the atmosphere that exceeded the discomfort of the sun's rays. The old inhabitants declared they never remembered such a spell of protracted heat: in Kansas and other parts of the West the heat and drought were almost insupportable. I became very feeble and lost all appetite; my only resource was reading: I read Irving's Life of Washington, portions of Lossing's Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution, and Tytler's Universal History, besides fragmentary pieces.

On the 30th the thermometer stood 90° at 2 P.M. 90° on July 1st, 92° on the 2nd (88 at 10 A.M.) 91° at 4 P.M. on the 3rd, 87° at 10½ and 94° at 6 P.M. on the 4th, the 4th of July was particularly hot and oppressive. The Blues paraded some 50 men at 6 P.M. and seven
men had to leave the ranks fainting and exhausted. On the 5th the thermometer was 87° at 9 A. M. 90° at 11, 93° at 2 P. M. & 94° at 3�; there was a very violent storm of wind rain and hail at 4; many trees were blown down. On the 6th the thermometer stood 87° at 2 P. M. 76° at 5�; on the 7th 84° at 2; there was a violent storm of wind, rain & hail in the afternoon. On the 8th the thermometer stood 84° at 2, 86° on 9th, 90° on 10th, the day steamy and intensely oppressive; 92° on 11th; in Columbia, S. C. it reached 105°, 102° at 5 P. M. On the 12th the thermometer was 90° at 2; rain at night; the 13th was cool, 75° during day; 78° on 14th at 2; on 15th 79°; on 16th 83°; on 17th 86°.

On Monday the 16th I was well enough to witness the prise drill of the Blues in Monument Square: Lance Corporal McNish took the first prise; Corporal Anderson the 2nd. At 6 P. M. on Tuesday the 17th I left Savannah in the steamship Florida, Capt. Crowell, to accompany the Blues on their visit to New York. We had a smooth delightful voyage crowded with incidents of fun and frolic. The sea air soon braced me up. We reached New York about 3 P. M. Friday; the reception of the Blues by the City Guard was most gratifying; their treatment during our visit was marked by the most profuse hospitality and kindness; full accounts of the visit and its various incidents were published in the papers, extracts from which I saved for my scrap book. The Blues returned to Savannah on Wednesday 25th at 5 P. M. I saw them off and then returned to the La Farge. I improved very rapidly during my visit; notwithstanding very late hours, rich food and plenty of champagne, the attendant excitement and pleasant company did me great good, and
by the time the company left I was a new man. On Thursday 26 at 7 A. M. I went to West Point in the Daniel Drew, the fastest boat on the river. I was accompanied by Corp'l Davis and Mr. Schoenmaker; we stopped at Cozzen's excellent hotel; here we saw the famous Chicago Zouaves drill on the lawn in front of the house: some thirty men drilled: their manual was perfection: they moved with the regularity of clockwork. Their skirmishing drill and bayonet exercise were very attractive. They drill however in a very ostentatious manner, and many of their movements appeared theatrical and unmilitary. They were diminutive and unprepossessing in appearance but athletic, active and vigorous. Their regularity would be of little service in action. They however deserve great credit for what they have accomplished, and their visit has aroused a widely diffused military spirit and emulation. I also saw the 2nd company of the 7th Reg't - who escorted the Zouaves - drill: they were not far behind their distinguished guests.

At 9½ Friday I left for Saratoga, where I arrived at 2 P. M. Mr. R. F. Jones and myself got a good double room at the Union; we found it an excellent house. The weather was so cool that Winter clothes were necessary and fires grateful. Many southern people were in this delightful watering place: among others Mr. and Mrs. Tefft and the Hardees of Savannah. I found pleasant companions in Messrs. Moore and Bones of Augusta. We passed the day talking, walking and reading, the New York papers (which came by the lightning express train and reached Saratoga at 9½ A. M.) going to the Spring, playing billiards, eating, drinking milk punches and champagne cock-tails, and at night
watching the dancers at the Union and Congress Hall. Among the nota-
bilities present were Bayard Taylor, Saxe the poet, Rev. D. Flummer, 
the great Presbyterian Divine, Mayor Wood, Mrs. Bennett &c. There was 
not much beauty: two of the most attractive young ladies were Miss 
Foote and Miss Barker, both of Saratoga. I shall never forget the 
loveliness of the latter at the Congress Hall ball.

I improved rapidly at Saratoga. On Monday Aug. 6th I formed one 
of a party of ten to visit lake George: Mr. N. A. Hardee, his son and 
I were the only gentlemen: there were seven ladies. We left at 9½ on 
the cars for White Hall famous for its boats. Here we embarked on lake 
Champlain, a narrow sheet of water until you pass Ticonderoga. We 
dined at Ticonderoga, where some ruins of the old fort stand. We then 
rode in a large open wagon four miles to the upper end of Lake George. 
The weather was lovely though warm, and the ladies enjoyed the ride 
exceedingly. We then took the boat and passed down the entire lake, 
three sixty miles. It is a lovely sheet of water: I have seen none 
more beautiful except Lake Lucerne. Here Cooper laid the scenes of 
the Last of the Mohicans. We reached the Fort William Henry Hotel 
about sundown; it is a fine large house commanding a splendid view of 
the lake. At night we danced. Tuesday morning, after a fine breakfast 
on venison, we rolled ten pins, rowed on the lake &c: the day was op-
pressively warm. About 2 P. M. we got into the stage and had a merry 
ride of fourteen miles to Moreau: on the way we passed Glens Falls. 
At Moreau we took the cars and reached Saratoga in time for supper 
after a most delightful trip. The Union was so crowded I was forced
to be content with a room outside. On Friday 10th I left Saratoga at 11½ and reached N. York at 3 P. M. I bade farewell to Saratoga with deep regret, but I felt strong and well, and many considerations urged me home. Mr. Bones and myself took a room at the St. Nicholas. At night we went to Wallach's Theater and saw the Florences. On Saturday morning I purchased a ticket for Savannah on the steamship Alabama, Cap. Schenk. We sailed at 4 P. M. in company with the Huntsville, and the Marion bound for Charleston. We had quite a pleasant voyage; I was a little sick on Monday. I amused myself reading Slave Life in Europe by Hacklander, a most fascinating and instructive little work.

We reached Savannah at 7 P. M. on Tuesday 14th. We met the Florida, bound for N. York, just below the wrecks. Wednesday I went to the office. The weather was cool and cloudy. At night went to drill room. Today the weather has been delicious; this morning I read the Georgia Reports, this afternoon Kent's Commentaries & wrote to Mama.

Tonight I went to the drill room, where we organized a squad to learn the bayonet exercise. It will take some days for me to settle down into the quiet routine of office life, but by that time I trust the impression left by the gay scenes of Saratoga and New York will give place to one less fascinating but more wholesome.

August 17

This morning I gained a little case in Staley's Ct. At one my Father and sisters bade me goodbye; they went to the Warm Springs in Meriwether County. I am again alone; the transition from the gayety
of Saratoga & N. York to solitary proprietorship is rather gloomy.

This afternoon I read Curtis' Treatise on Merchant Seamen. The day has been delicious.

The topics of interest are the massacres of Christians in Syria by the Mohammedans, the incendiary fires in Texas and apprehensions of servile insurrection, and the war in Sicily. Garibaldi with the Sicilians and Italian volunteers has taken the town of Melazzo from the Neapolitan troops after a desperate fight; it is remarkable that notwithstanding the improvement in projectiles and the recent inventions of long range guns, the battle of Melazzo, like Palestro and other engagements in the recent Italian campaign of Napoleon III, was decided by the bayonet; this seems to be the great weapon of modern times.

August 18

Walked to the market, then breakfasted at Pulaski. Drew writ in Certiorari, posted for week, and read Curtis' Treatise on Merchant Seamen. After dinner read Blackstone; drove on shell road. At night went to Uncle John's. The day has been delightful, thermometer 82° at 3 P. M.

August 19, 20, 21

On Sunday read; dined with Uncle Ned; walked in park. On 19th thermometer stood 83° at 2. on 20th read Curtis' Treatise on Seamen, Greenleaf, and Kelly's Ga. Reports. Thermometer 86°. Today wrote letters, examined City Ordinances, & wrote Historical Abstract. To night went to drill room and commenced bayonet exercise. Thermometer 82° at 2. Rain at noon, delightful breeze after dinner.
August 22nd, 23d

On 22nd thermometer stood at 81° at 2; spent most of the morning in writing an abstract of the history of the American Revolution. The report of the board of health for the preceding week showed twenty deaths, eleven whites, nine blacks; five cases of fever, two typhoid; one colored person 80 years of age.

This morning wrote letters and studied a law case. Day warm; thermometer 83° at 2. At 3½ drove to Berwick; had a hot walk through the rice fields and was soon drenched with perspiration. Saw some summer ducks; rice ripening fast; much has already been cut in Carolina. Returned about nine & took tea with Uncle Ned. The park and squares look very pretty; the Bermuda grass makes a handsome sward; it is now planted on rail road embankments and dams to exclude water, since it produces a dense, compact sod; both it and the coarse crab grass make excellent hay. The walks in the park are somewhat overrun with the ineradicable nut grass. It is remarkable that the trees which have succeeded best are the elm and maple, both of which flourish in a high, cold region.

The plan for a negro conspiracy in Texas appears to have been well organized & extensive; much property has been destroyed by incendiaries; some white men and negroes have been hung; the Prince of Wales is making a tour through Canada; his loyal subjects have made it a perfect ovation. As an illustration of the times it is to be noted that Heenan is also making a triumphal tour, and the telegraph as regularly chronicles his movements as those of the Prince.
August 21st, 25th

Yesterday I was engaged in transacting office business. At 5 I dined with Uncle Med. At night went to the drill room and practised preliminary motions of bayonet exercise. The day was intensely hot & oppressive: our thermometer stood 87° at 2 1/2; at Brantley's 94°.

This morning I studied the rights & liabilities of the mortgagee of a vessel, & prepared a historical abstract which I continued after dinner. Tonight read Montesquieu & Measure for Measure. Day very warm; thermometer 85° at 2.

The papers give the proceedings of the first Convention at the South to encourage the growth of the grape & the production of native wine. It met at Aiken, S. C. & was largely attended: many specimens of grapes were exhibited. Senator Hammond was President. It adjourned to meet at Aiken in August 1861. The Cotton Planters Convention is to meet in October at Holly Springs, Miss. These Conventions are of great service in promoting a spirit of emulation among planters, and in summing up the results of individual effort: the South is advancing rapidly in agricultural skill and knowledge. We have a Georgia State Fair, besides various local associations. Many experiments are being made: Dr. Parsons, near Savannah, has demonstrated that pears come to great perfection on our sea board, the Bartlett & Duc D'angouleme have succeeded admirably: apples grow very well & native grapes: blue plums have thus far failed. Mr. Clinch has begun to raise hay across the river: the native grasses produce in abundance, and he is confident of great success with foreign varieties.
26th, 27th, 28th

Sunday read Bayard Taylor's Travels in India, China & Japan. At 6 P. M. walked on Gulf Road. Day very warm. Monday engaged in office business. At 5 P. M. prosecuted before Squire Staley a free man of color on charge with intent to kill Isaac a slave: case terminated about eight: jury found the defendant guilty of assault & battery.

This morning examined several questions of law. This afternoon read Kent's Commentaries. To night drilled for nearly three hours.

Rain at 5 P. M. Thermometer 88° at 2.

29th & 30th

At 10 A. M. Wednesday prosecuted William a slave for larceny: jury found him guilty. Prepared writ and garnishment papers. Drilled at night. Day cloudy, damp and rainy. To day arranged office papers and studied nature of indictments & criminal practice. Rain all day: temperature rather chilly. Board of health report only eleven deaths for last week; two of them casualties & several infant children. One case of bilious and one of typhoid fever: one person seventy years of age.

August 31st, September 1st & 2nd

On Friday 31st spent most of the day studying the nature and elements of indictments. Thermometer 80° at 2.

Saturday was engaged in posting books and attending to office business. After dinner wrote to Mary. At night drilled for two hours. Day pleasant. Thermometer 86° at 2. To day, Sunday, has been very
pleasant, thermometer 86° at 2. I sat in the arm chair in the parlor all morning, and fanned by the pleasant South East breeze, read Bayard Taylor's Travels in India, China & Japan. I felt peculiarly elastic and happy, and the morning passed delightfully. This is a very pleasant book of travels, particularly at this period when we are striving so assiduously to cultivate friendly and commercial relations with the East. It gives a most interesting account of the mighty and majestic ruins that exhibit the ancient wealth and splendor of India: Agra, the city of the great Akbar, Lucknow, Delhi, and other places rendered memorable by the recent rebellion, are painted with great power and in the most attractive hues.

The writer then sailed to China; and Shanghai, the British settlement on the Island of Hong Kong, the old Portugese settlement at Macao containing the grotto of Camoens, and Canton, are briefly pictured. The Author went on the Susquehanna with Perry's first expedition to Japan, and gives an interesting account of the little he saw. The Soc Choo Islands - so falsely described by Capt. Basil Hall as an Eden of primitive simplicity & virtue - the Bonin Islands, and the lovely Island of Penang west of Ma lacca, were all visited by the author, and their beautiful tropical verdure and luxuriant growth painted in brilliant colors. Melville's Omoo & Typee, and Dr. Johnson's Tropical Climates can be read with instruction in this connexion. Mr. Taylor has great descriptive powers: I have procured his works & now proceed with his Travels in Africa.
September 7th

On Monday 3rd I studied evidence, & particularly the requisites of Interrogatories all morning. After dinner examined the subject of affidavits of illegality. The thermometer stood 84° at 2

Tuesday 4th read about partners, and the portions of Wharton's Criminal Law on Duplicity of Indictments, Repugnancy, Joinder of offences and offenders. After dinner read Kent and supervised preparation of two affidavits in Staley's Ct. The thermometer stood 80° at 2: the wind was north East and the day cloudy & rather chilly; rain at 3½; then it cleared off beautifully.

On Wednesday 5th at 9¼ attended a possessory warrant case in Staley's Ct; the matter was compromised favorably to my client. Looked into several legal matters. Was consulted by Mr. Wilson, the District Attorney, as to whether I w'd like to hold his office, he contemplating a resignation. I did not particularly desire to take it for an unexpired term, & w'd not act without consulting my partner, who is absent. The offer, however, was gratifying to my pride. I begin already to be repaid for the little industry I can boast; last winter I was offered the 2nd lieutenancy of the Chatham Artillery, wh. I felt to be a distinguished mark of consideration. I was too good a Blue to accept, & the office was conferred upon Mr. Hartridge, already distinguished as a lawyer and politician.

Wednesday night went to a Democratic meeting. The day was cloudy with north east wind & heavy rain in morning; cleared off into a lovely afternoon. On Thursday 6th I attended the possessory warrant case
above mentioned (not on Wednesday) At 3 I dined with Cousin Willy. Day clear and pleasant, thermometer 82° at 2.

Today, Friday 7th, I studied the nature & powers of special Courts in Savannah. After dinner read a Codification of laws relating to the city & an article on Gen Jackson in DeBow's Review. Tonight went to drill room. The day has been pleasant: thermometer 81° at 2; the wind continues north east; this is usually considered an unhealthy wind & may bring sickness to our city: the last report of the Board of Health published Wednesday 5th was unusually gratifying: there were only ten interments, but three those of adults: there was but one case of fever: one man 80 years of age.

A pretty widely extended spirit of insubordination has been recently detected among our slaves; It is traceable in every instance to the wicked efforts of white abolitionists. In Texas some $3000000 worth of property has been destroyed by insurrectionary fires: the flourishing little town of Henderson has been burned. In Dalton, Ga. and in Selma & Talledega, Ala. the germs of a pretty extensive plot have been discovered.

William Walker, the indefatigable filibuster is again in Central America in possession of Truxhills.

September 9th

On Saturday 8th read Mr. Douglas' campaign speech at Petersburg, Va. and Benjamin's speech in the Senate showing up Douglas' principles, his equivocation and sophistry. At 1 P. M. left the office, and after
a hasty dinner, drove out to Berwick with little Eddy. We got into
the rice fields by four: the sun was very hot, but a pleasant breeze
came in from the Sea, and we managed to secure sufficient shade behind
the little trees on the dam to render our position comfortable.

About 5½ a few Summer ducks began to fly from the Habersham back
water; most of them passed through the woods on our left. I got a
couple and killed one the boys could not find. Much of the rice was
cut & everything began to foretell of winter: there was a wonderful
clearness in the atmosphere that made objects stand out in bold relief.

We reached town about 9 & took tea at Uncle Ned's. Thermometer
stood 83° at 2.

On Sunday 9th I looked over some old note and scrap books & dreamed
of "old times" - read a tale in the Arabian Nights & several articles
in DeBow's Review. Dined and took tea with Cousin Geo. Nicoll.

Day very warm: thermometer 88° at 2.

10th, 11th, & 12th

Spent Monday morning in preparing a double set of attachment papers
& in reading law on subject. Dined with Uncle Ned. After dinner had
a long and profitless consultation with a tedious client of the
Israelitish persuasion. Walked and at night read. Very heavy rain in
morning: thermometer 75° at 2.

Tuesday spent morning in a thorough investigation of the law of
Lien. At 5 dined with Tom Floyd. At night heard an able Breckenridge &
Lane speech from Senator Iverson. Day pleasant: thermometer 78° at 2.

Today was engaged in office business, copying papers & examining
and forwarding corrected suspended pension vouchers to Washington.

After dinner studied law of Warranty. Took long walk, went to
drill room, & then came home & read Article in DeBow's Review & Brougham's splendid defence of Williams against the prosecution of the Durham clergy for libel. Day pleasant, thermometer 80° at 2. Board of Health report 18 deaths for week. In Charleston two deaths from yellow fever have produced quite a panic, & the merchants who imported largely will have their deserving efforts to secure direct trade with Europe impaired.

September 13

This morning went to the office intending to accomplish a good deal; met with many interruptions. Read a very full and interesting case on the rights of Attorneys & particularly that of lien. This afternoon at four buried poor Haywood. To night defended a client before City Council. This morning it was very chilly, thermometer 68° at 7; 73° at 2. Day clear & beautiful with wind from North East.

The Prince of Wales now travelling in Canada, has been much annoyed by the religious bigotry & jealousy of the Orangemen & Catholics: notwithstanding the request of the Duke of New Castle (the Prince's Mentor) that all sectarian exhibitions would be laid aside, the Orangemen have continually thrust their peculiar banners & devices upon the notice of the Prince, to his own embarrassment and the production of bitter feeling among his Roman Catholic subjects.

September 14th, & 15th

Spent Friday morning in preparing complete set of certiorari papers: read Sabbath ordinance for city. After dinner read Virginia
Resolutions of 98 & speech of John Taylor of Caroline in their support & that of Geo. Keith Taylor against them. Walked. At night went to drill room & then to Cousin Willy's to drink champagne. Day pleasant; wind north east, thermometer 78° at 2.


Walked. To night read Montesquieu and two acts of Much ado about nothing. Day rather warm; thermometer 80° at 2. The triangular duel between the three political parties south becomes more interesting: Breckenridge has delivered one speech, Lane has spoken. Douglas has stumped New England, Virginia and Pennsylvania: Johnson has spoken in Georgia. For the first time candidates for the presidency go stumping. Seward is traveling westward & is everywhere recieved with enthusiasm: the Wide Awakes escort him through every town. Young ladies (?) also take part in the political demonstrations: cavalcades of mounted Amazons & waggon loads of crinoline, canopied with appropriate banners, follow the crowds of the sterner sex that surge around the Senator from New York.

September 16th, 17th

Sunday. I looked over my note books, read poetry, & Blodgett's Climatology. In afternoon took a long walk. Thermometer 82° at 2; day made pleasant by a delightful breeze. Today read Georgia Reports.
After dinner read Virginia Report & wrote to Ned Buck.

Thermometer 82° at 2; day cloudy and oppressive, with a humid atmosphere. Although the range of the thermometer was today what it was yesterday, there has been no comparison in the physical comfort; yesterday the atmosphere was dry & elastic, & one felt invigorated; today it has been saturated with humidity & enervation & depression have resulted. The thermometer is not a true test of climate; I have suffered much more in Savannah with the mercury at 80° than I have with it at 90°. In Saratoga & Lake George this summer I suffered more bodily discomfort with the thermometer at 82° than I usually do in Savannah when it reaches 95° & 96°. The heat of Savannah is tempered by an almost constant sea breeze: at the north there is a stagnation of atmosphere that is extremely unpleasant and trying. The great feature of the climates of Italy & Southern Europe is the equable temperature & the dry atmosphere. In Rome the highest range of the thermometer in Summer corresponds with that of Savannah.

Mr. Douglas' adherents appear to be falling off at the South: he made a great speech at Petersburg, but the burden of all his song is his own consistency: he says his territorial policy is what it always was, & identical with that of Mr. Buchanan & Mr. Breckenridge in 1856. But herein consists Mr. Douglas' error: the Supreme Court has denied that a Territory has that inherent sovereignty which Mr. Douglas claims for it; Mr. Douglas refuses to acknowledge the decision of the Court by the shallow subterfuge of holding that that point was not before the Court. In former years he agreed with what the Court has decided,
and his action upon the Lecompton Constitution, where a matter of
local fraud was decided by Congress, looked like self-stultification.
In Pennsylvania he told the people their State needed the fostering
hand of government, & that the Gov't had not extended proper protection
to them: this was cool for one of the most earnest & persistent oppo-
ponents the tariff ever had. But the crowning sin of Mr. Douglas was
his assertion in Norfolk, Va. that should the southern states attempt
to secede because of Mr. Lincoln's election, it w'd be the duty of
the latter as President to use the army, navy and militia in forcing
them back & that every loyal citizen should assist him: he declared
at the barbecue in New York that he would unite with no party that
would not preserve the union in every contingency. This is ignoring
the construction of the Constitution its great architect put upon it
in the Virginia Resolutions of 98, & the interpretation of its
character by the Federalist & its contemporaries. It strikes at the
root of all true democratic doctrine & is the first step towards con-
solidation and monarchy. It is a doctrine every southern man should
repudiate. Mr. Johnson, Mr. Douglas' Candidate for the Vice Presidency,
occupies a self-stultifying & demeaning position: during the Union &
state-rights-struggle in Ga. in 1850, 51, he held secession a funda-
mental and most essential right.

September 18th, 19th

Tuesday read Lossing's Pictorial Field Book nearly all day. At
night went to drill room & stopped at Masonic Hall to hear portion of

This morning studied questions of partnership & duties of Administration. After dinner read Blackstone and a speech recently delivered by Mr. Breckenridge. Day clear and pleasant breeze after dinner; thermometer 81° at 2. Board of health reported fifteen interments for week: 7 cases of fever.

**September 20th & 21st**

Thursday attended to office business, read reports, and a fine essay upon Democracy read before the Alumni of the University of Virginia. The day was cloudy, damp and very oppressive; at 2 the thermometer was 88° at Brantly's. Our thermometer stood 8l at 7 P. M. This morning there was a great change in the weather; the thermometer stood 68 1/2° at 8 A. M. & 73° at 2 P. M. The wind was from the north west, the sky clear and the atmosphere dry and exhilarating. I felt completely intoxicated by the pure fresh air. I possess much of what the sensitive, nervous Alfiere calls "materiality," & sympathize with all the seasons & changes. Yesterday I was weak and languid, today strong & active; my mind shared the new vitality of my body; I felt more amiable, more generous, more hopeful, more holy.

This morning read law; after dinner read Virginia Report of 1798-9. Tonight listened to a Breckenridge speech from Hon. Robert Toombs: I was disappointed - it was a mere burst of declamation mingled with abuse. I have often observed of late the peculiar effect of weather
and season upon my taste in reading. In Summer imagination runs riot over the field, & I enjoy novels and books of travel exceedingly; in Winter, when the landscape is dead & windows closed I enjoy chiefly works of a speculative character, books on law, government &c. Buffon is said to have aided his studies by pursuing them in a cold, bare, cheerless room; it was to induce a fondness for speculative inquiries probably that Plato condemned his disciples to five years of silence, and the Priests of Egypt naturally buried their minds in abstruse speculations amid the cloistered habits and sepultured solitude of their lives.

September 22nd - 25th

Saturday the thermometer was 74° at 2; Sunday 78°; Monday 80°; today 84°; the weather has been clear and beautiful. There is now a good deal of "broken bone" fever in the city, owing perhaps, to the sudden change of temperature & the prevalence of north easterly winds. Charleston has also been visited by the disease; it is very painful though not dangerous.

Garibaldi has landed in Naples without opposition. Walker and Rudler were taken by a British vessel, given up to the Honduras authorities, & reported shot; thus this filibuster scheme has ended as disastrously as that of Lopez & Crittenden, & that of Crabbe in Sonora.

Seward is still making speeches in the north west, on his way to Kansas "the Saratoga of freedom," as he is pleased to call it; he disseminates the most agrarian, radical and dangerous doctrines among
the people: he says this Gov't has been a failure; he is in favor of abolishing the army & navy, and reconstructing the Supreme Court; the refusal of the Republican party to vote the supplies, on the ground that the army would be used to "crush freedom" in Kansas, shows the former is no idle threat. He sees in the future the absorption of British and Russian America by the United States, and the establishment of a free negro republic in Central America. He says the contest in our country is between the privileged few (i.e. slaveholders) & the unprivileged many, between Aristocracy & Democracy, and that it is only a phase of what the emigrant experienced before he left Europe. These are dangerous opinions to give to the people.

September 26th - 30th

Wednesday, thermometer stood 90° at 2: Board of Health reported 20 interments for week; 4 cases of fever; one of the deceased 70 years of age. Thursday the thermometer stood 86° at 2; Friday 85° Saturday 78°; today 80°. The wind has blown hard from north east & there was heavy rain tonight: it was much wanted as the streets were terribly dusty. Have read nearly all day.

October 1st, 2nd & 3rd

Monday the thermometer stood 79° at 2, Tuesday 80°, today 78½°; the weather has been cloudy, drizzly and warm, with wind from north east. The Board of health report today seventeen interments for the week; seven cases of fever.

Yesterday I was engaged in office business; today I drew U. States
Ct. writes.

Young Bomba the Bourbon, Francis 2nd of Naples, has fled from his kingdom and taken refuge on board a Spanish frigate: Garibaldi entered Naples without opposition and was received with great rejoicings. He will next advance on Rome; the Sardinian troops are advancing on the imperial city, and great events are in ambush. It is reported that the Sardinians have defeated the Papal troops, under Lamonciere, at Spoletta. Fuad Pasha the Turk is executing summary vengeance on the Druses & fomenters of the late massacres of christians in Syria. While Europe is thus disturbed, The future looks gloomy in our own land: a sectional candidate will probably be elected to preside over our country, and revolution is familiarly spoken of: political parties north and south are assuming an ominous military character. I read whenever I enjoy the opportunity: have just finished a reperusal of Headley’s Second war with England.

October 4, 5, 6

On Thursday 4th the thermometer stood 80° at 2: the early part of day cloudy & very oppressive: on Friday 78° at 2: day damp and rainy: today 80° at 2: day has been clear and pleasant. I have spent this evening reading Montesquieu & Shakspere. I have recently read Calhoun’s speeches and Harden’s life of Gov. Troup at night, and have been studying the question of Executors & Administrators during the day. Mr. Seward has just made a speech in Chicago, on his return homeward from his western tour: he denounces slaveholders because they deprive men of their rights, and almost in the same breath declares the new
territories must be open to immigration, and that Indian Territory "must be vacated by the Indians." Oh! Consistency &c. Life, Liberty and Property are called the absolute rights of man: the merciful New York Senator has no tears to shed over property forcibly taken from the poor Indians. I believe much of the despicable portion of northern character results from their immersion in trade; trade is a necessity of the age, and I used to hope it was not so degrading as the Ancients supposed; but my own observation, directed and enlarged by an admirable article in the Westminster Review on the morality of trade has driven me to the conviction that it is a serious foe to the virtues: I feel almost rejoiced that its meaner and more sordid branches are confined with us chiefly to Northern men and Foreign Jews; and although our citizens may be poor in pecuniary resources by this arrangement, they are exempt from a mercantile morality, and have souls that cannot be narrowed down to the area of a penny. I was led to these reflections by the remark of the Jewish Rabbi in Savannah, that a friend of his was about to see about selling out his business, as he found it necessary to cheat and defraud in order to succeed. The German Jews in our midst are a pregnant example of the influence of trade: they are peaceable, quiet and generally in comfortable circumstances; but terribly close, sordid and avaricious - debased in person and character, without one of those generous, noble and magnanimous traits which the Southern nature naturally admires. Their character is best evinced by the fact (which has come to my practical knowledge) that in their difficulties they are afraid to confide in or trust each other.
October 7th - 10th

On Sunday 7th the thermometer stood 80° at 2; on Monday 86° at 2 (by Brantley's thermometer) the day being very hot. Monday night there was a sudden change and on Tuesday it stood 72° at 2; today 75° at 2. The Board of Health report today 23 interments for the week, eight cases of fever. On Monday the municipal election took place; the contest was between a Breckenridge and fusion ticket; the result was the election of the fusion Mayor and six Aldermen on the fusion ticket, six Aldermen on the Breckenridge ticket, the whole constituting a very respectable and excellent board. I was assured my name was suggested for nomination on the Breckenridge ticket, but was withdrawn on the statements of friends who knew my aversion to an active participation in politics. Every one naturally desires to occupy the public eye and to serve his fellow citizens; but politics, as at present conducted, demand too great a sacrifice of independence and self respect to possess many charms for a man of modesty, candor and high toned character. I have studiously avoided them so far, and trust my present feelings upon the subject may continue; I shrink instinctively from a path that leads one through scenes of bitterness, aspersion, servility, corruption and pollution. Better to covet the society of my books, to enlarge my views and prepare myself for usefulness when perhaps, in some better and more virtuous period politics may seek me and not I them. Our rulers in Savannah have usually been men of high character and intelligence; but even here the degradation of modern politics is felt; bribery is common throughout our land; on Monday votes were
openly bought and sold, and as a singular commentary upon our laws, the Judge's office (he being absent) was used as a place for the illegal bargain and sale. The present system of Caucuses and Committees, and the recognized obligation to vote for the nominees of the party, results in collusion and corruption and defeats the wishes of the honest voter; no wonder Mr. Calhoun - that pure and wise man - condemned the whole caucus system; far better to return to the upright old method of permitting every man to run upon his own merits, and having if necessary - as in Edgefield District lately - thirty five Richmonds in the field. Under the present system too, those offices which come home, in their practical applications, to the "business and bosoms" of all men, are merely the rewards of service, regardless of the character and efficiency of the incumbent; this is the case with our present City Sheriff, his habits and carelessness render him wholly unfit for a position which was given to him in reward for his services "to the party." I fear, with my notions, which are rooted and ingrained, I would never be a successful political adventurer at the present day: I am dead against intrigue and corruption of all kinds, and all the tricks and mutualities of party; dead against an elective judiciary, short terms and penurious salaries; and to condemn myself at once I am no believer in universal suffrage; I feel convinced that until human nature changes, property and respectability need some protection.

October 11th, 12th, 13th

On Thursday 11th the thermometer stood 80° at 2; on Friday 76°.
today 67°, with a damp, chilly atmosphere.

Yesterday the Blues buried Dr. S. A. T. Lawrence, an old and very valuable member of our corps.

I read tonight a little of Montesquieu and Shakspeare, and Carlyle's splendid essay on "The present time" -

The most important news is that Ancona has been captured by the Sardinians and Gen. Lamoriciere, the commander of the Papal troops, made prisoner; Garibaldi has a serious misunderstanding with Cavour, and the red-republican and conservative elements are beginning their opposition. Louisiana has been visited by a terrible hurricane, as severe as that which some years since, swept the inhabitants from Last Island.

Particulars are given of Walker's death: he was surrendered by Capt. Salmon, of the British vessel Icarus, to the Honduras authorities & by them shot; he died with perfect calmness and courage. Col. Rudler has been imprisoned. The Free Negroes at Panama have indulged in riotous behaviour & menaced the town; plunder seemed their object. Recently free negroes rose in mutiny on a guano island; every mail from the south tells us of revolution and anarchy in the miserable half-breed, free negro republics of Central and South America, and yet this is the delightful condition to which Seward and Co. would consign the Southern States. Strange political proceedings have occurred in Oregon: the Lincoln and Douglas men in the Legislature united to elect a Senator; the Breckenridge men, determined to defeat the corrupt coalition, took to the woods and thus prevented a legal quorum.
October 14th, 15th

Sunday was a clear cold day; thermometer 60° at 2; today the weather has been lovely; thermometer 50° at 8 A. M. 58° at 2 P. M. There was quite a heavy frost in the country, though none was seen in the city proper.

The Prince of Wales has had a splendid reception in New York, 7000 volunteers were out. An Infidel Convention has just completed its session in the same city; it gave utterance to the most atrocious doctrines, and in its resolutions and sentiments declared war against slavery, property, government and religion; it asserted that no man who believed in God was free, nor was the United States so long as it contained a single slave. Sumner and John Brown were lauded as martyrs, Henry Ward Beecher was asserted to be superior in many respects to our Saviour. It is true the members of these Conventions are as yet contemptible in character and numbers, but we must recollect it is only a few years since the first Abolitionists were pelted down with rotten eggs. They demonstrate that Abolitionism must lead directly to Infidelity, no man can be an abolitionist, inflamed with Seward's "sacred animosity" until he first ignores the distinction of meum and tuum, and the truths and rules of the Bible; having done that he is capable of sinking into any depths of depravity. If these northern isms could be concentrated into a small space (as in Paris before the French Revolution) society would at once experience their fatal results. Judge Pierrepont of New York City has just written a powerful letter, which is another pregnant sign of the times; he was elected Judge of the Superior Courts,
but declines on the grounds that there is no proper place to hold Court; he says that the Court has long sat in a miserable loft over a Fireman's Hall & animadverts harshly upon the fact that while New York spends thousands to entertain the Japanese and Prince of Wales, Justice cannot even procure a habitation; he denounces it as a system that is "making harlots of our women and rogues of our men."

It is remarkable how the selfishness of human nature is manifested in all our traits, tastes and affections. In the Spring of the year the first warm weather exercises a most unpleasant effect upon my digestion and nerves: I am then "servile to all the skiey influences.!! At this period nothing influences me more than the nature and effects of climate; I consult the thermometer with diligent regularity, and read with avidity all books upon the subject: but when nature has recovered her equilibrium, the question loses its charms; its egotism has departed and with its egotism its interest; may not this feature of human nature enter very extensively into the philosophy of biography?

October 16th - 19th

On the 15th, 16th, & 17th there was quite a heavy frost in the vicinity of Savannah, and some in the city: indeed the paper stated a little ice was found. It occurred at an opportune period, as the broken bone fever was becoming abundant and severe. The Board of Health reported 23 interments for the week ending the 17th: last year about the same date the number was the largest of the season. Last night we had very heavy rain: today has been pleasant. For the last two or three days I have been reading the Reports. The troops of Garibaldi
have met a severe reverse at Capua. Mr. Yancey has recently spoken in New York, Boston & Albany; he makes a profound impression and extorts the highest ecomiums wherever he goes. The ball given to the Prince of Wales in New York seems to have been somewhat of a failure: the visitors pressed in crowds around the set where he was dancing so as to obstruct the way; ladies were foremost in the crush. In Albany females headed the dense masses that surrounded his carriage in the street.

October 20th - 27th

Since the 15th the weather has been delightful: clear and balmy, & though rather warm at midday, cool in the morning, evening & at night. Father & the two children arrived yesterday from Meriwether.

The broken bone fever has been very prevalent: twenty three interments for the week were reported Wednesday 24th. On Thursday evening I had to undergo the unpleasant ordeal of arguing a case before the City Council: the client expressed a desire, in my hearing, that my partner should attend to the case as he considered me young and inexperienced: this was not calculated to relieve my embarrassment. However I conducted the case to his satisfaction, and was much gratified when the client asserted that he and everyone was much pleased with my course, and that no lawyer could have done better. These little ecomiums and successes have served to free me from that intense and harrowing diffidence which almost conquered me at first, and obtruded painful doubts of my capacity for the profession: I have now more confidence
in my own ability; and more calmness, though I shall always suffer from a morbidly developed modesty. Well do I recollect my first case in a Magistrate's Court: I was on the rack for hours, and after it was over felt completely prostrated by my nervous excitement. My first speech before the Blues was preceded by two really terrible days of anguish, and one entirely sleepless night.

October 31st to November 26th

On 31st Oct. I left Savannah to attend Ned's wedding in Virginia. George Wayne and I started together. We left at 10 minutes past eleven at night and reached Macon at 9 A. M. Nov. 1st. After breakfast we walked about the city, visiting "the hill," the Lanier house &c. Douglas had spoken the day before and the city was crowded. We left Macon at 1:45 P. M. and reached Atlanta at 7; we reached Marietta at 9 P. M. & stopped at the Fletcher house.

On 2nd we walked to the Military Institute: the trees had assumed the most vivid Fall tints, and the country was exceedingly attractive.

We left Marietta, with my sister & Cousin Caro in charge, at 11:15 A. M. We reached Dalton at 4 P. M.; here we found there was no connection, and we were detained until 3 P. M. on Nov. 3rd: we traveled all day reaching Bristol at four in the afternoon. The country about Knoxville, Tenn. & between Knoxville & Bristol is well cleared and cultivated & exceedingly pretty. At Bristol we learned that the heavy rains had destroyed a portion of the road & that we must lay over until Sunday morning. Bristol is just on the line, its main street dividing
Tennessee and Virginia. On Nov. 4th we left Bristol at 7:25 A. M. we reached Wythville about eleven A. M: after dinner we took stages and drove slowly to Dublin, some thirty one miles distant. After a cold but pleasant ride on the top of the stage, through a most lovely country, we reached Dublin at dark. Here we stopped until 12:45 on the 5th; we then took the cars, reached Lynchburg at dark and Richmond at 6 A. M. on Nov. 6th. We stopped at Ballard's Exchange Hotel. The country between Dublin and Lynchburg, particularly about Salem and Bonsax is exceedingly lovely: the range of the Blue Ridge constantly fills the picture, and as you approach Lynchburg the Peaks of Otter tower grandly in the distance: the winter crop of wheat was beginning to clothe the fields in verdure, and the deep green contrasted beautifully with the varied autumnal tints. I do not think I have seen any landscape in America to compare with this portion of Virginia.

In Richmond we spent the day visiting the Capitol grounds, Crawford's equestrian statue of Washington, and walking through the principal streets. It was election day, and big with mighty events; but the conservative character of southern society was amply demonstrated in the perfect order and quiet.

We left Richmond at 6½ on Nov. 7th, and reached Charlottesville at noon. About 8½ on the 8th the wedding occurred at Col. Randolph's, about five miles from the village: everything passed off[f] happily.

On Friday 9th we had heavy rain; then came the astounding news that Lincoln and Hamlin were elected by large majorities carrying every northern state save New Jersey and California. The news was recieved
with intense excitement at the South: in Savannah an immense resistance meeting was held, and the old Colonial flag of Georgia raised upon the monument in Johnson square. In Charleston Judge Magrath of the U. S. Court, District Attorney Connor, Collector Colcock and others at once resigned their positions. On Saturday at 9 1/2 A. M. I left for Baltimore with Uncle Ned: we arrived at 1 P. M. & stopped at Barnum's.

We left Baltimore at 4:30 on Monday 12th, took the bay boat and reached Norfolk at 6 A. M. on 13th. We reached Weldon at 11 and left at 8 1/2 P. M. We reached Wilmington at 5 A. M. Wednesday 14th, Florence at 12 and Charleston at 6 P. M. We stopped at the Mills House. On the 15th the girls and family (who joined us at Weldon) went on: George Wayne and I drove to the Cemetery, the Citadel, U. S. Arsenal, Orphan Asylum, College, &c. After dinner we walked on the battery.

The people of Charleston exhibited no bluster or bravado: they appeared to have made up their minds to secession. Palmetto flags flew everywhere: the stars and stripes waved over Fort Moultrie and the Arsenal alone.

On Thursday night there was an immense meeting at Institute Hall. We left Charleston on Saturday 17th at 9 1/2 and reached Savannah at 3. We found much feeling existing in Savannah: it was the sad but settled conviction that the General Government had failed in its objects of equal protection, that the northern states had broken their solemn covenant, and that it only remained for Georgia to reassume her position as an independent state.
At five on Saturday afternoon the Blues threw out the secession flag in presence of a large number of spectators: a detachment of the Chatham Artillery saluted it with fifteen guns. Mayor Jones and others, myself included, addressed the crowd. The future is gloomy with uncertainty, and sadness hovers over the fate of the model republic: its dissolution must give the hopes of mankind a heavy blow, and weaken our confidence in self government. But we of the South can show our record clear; we have fought a good fight. The paricidal blows that in all probability must very soon destroy this government have been struck by Northern hands. The Georgia Legislature by unanimous vote has called a Convention of the people in January, and appropriated one million dollars to arm the state. In South Carolina a convention was unanimously called to meet in December and it is almost certain that she will then declare herself an independent state.

November 29th

Yesterday being set apart as a general fast day, in view of the solemn crisis in which the State is plunged, business of all kinds was suspended. I drove out to Berwick about 7½ A. M. & after a delightful day, returned about 6¾ P. M. I got two quail and twenty one doves.

The excitement at the South seems steadily to increase: the Union seems doomed. The Banks of the country have suspended specie payments and great financial stringency exists. At the North manufacturers are discharging their hands, and with us the Irish draymen, rail road employees, and all depending upon the transportation of cotton are out
of employment. Much distress must ensue.

December 19th

The South Carolina Convention met on Monday 17th at Columbia, passed secession Resolutions unanimously, and adjourned to Charleston in consequence of the prevalence of small-pox at Columbia. It is thought the ordinance of secession will be speedily passed, and the State take measures to secure her status as an independent Government. The continued prostration of trade, the large numbers of laborers out of employment, the depreciation of stocks, the stoppage of manufacturies, and the course of various Southern Legislatures, have convinced most of the Northern people of our earnestness. Various republican papers and speakers have modified their tone to a wonderful extent. Large union meetings and patriotic resolutions emanate from Northern cities, as after the John Brown raid: New York City has appointed Millard Fillmore, Greene C. Bronson & Richard Fathers peace commissioners to Georgia. Secretary Cobb & Mr. Trescott, assistant secretary of State, have resigned and come South. Mr. Cass has resigned the Secretaryship of State because of difference with Mr. Buchanan as to the duty of coercion; the President in his message says the Gov't has no power to coerce a seceding State. Many of the Republicans are defiant and blood thirsty. "Free speech" has been claimed as a peculiarly northern institution; they are beginning to taste its practical blessings: a meeting of John Brown sympathisers has been recently broken up in Boston, & troops have been ordered to hold themselves in readiness to suppress an
anticipated riot at a lecture to be given by Wendell Phillips. In Philadelphia, by advice of Mayor Henry, Curtis was refused the use of a Hall for an abolition lecture. Verily even handed justice is commendable; the poisoned chalice to their own lips. The Republicans, to be consistent, should advise the Democrats to lecture to the unemployed laborers now looking for work (in procession in New York recently) to burn - tear down the houses of rich abolitionists, who have caused all their trouble; but during the Massachusetts strikes last year the Republicans, notwithstanding their love of free speech, violently opposed free lectures to the laborers on their wrongs. Yet, with a refreshing consistency, they denounce the Southern people as barbarians because they do not permit abolitionists to lecture to their slaves.

The Georgia Legislature recently passed a law granting the prayer of certain free-negroes, therein named, to go into slavery: this is a nut for the Abolitionists to crack.

December 26th

On Dec. 20th the South Carolina Convention passed the secession ordinance by unanimous vote. The news has produced great rejoicing throughout the South: an immense demonstration occurs here tonight. At the North South Carolina is much villified, and her position treated with affected contempt. Many of the Lincoln party loudly threaten coercion. A gloomy uncertainty overspreads the future. At the north business continues terribly depressed: the manufacturers are stopping work, and thousands are thrown out of employment. Congress has done
nothing to heal the discontent: the Senate Committee appointed to adjust our difficulties has voted down propositions submitted by Senators Toombs & Crittenden. The House has refused to acknowledge that the Constitution recognizes property in slaves, and the committee of thirty three has done nothing but talk. We seem rapidly drifting into civil war.

The news from Europe informs us that the Allies (French and English) have entered Pekin, and sacked the Emperor's palace. The Chinese - or rather Tartar - troops fight bravely, but are no match for the modern arms and equipments of the Allies. The Allies go to war to make Customers of the Chinese - to force a commercial treaty upon them - and then compel them to pay the expenses of their own defeat. This evinces how closely Great Britain pursues her selfish commercial interests, and how little powerful nations respect public law and justice in their dealings with weak ones.

December 27th

News came today from Charleston that Major Anderson, commander at Fort Moultrie, had spiked the guns, burned the carriages and transferred his force to Fort Sumter, which controls the city. The details need confirmation. The news has produced intense excitement and indignation in Savannah, and some precipitate attempt upon the government property in Georgia may be the consequence. There is much danger of a collision in Charleston. The meeting last night in honor of South Carolina, was a very imposing demonstration: most of the houses on the
route of the immense procession were illuminated, and the whole population appeared to be out in the streets. One feature I disliked was the appearance of females in a decorated car: it was like the custom in France and at the north, and inconsistent with that exalted sense of character which has distinguished southern ladies. Indeed amidst the fearful sectional discords of the day, many symptoms of declension in our manners are also worthy of our painful attention. Our politicians are utterly selfish and corrupt, official peculation is common, the public press has lost all sense of propriety and decency, there is a sad want of dignity in our Legislative bodies, and a growing irreverence in our churches. The Tribune recently pronounced President Buchanan a liar, and the Courier & Enquirer vilifies him every day: in Massachusetts I was told Burlingham illustrated the blessings of "free speech" - in the recent campaign - by applying the vilest and filthiest abuse to his political opponents; and that, in order to secure his election, he publicly distributed his money among the lowest places and characters. All this the Black Republicans denominate freedom of speech and of the press: how true is the remark of Blackstone that "to censure the licentiousness is to maintain the liberty of the press." 1 Bl. Comm, #153. The present vandalism of the press is almost inconsistent with the continuance of "Manly, moral, regulated liberty." In our Legislative Halls and other places there is a growing indecency and departure from the manners of our ancestors: in the Georgia Assembly uproar, confusion, haste, applause, and all the opposites of Legislative dignity are apparent. In the United States Senate personal abuse, rudeness,
and indecent exhibitions of approval or contempt are common: in the present critical condition of the country, with civil war staring us in the face, we behold few of those "worthy, grave and reverend seniors" who should now direct the helm: Senator Hale plays the buffoon and laughs at the public calamities; Senator King of New York rudely laughs in the face of Senator Wigfall when declaiming solemnly and impressively the dangers that threaten the country: and the public in the galleries join the chorus with loud applause or jeers. Alas how different from the ancient prototype of Roman fathers. The House of God is used for political assemblages, and his pure religion mingled with the defiled waters of politics: the Convention of South Carolina sits in a church: a lady friend informed me she last summer saw a Lincoln and Hamlin flag flying from a pulpit in Portland, Me.

These are sad and suggestive items by which to test the continued prosperity of a government resting chiefly on manners. At the North fanaticism has taken complete possession of the public mind: only last week the proprietor of a public school here had to dismiss a female teacher from New England because of her efforts to poison the minds of the children with abolitionism. In Auburn, N. York, Senator Seward's residence, no one is admitted to church membership until he or she has taken the anti-slavery pledge and declared slavery sinful: the great God could call the slave-holder Abraham his friend, but little Auburn refuses him admittance to her churches.

December 29th

The news from Charleston is very exciting. Major Anderson deserted
1861
January 2nd

I spent New Years eve at Uncle Ned's; we all remained in the parlor until the clock struck twelve, when we joined hands and wished each other many happy returns. New Years day was dark and rainy; I paid many visits, but the usual hilarity was obscured by the gloomy sky, and the gloomier political future. War seems to be upon us; the government has determined upon coercion, and reinforcements are to be sent South. Secretary Floyd has resigned and Holt of Kentucky become Secretary of War; he advocates the use of force. At Charleston they are erecting batteries and preparing for resistance. The Governor has ordered the Guards, Light Infantry and Artillery to seize Fort Pulaski; they will do so tomorrow. Georgia is still in the union, and only absolute necessity justifies this procedure. Everyone is deeply excited and many very sad.

January 3rd

The weather continues dark and depressing; we have had five days of rain. Detachments from the Guards, Oglethorpe Light Infantry, and Artillery took possession of Fort Pulaski this morning; they are well prepared with bedding, rations &c; they will be relieved next week.
Last night a body of irresponsible men surprised and seized the Revenue Cutter; they met with no resistance. They raised the flag of Georgia, and saluted the steamer with the Savannah troops this morning. Rumors from Charleston say all the bouys have been removed, and the most vigorous measures of resistance adopted.

January 6th

The Governor ordered Col. Lawton, in command at Fort Pulaski, to restore the Cutter to the Collector of the U. S. for this port. He assured the Collector of his intention to protect the Custom House and other government property from all lawless seizures. The Cutter has in consequence been restored.

This course of Gov. Brown places the State in a high and dignified position: it evinces our settled determination to protect ourselves at all hazards; but at the same time to discountenance all violent and lawless proceedings. The excitement continues in consequence of rumors that ships and troops are to be sent South. The telegraph informed us yesterday that Mobile volunteers, by order of Gov. Moore, have taken possession of the U. S. Arsenal: the garrison made no resistance; large quantities of military stores were captured. Fort Morgan, near Mobile, was also taken and garrisoned with 200 Mobile troops. The returns make it almost certain that Georgia has gone for immediate secession by a very large majority. The work goes bravely on!

January 19th

News has arrived that the Georgia Convention passed the ordinance
for immediate secession by one hundred and nineteen majority: this Saturday the 19th of January 1861 is become the most memorable day in our annals. Salutes of large guns are now - 10½ P. M. - being fired in honor of the glorious event, and the cheers of the delighted people fall gladly upon my ears. Georgia is free, and determined to remain equal, free and independent.

Since I last wrote in my journal important events have occurred: the Star of the West attempted to enter Charleston harbor with supplies and reinforcements for Major Anderson at Fort Sumter. The Cadets, in charge of the batteries at Morris Island fired some ten shots, two of which struck her, when she again stood out to sea and returned to New York. This event has produced intense excitement all over the country. The whole attempt to reinforce was clandestine, and in violation of the pledges of the government: the vessel was cleared for New Orleans and the troops put on board outside of New York harbor. Secretaries Floyd and Thompson at once resigned on the ground that President Buchanan had violated his pledges. On the heel of this excitement came the news that Florida had passed the secession ordinance by a vote of 62 to 7: Alabama by vote of 61 to 39. Florida declared her independence on Jan. 9th, Alabama on Jan. 11th. Mississippi had previously seceded unanimously. State troops have taken all the Louisiana forts, and Alabama and Florida volunteers the Navy yard at Pensacola and fort Barrancas, the Federal troops concentrating in fort Pickens. The Arsenal and Forts in Alabama are held by State troops. Fort Pulaski is occupied by Savannah volunteers: on Jan. 11th the Blues, 78 strong, went to the Fort and are still
there: I had the honor to be among the number, but imperative business recalled me yesterday, after a week's absence. I will return tomorrow.

The Blues, near one hundred strong, the Jasper Greens, The Phoenix Riflemen and a detachment of the Chatham Artillery are now at the fort. I found the life pleasant and healthful; the discipline is not too rigid to be inconsistent with enjoyment; the fare is plain but abundant; and the stir and excitement of military life compensate for all hardships. All work cheerfully and well, and exhibit a spirit worthy of the highest commendation. The young men are quite fascinated with the life. I at first slept in the Casemates, but afterwards the non-commissioned officers of the Blues got more comfortable quarters & messed together. At 6 A.M. the morning gun is fired; at 8 guard mounting takes place. There is an inspection at 9, and drill at the heavy guns at 10, which is continued for several hours. After dinner there is some form of drill, dress parade at 5; tattoo at 9 and taps at 9½ when lights go out and quiet is preserved. The men do much police duty and heavy work and do it cheerfully. A large force of negroes, furnished by patriotic planters, are digging out the moat: and when hostilities do commence, if they ever shall, we will be prepared for a stern and desperate defence. We are kept in a state of constant excitement, and it is difficult to sober oneself down to business.

January 21st

I returned to the Fort at 9 A.M. yesterday, as my permit extended only to the 20th. We carried the glorious news of Georgia's secession
from a perverted and oppressive government: it was hailed with excessive delight and applause.

After divine services, the flag of Georgia was raised, and a salute of fifteen guns fired: the scene was most impressive.

At 5 P. M. I returned to the city with my knapsack &c. with leave to remain until further orders: my partner is at the Fort in command of his corps, and professional engagements prevented the closing of our office. It is extremely difficult to attend to business while such constant excitement surrounds us. The future is very uncertain: war may begin at any moment: we know not what an hour may bring forth.

Attorney General Hayne of South Caro. is now on a mission to Washington in reference to the surrender of Fort Sumter: the President refuses to surrender, but it is hoped peaceful counsels will prevail. South Carolina can only take the fort at an immense sacrifice of life, and its capture w'd be but a barren triumph since its reinforcement seems impossible. Bloodshed would lead to immediate civil war, and consideration for the wives that would be widowed and the children that would be orphaned, urge us all to postpone hostilities as long as possible. War now under a democratic administration would alienate our democratic friends at the north: whereas if delayed until Lincoln is inaugurated, coercion will become a party question and meet divided northern counsel. Collision is also imminent in Florida: troops from Florida and Alabama have siezed the Pensacola navy yard and fort Barrancas: the federal soldiers have concentrated in Fort Pickens, and
it is feared the volunteers will attempt a capture. The Republicans adopt a very warlike tone: the Republican Legislatures of Maine, Ohio and New York have tendered their men and resources to the general government to "preserve the union and the laws." We at the south are not yet frightened by these terrible paper bullets; we apprehend these gallant States will find it much easier to pass resolutions than to carry them into effect. We are indeed appalled by the fearful spectre of civil war, but we vastly prefer it, with all the horrors in its train, to an acquiescence in outrage and oppression. If independence can only be accomplished through carnage, our brave men and our brave women too, cheerfully accept the alternative: we humbly place the issue in the hands of Almighty God.

January 25th

All the members of the Georgia Convention, save six who entered a protest but pledged their lives and fortunes in defense of the State against coercion, have signed the ordinance of secession. The unanimity of feeling and action in Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia is unparalleled in the history of revolution: we have no tories amongst us as in the American Revolution, and with unanimity at home we can defy the world. This auspicious result has doubtless been achieved, particularly in Georgia, by the defiant tone and conduct of northern states, papers and politicians: especially by the threats and warlike attitude of the administration after the removal of Major Anderson to Fort Sumter: the most union-loving and conservative of our
people resisted the effort to "whip us back" into the union. The excitement was particularly intense when Floyd resigned and Holt became the acting Secretary of war, though not yet confirmed by the Senate; when Gen. Scott was the secret power behind the throne, with subjection held out to his own section and people, filled with the spirit and ambition of a military despot, and actually proposed as Dictator by the rabid Abolitionist Lovejoy. The shameless violation of its pledges by the Administration, as proved by Secretaries Floyd & Thompson, and by the Representatives from South Carolina, and the mean and clandestine attempt to reinforce Major Anderson, the Star of the West clearing for New Orleans and taking her troops on board outside the harbor, roused an intense spirit of defiance throughout the South and produced the prompt secession of four States. Mr. Calhoun, in his splendid disquisition on Government, says that a government of the mere numerical majority is sure to end in a despotism: our Government has become one of the most tyrannical on earth. Northern States and Governors denounce as Rebels and Robbers for asserting the right of secession, first asserted by New England in the Hartford Convention and by Massachusetts on the admission of Texas: they wish to crush us with the army and navy without even a hearing. The North West threatens to convert Louisiana into a cattle field & New Orleans into a frog pond. Democratic Representatives from Conservative New York City declare that had Major Anderson reduced Charleston to ashes, after the Star of the West was fired into, he would have been justified
before the civilized world. Such sentiments are worthy the worst days of the Goths & Vandals. The Tartars proposed seriously to convert China into a cattle pasture: the North West would follow their example. The northern people all call us rebels, as the British called Washington, and our heroic ancestors: the words convey as little fear as those who use them. Everything that ingenuity & malice can devise is employed to inflame the northern people against us: the illustrated papers are filled with pictures of our tyranny and oppression, and the licentious northern press swarms with lies about our mob-ridden communities, our starvation, our plunders, heavy taxation, forced loans and general fearful condition. We however have passed the point of consideration for either their sympathy or indignation. The aspect of affairs is more peaceful now and collision will be averted at least until after the fourth of March.

It is raining hard, and has been for days; the weather is unusually gloomy.

January 28th

News has arrived of the secession of Louisiana by a vote of 113 to 17: this unanimity has amazed even the secessionists. Gov. Brown took the United States Arsenal near Augusta, a few days since. The officer in command at first refused to surrender, but the Governor ordered out one thousand troops and, matters beginning to wear a serious aspect, the United States soldiers vacated the premises. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was obtained.

The Federal Government has no longer any foothold in Georgia. On
Saturday the Jackson Artillery, a fine corps of 78 men from Macon, left here for St. Simon's Island; they are to act as a coast guard. Our own Artillery were again ordered to Fort Pulaski in consequence of the sailing of United States war vessels with sealed orders. Matters are not so peaceable now, and the conduct of the Administration is inexplicable. Our volunteers work bravely at the Fort, they have kept well notwithstanding the worst weather I almost ever experienced. It cleared up on Saturday 26th and is now beautiful. The men at the Fort all drill regularly at the heavy guns; Moultrie in the revolution drilled his infantry at the heavy guns, and partly to this fact owed his splendid victory on Sullivan's Island. The Metropolitan police of New York City, appointed by the Black Republican Legislature, have recently made several seizures of arms on their way south: this conduct is entirely illegal and can only produce reprisals on northern ships and property. Such outrages only unite the South and intensify the feeling of the people. The Administration has stopped the Post office at Pensacola; like the British closure of Boston harbor in days gone by, it will only add to the determination of the people.

January 30th

New England has always declared that no people properly appreciated and protected "free speech" save herself; she is now illustrating her truth and sincerity; Beecher was recently pelted with eggs in New Haven and Philips and his set in Boston are only free to express their opinions in the midst of clamor, confusion and insult, with large bodies of
Policemen in the Hall and troops under arms in their armories. The northern people and papers who denounce us as traitors and robbers for taking possession of Federal forts, owned in part by us, have no word of condemnation for the three lawless and violent seizures of arms bought and owned by Southern States, which have recently been made by the Metropolitan Police of New York. Although no war has been declared between the states, they are seized as "contraband of war." This evinces the respect of our northern brethren for law and private rights and makes us wonder that we have been able to live in the same government with them so long.

February 2nd

On Wednesday evening Jan. 30th I waited with Miss F—— s at Cousin Eliza Anderson's wedding. On Jan. 9th I waited at George Anderson's, and in November at Eddy's. On next Tuesday I expect to wait at John Hardee's, making the fourth time this Winter. Notwithstanding the political troubles and uncertain future marriage has been quite an epidemic. All my cousins are married off and I stand isolated and alone: rather strange for one so often in love as I. Everything remains in statu quo at present: I trust hostilities may be postponed until after March 1st. Our people show the most exalted patriotism; our volunteers work cheerfully at Fort Pulaski, notwithstanding they receive no compensation, lose much time, are removed from their families, and are put to considerable expense. It is the wonderful, indescribable, but deeply felt sentiment of chivalry that makes their patriotism so pure and generous.
February 9th

February 9th is destined to be a memorable day in the history of this country; it witnessed the assembling of the Southern Congress, composed of delegates from the seceded states, at Montgomery, Ala., and also of Peace Commissioners from the Border Southern states and most of the northern states at Washington. The Southern Congress has adopted the Constitution of the United States as the form of a provisional government, and has declared its policy to be free trade with the world; it is still in session. The Peace Commissioners at Washington sit with closed doors; they will probably accomplish nothing. A large majority of union men are elected to the Virginia Convention; they are however understood to favor secession if proper and speedy concessions are not made by the north. Wonderful events occur every day, but they are too near us now for their vast importance to be felt. They will be better appreciated many years hence. In consequence of the seizure of arms belonging to private parties in Georgia, by the Police of New York, and the failure of Gov. Morgan to afford any redress, Gov. Brown ordered the seizure of northern vessels in our port by way of reprisal. Five vessels were accordingly seized yesterday by the Phoenix Riflemen, and are now under guard. They will be released as soon as the arms are restored.

In England a great panic exists on account of the possible cessation of the usual supply of cotton from this country in consequence of our political troubles. All their papers urge the most vigorous efforts
to grow cotton elsewhere: they state that five millions of English people are absolutely dependent upon cotton; what volumes this speaks for the present enterprise and power of the south: by withholding one crop of cotton she could injure England more seriously than the United States could by years of warfare. One of the worst effects of the political troubles is the anarchical spirit introduced into the community: several outrages have been perpetrated here by lawless individuals. They recently tarred and feathered an English Captain on the ground that he was an abolitionist: the Grand jury promptly presented the matter, and found true bills for riot against the principal actors. Yankees and foreigners commit these outrages: the respectable portion of the community universally condemn them.

February 11th

The Telegraph this morning brings important news. The Southern Congress has adopted the Constitution of the United States, including the provision against the slave trade. A few slight changes are made. Jefferson Davis of Mississippi has been unanimously chosen President and Alexander Stephens of Georgia Vice President. These are excellent appointments, and will command respect at home and abroad. Gov. Morgan of New York has restored the arms recently seized in N. Y.: in consequence of this action the northern vessels detained here on Friday last have been released: matters look bright and promising for our new confederacy.

I sit here tonight on this 11th of February, two days after my twenty sixth birthday, my eyes blinded with hot tears, and oppressed
by unwonted emotions. I am very, very happy. I have taken perhaps the most important step in my life. I have just engaged myself to a young girl whom, God knows, I love with my whole heart. I loved her since I first saw her as a school girl, but have become more and more attached to her as I have known her more intimately. She is my first love, and I am hers. She is the young, inexperienced, artless, gentle creature that has been my ideal for years; and the image, so fondly pictured to myself, which I have prayed God to realize for me. She is to me all that is beautiful and lovely and pure. I trust the good God will sanctify what I have this day done to my temporal and eternal welfare, and that whatever may befal me, He will love and bless and cherish the young girl who has given me her heart.

March 3rd

On Monday, February 18th, I attended a meeting of the commissioned and non commissioned officers of the Blues at the Captain's office: we prepared matters for our trip to the Fort next day, agreed to suggest a division of the Company into two companies, and nominated a Fourth Lieutenant, that office being authorized by our charter, and demanded by the size of our Corps and the age and infirmity of our first Lieutenant. I received the compliment of the nomination, the officers above my grade (fourth Sergeant) voluntarily withdrawing in my favor. At eight o'clock we adjourned to the drill room, where some hundred men were gathered. The Company decided against a division at present by a large vote. The officers recommended my name as a fourth
Lieutenant, and I was unanimously chosen in a most flattering and gratifying manner; I was much touched by the cordial ratification. Thus after less than two years membership I have become a commissioned officer in one of the oldest and most popular companies in the State.

I could not under these circumstances refuse to accompany the Blues to Fort Pulaski, although my heart and happiness bound me to Savannah; so on Tuesday 19th at 10 A.M. I left the city, with much reluctance, for the Fort we carried near ninety men.

Our time at the Fort passed very pleasantly; the weather was delightful, and we enjoyed robust health, having plenty of oysters and other luxuries to satisfy our inordinate appetites. On our arrival the Chatham Artillery gave us a fine dinner; on the 22nd they also gave us an entertainment; we celebrated the day by a salute of seven guns, and by firing for a prize: I did the third best shooting.

On Saturday when the Artillery left, our non-commissioned officers gave them a very handsome entertainment. We drilled very faithfully at the Fort, and as our Corps garrisoned it alone for a time, our men did plenty of sentry and police duty: they were, however, extremely willing and well behaved. At 5½ the morning gun fired and reveille was beat; at 8 there was guard mounting: at 9 company inspection; at 10 drill at the heavy guns for an hour; at 11½ company drill; at 3 P.M. squad drill for recruits and sometimes drill at the 32 pounders; at 4 company drill; at 5:20 dress parade, and tattoo at 9. Thus the time was fully occupied, and study of tactics and garrison duties filled up the intervals. On Friday, March 1st the Phoenix Riflemen came down
& relieved us: we left the Fort at 3 P. M. and reached the city at 5, the Captain remaining in command of the Fort with some twenty of the Company.

I was delighted to return to town, my chief attraction being here.

March 4th

This eventful day, which witnesses the inauguration of a Black Republican President, is drawing to its close: about dusk a telegraphic dispatch announced that Lincoln had declared in his address that he would collect the revenue, retain the Forts he held and retake the others: this is a declaration of war and will be so regarded by the entire South. The news has produced intense feeling, and each one says to his neighbor: "we must fight for our liberties!" If true, it is sad, sad news for poor me situated as I now am, with ties around me whose severance will almost break my heart: but I hope for the best and put my trust in God. My first duty is to my country, and I trust I shall have strength to perform it, dreadful as the trial may be.

March 11th

Notwithstanding the absurd story that a plot had been discovered in Baltimore to assassinate Mr. Lincoln on his arrival, and his consequent secret and precipitate flight from Harrisburg, and his midnight passage through Baltimore (it is said in a freight car), he reached Washington in safety and was duly inaugurated with the usual ceremonies. Federal troops filled the city to prevent its violent seizure, which had been industriously predicted by the Republicans: Riflemen were
posted on the house tops to pick off conspirators, and Gens. Scott
and Wool were stationed beside batteries of loaded cannon. Military
despotism reigned supreme, but the good people of Washington could see
no danger to their liberties. No disturbance occurred as none was
ever intended. Lincoln's inaugural is variously interpreted: some
call it peaceable, others regard it as a declaration of war. In the
mean time the Confederate States are organizing their government and
preparing for every emergency. The Border Slave States do nothing.
North Carolina has voted against a Convention. The ordinance of
secession has been ratified by an immense vote in Texas: Gen. Twiggs
has surrendered all the Federal property to the State, and offered his
services to the Confederate States; the northern journals of course
denounce him as a thief and traitor in their usual refined style. The
Georgia Convention is now sitting in Savannah. Weather delightful.

March 14th

The Confederate Congress has agreed upon a permanent Constitution
almost identical with that of the U. States: Alabama at once ratified
it with only five dissenting voices. It should be amply and thoroughly
discussed before adoption. There are exciting rumors that Fort Sumter
will be evacuated. No one can yet determine the policy of the Lincoln
administration, or whether it has any. The Georgia Convention yester­
day reduced the number of our State Senators to forty four; this reform
has been long demanded. The Convention went on an excursion to Fort
Pulaski today.
March 17th

The Georgia Convention yesterday ratified and adopted the permanent Constitution by an unanimous vote: this harmony of feeling is gratifying to every patriot; unanimity has been the most prominent feature in the revolution now progressing. I could have wished more delay and discussion in the adoption of our permanent Constitution, but it differs so little from that of the United States that perhaps it is sufficiently well understood already. Lincoln's intentions are still involved in doubt; Messrs. Crawford of Ga. Forsythe of Ala. and Romain of Louisiana are now at Washington, as Commissioners from the Confederate States; they will soon develop the policy of the new administration. Ships of war are being concentrated in northern ports; five vessels have just left New York with men and military stores; their destination is uncertain, but is supposed to be Florida or Texas. All the United States troops are about leaving Texas; they still, however, hold Fort Brown and it is doubtful whether its commander, Capt. Hill, will surrender it without a struggle. Beauregard and Braxton Bragg of Mexican fame, have been appointed Brigadier Generals by President Davis; the former is now in command at Charleston, the latter at Pensacola. Several hundred Georgia Regulars have been collected in Savannah; one company of sixty five garrisoned Fort Jackson yesterday. Adjutant Gen. Cooper has resigned his position in the United States Army & come south. Commodore Tatnall is the naval commander in chief at Savannah. We are getting the best men in both arms of the service.
March 20th

Might before last we had quite a snow storm; yesterday morning the ground and trees were covered. It is very cold today. There is no news of special importance.

March 21st

Yesterday there was a regimental parade of all our volunteers (save three new companies) in honor of the Convention: the Companies presented a very imposing appearance, and it was estimated that one thousand odd men were in line. The Blues numbered one hundred and thirty odd men.

I went to the Atheneum and listened to a fine address on the Confederate Government by Vice President Stephens: he said he was happy to find that his fears of the anarchy and confusion secession would introduce were entirely unfounded, and that the Southern people had presented a wonderful spectacle of moderation and virtue; he declared that the gentlemen composing the Confederate Congress at Montgomery constituted the most considerate, pure, patriotic, able and determined public body that had ever convened.

Regulars of the Georgia army have been sent to Forts Jackson and Pulaski, and the Volunteers have been relieved after three months of willing and patriotic service. The northern papers are now engaged in a violent crusade against the Morrill Tariff bill, passed by the Republicans of the last Congress: the Southern tariff imposing much lower duties, goods will be brought to Southern ports and thence distributed through the country; the effect will be to change the centres of trade
to the South, and to give us all the revenue derived from imports; the northern Government is bankrupt & seems as yet to have no settled policy.

March 25th

On Saturday evening last I heard a short speech from Mr. Thomas Cobb, one of the most distinguished men in our State. He said, among other things, that History would record our revolution as the most wonderful the world had ever seen - as the complete separation of one people from another, the effectual throwing off of one government and the organization of an entirely new government, now complete and perfect in all its parts; and all this vast movement finished, not only without the shedding of one drop of blood, but without even the destruction or injury of one civil right, without the serious interruption of the ordinary routine of business, and without even any inconvenience or discomfort to our people. It is indeed a wonderful epoch; but we cannot yet appreciate its remarkable character and momentous issues. Five millions of people have destroyed their government, but preserved all their liberties intact; they have effected a complete revolution, and yet spilt no drop of human blood; they have organized a new and splendid system, but have done it without noise or confusion or inconvenience. They have moved grandly and harmoniously like the deep tides of the ocean, and no storms and passions have disturbed the calm and even surface. Their Government is now complete, and if the sword is to be drawn, they must be attacked as the citizens of a sovereign,
independent, completely organized State; even the most rabid northern
prints now cease calling us "revolted provinces." Of course we are
abused and villified in every conceivable way, just as our forefathers
were in 1776; it is instructive and interesting to read a History of
the American revolution; the parallel between the conduct of the
British then and our "northern brethren" now is perfect and amusing.
The British used to declare that the very dogs ceased to bark in
America; Our Yankee neighbors make equally false and ridiculous
assertions about us; they love to gloat over the idea that we are
poor and weak and naked, lawless and mob-ridden, tax-ground and dis­
contented - that our slaves are rebellious, our planters disgusted
and ready to move west - that all are already tired of secession and
anxious to return to the glorious old union; if it affords amusement
to the Times, Tribune and other malicious and mendacious prints to
make these assertions, it is a matter which troubles us not at all.
God appears to have given over the northern people to believe a lie,
and they will not listen to reason if we presented our arguments to
them. We are happy and contented, and rejoice to a man that we have
severed our connexion with the north.

March 30th

Everything remains in Statu quo; the press continues to speculate
concerning the policy of the Administration, or whether it has any.
The Morrill Tariff, with its almost prohibitory duties, has operated
wonderfully in our favor, and seems almost designed by Providence for
our support: it is completely revolutionizing the tone of the British Press, which from ridicule and abuse is becoming filled with deference and respect. England's false philanthropy is fast yielding to her commercial necessities. The original question of slavery seems lost in the contest between north and south; the papers scarcely allude to it; peace or war, revenue or no revenue is now the cry with our neighbors.

Our Confederacy is based upon two fundamental truths, the inequality of the races, and the fairness and necessity of free trade; we have a grand mission before us; we must conquer the prejudices of the world and prove to Christendom that we are right - that our government is founded upon the truths of the Bible and the nature of man.

The Convention, which adjourned last Saturday, adopted a revised version Constitution for the State, which will be submitted to the people for ratification: one capital change is vesting the appointment of the Judges of the Superior Courts in the Legislature: universal suffrage is found by sad experience to be inapplicable to the judiciary. I wish the popular election of Magistrates had also been changed: it is a pernicious system, and poisons justice at the roots. Under the system a notorious member of the lawless rattle-snake club, who has been prominent in many outrageous occurrences, is now dispensing justice to the public of Savannah.

April 6th

On Wednesday afternoon April 3rd I drove out to Berwick where I
spent Thursday, and returned to town early Friday morning. Thursday
I shot a Snipe and Dove, and caught a dozen very good Chub. I hope
to return to the country this afternoon and remain until Monday morning.

The papers are now filled with conflicting telegraphic rumors: at
one moment Fort Sumter is to be evacuated, at another to be held - in
one breath peace is declared, in another war predicted. The northern
government is chartering vessels and sending troops to parts unknown:
the general belief is that an attempt will be made to reinforce Fort
Pickens, and that a bloody collision will result. Confederate State
troops are concentrating at Pensacola to the number of Five Thousand:
Twelve Hundred Georgia Volunteers are now in Macon ready to move.

Our people exhibit the most willing and patriotic spirit. Mississippi
and South Carolina have adopted the Confederate Constitution almost
unanimously: all the seceded States save Florida have now ratified the
instrument. The English papers show a great alteration of tone: they
evidently incline to the South, and free trade: we owe this to Cotton
and the Morrill Tariff. The Republican papers - the organs of that
party that framed and passed this atrocious tariff bill - now denounce
it fiercely, and are so base as to try and throw the responsibility on
Mr. Buchanan; its nullification and repudiation have even been suggested.
Mr. Lincoln's speech at Pittsburgh did as much to carry this bill through
as anything else; Republican papers urged it, or at least said nothing
against it; and yet with an utter want of principle and honesty they
now denounce it, and like their political predecessors during the war
of 1812, become the bitterest enemies of the system they introduced.
April 10th

I spent last Sunday at Berwick; I was with my sweet-heart during its pleasant hours; it was one of the most purely happy days I ever passed. When I returned to town Monday I found the papers filled with warlike news, the dispatches declaring that Lincoln had determined to enforce the laws, and that men and ships were preparing for the South. Yesterday the news was confirmed: about noon a dispatch came from Charleston that seven ships of war were off the bar waiting for the ride. Intense excitement was produced in this city; two companies of Regulars were sent to Fort Pulaski, with workmen to mount guns &c. Our Captain volunteered the Blues for any service, and has had some of the men moulding bullets ever since. It turned out that no vessels were off Charleston, but a collision is certain since Lincoln has notified Gov. Pickens that he will reinforce fort Sumter at all hazard. Five Thousand troops are under arms near Charleston & the ships are hourly expected.

In the mean time volunteers hurry to Pensacola. Our people exhibit a manly & courageous temper - all the zeal and gallantry of uncorrupted virtue. One company from Bainbridge, Ga., in red flannel shirts & coarse negro-cloth pantaloons, represent one million dollars of wealth. The Richland Rifles, now working in the erection of batteries near Charleston, represent Five Hundred Thousand. In Alabama a venerable pastor, a private in one of her companies, administered the sacrament in the uniform of his corps & then went to the wars. We are in the right and God will defend us.
April 13th

Our City has been intensely excited for the last two days: the war has commenced, and we are the victors. The Confederate Government learning that an attack upon the Charleston batteries, with a view to the reinforcement of Fort Sumter, was certainly intended, summoned Major Anderson to surrender: this he refused to do, and soon after four o'clock on Friday, April 12th the Carolina batteries opened: Anderson began to fire regularly at seven o'clock & kept up a brisk cannonade until dark. The Carolina batteries fired at intervals during the night, and opened at full strength at daylight on 13th. At half past four in the afternoon the news came that Anderson had surrendered unconditionally. Our community was intoxicated with joy. I do not think I ever was happier in my life. We have as yet received no details: the despatches say no life was lost on either side, but this seems incredible. We all devoutly thank the good Lord for our success in this the first battle: may it be an auspicious commencement of a glorious and successful struggle.

April 19th

The last few days have been a succession of excitements. War is inevitable and our people are preparing for it with energy: they trust in the good God and in the holiness of our cause. The northern people without even holding out hopes of a recognition of our plain rights under the Constitution - rights recently recognized by the Supreme Ct. - have prepared to subjugate us. They sent a large fleet to Fort Sumter,
with two thousand troops to operate on land. We met force by force and took the Fort: the valiant fleet, which all the Abolition papers, when they felt sure of its success & disclosed its mission, declared was to "reinforce the fort at all hazards," was an idle spectator of the combat & neither did nor attempted anything. We lost not a man. Fort Sumter was set on fire by hot shot from Fort Moultrie, & the gallant Major Anderson did not surrender until his men were exhausted & nearly suffocated by fire and smoke: every one of us praise his courage; some of the northern papers denounce him "as a traitor." The surrender was unconditional: I have pasted full details in my scrap book. The battle produced intense indignation among the Republicans: Lincoln at once issued a proclamation calling for 75000 volunteers to maintain the laws and "preserve popular government:" the northern papers are full of terrible threats and denunciations; we are to be utterly destroyed. Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri promptly refused to furnish troops to butcher their southern brethren. Virginia at once obstructed the river near Norfolk and imprisoned the U. S. war ships - she siezed the Revenue Cutter, Custom House, and arsenal, at Harper's Ferry; and yesterday came the glorious news of her secession; particulars not yet known. Our community was intensely joyous, and a Federal salute was fired on the bay. We live in stirring times.

I keep a scrap book of events now progressing.

Twelve o'clock Friday night. Excitement reigns supreme: news came
this afternoon that Gen. Scott had resigned and tendered his services to Virginia; in him the Abolitionists and mobocrats lose a tower of strength; they now have no military chief of reputation. In Baltimore the Massachusetts troops on their way to Washington were hooted & pelted by the mob; they fired upon the crowd, when a terrible riot ensued. The dispatch says men were killed and wounded on both sides, the mob tore up the rail road, the Abolitionists were still in Baltimore, and fearful excitement existed. This may bring Maryland to our side: everything thus far has enured to our advantage.

April 20th

2 1/2 P. M. Nothing new this morning - no despatches.

Tybee at nine o'clock: the Burke Sharp Shooters are in the city. The northern papers rave terribly and make fearful threats: one would suppose a million of men were about to invade us and expunge us from the list of nations. No doubt the north is making great preparations, and a dreadful civil war is to ensue. But we are not so easily subjugated as they imagine, and we will teach them the truth if they require a century to learn the lesson. Their papers urge them to fight to revive their trade and maintain the Constitution: the last method of securing either object. We are vigorously setting our house in order; but we make no boast of it & do not thrust all our acts into the newspapers as do "our northern brethren." All our companies are drilling, preparing ammunition, and getting ready for the conflict; the Chatham Artillery are particularly energetic. Our ladies have made large
quantities of lint, bandages, cartridge bags & sand bags for batteries. Our chief reliance is in God and our good cause: this is a contest between faith and infidelity, between constitutional liberty and mobocracy. The Republican party, that has produced this dreadful condition of affairs, is reckless to the faith of compacts, and to all that is noble in human nature; they have violated the plainest and most sacred obligations of the Constitution; no means are too bad for the accomplishment of their objects. They have acted with the grossest perfidy throughout these troubles; they are tortuous and jesuitical & do everything by indirection. They have deceived the people, deceived the border states, deceived our Commissioners: Secretary Seward has acted a lie, and told many if report be true. They said fort Sumter should be evacuated while preparing to reinforce it & proclaimed peace while initiating war. They sent Fox to Charleston with the assurance that his mission was purely peaceful; both the administration & he deceived the Carolina authorities. He went there to prepare a plan of reinforcement, which was adopted by Lincoln and his Cabinet, but which the brave Carolinians frustrated. To show the animus of this vile party, which has almost absorbed the whole north, it is necessary only to read their party papers. The very presses that a few days since said Lincoln's "brave fleet" was to reinforce Sumter "at all hazards" now declare it never was intended to do so: the Herald that took strong Southern ground on April 15th, without a word of apology savagely urged coercion and war to the knife on 16th. Webb's paper denounces the brave Major Anderson as the "vilest traitor the world ever saw." Can such a party and such principles succeed?
April 22nd

No particulars have arrived of the Baltimore riot; it is a remarkable coincidence that the first lives in the American revolution of 1776 were also lost on April 19th, at Lexington. The telegraph this morning brings startling intelligence: The Virginians have seized Harper's Farry arsenal; they are pouring into Norfolk. The enemy burnt the Navy yard and retreated. It is rumored that Maryland is thoroughly aroused and with the South: the people have burnt the bridges between Baltimore and Washington, and the Ferry boat over the Susquehanna, thus detaining a large force of northern troops, volunteers from Georgia and Carolina are hastening to Norfolk. Fort Monroe has been reinforced with northern volunteers. These telegraphic rumors, however, are not reliable: the telegraph is becoming the prince of liars. It will interfere seriously with warlike movements: surprises are almost impossible now: had it existed in the days of Napoleon some of his great and sudden movements would have failed in their objects.

The weather is and has long been charming.

April 23rd

The telegraph brings exciting rumors which, however, need confirmation. Troops are being transported to Washington by water: vandals from Massachusetts are quartered in the Capitol. Georgia and South Carolina have each sent volunteers to Virginia, and a collision must soon occur. Up country troops are going to Tybee and Warsaw via
Savannah: they are usually rough, ununiformed, undisciplined men, but hardy and strong and dead shots: sufficient drilling will convert them into fine soldiers. We labor under great disadvantages at present; we have little but raw levies to oppose regulars and volunteers from the northern cities, where they have enjoyed the advantages of military instruction: our countrymen, living twenty and thirty miles apart, find it difficult to meet for drill. Our people are earnest and patriotic: Cass county has ten, Screven, seven companies; these embrace nearly the whole population. I was assured that in Burke County, where some seven hundred men are liable to militia duty, six hundred and fifty are ready to volunteer for any service. Only this morning I was in our drill room assisting a number of ladies to make cartridges: among them were my sweetheart, my sister and six cousins; there they were patiently cleaning the greased balls, filling the paper caps with powder and tying up the missles of death. While such a spirit animates our women can the northern mobocrats subdue us?

The north is dreadfully afraid of an attack on Washington: this fear has been magnified by the foolish speech of Secretary Walker at Montgomery, in which he declared it was our intention to march on the Capitol: had he kept quiet, or there been no telegraph to circulate his boast, we might now possess the seat of government. The telegraph and newspaper reporters who pry into everything are serious foes to surprises: an attack upon fort Pickens had been planned, with every promise of success, when it was foolishly divulged by the reporter of the Pensacola
Observer, who accidentally discovered the intention. His letter frustrated the attack, and that night the fort was reinforced by the enemy.

April 25th

The papers are full of rumors from Washington and Baltimore now the seat of war; but owing to the intense excitement in that quarter, the public confusion, the destruction of bridges and telegraph wires, nothing is definite. The details of the resistance to the Massachusetts cut-throats in Baltimore are deeply exciting: some nine citizens were killed; the soldiers were chased through the City by the people; they ran like the miserable poltroons they are; had the people been armed few would have escaped. The Marylanders are thoroughly aroused; they are determined to permit the passage of no more northern troops; Lincoln has sent a large body back to Pennsylvania. Among the despatches is one that Col. (now Gen'l) Robt. Lee is in possession of Arlington heights, commanding Washington, with seven thousand Virginians. It is said the Virginians obtained 2500 pieces of ordnance at the Gosport Navy Yard.

Our soldiers are diligently preparing for the conflict: our drill rooms are open nightly; companies drill every afternoon; three corps were on the parade ground last night exercising by moonlight; today three companies of cavalry meet for squadron parade. Our foot soldiers have been divided into battalions of four companies each, and one battalion is to drill each week in battalion movements. Many of our men are burning to fly to the assistance of old Virginia; but Gov. Brown keeps
us all here to protect the city and coast. Georgia was the first State
to send aid to Virginia; four companies have gone. South Carolina
has sent a regiment.

April 26th

Nothing definite from the north except threats of our utter
subjugation, and loud vaunts of their military preparations. The
Herald of 19th, which has just arrived, contains some amusing statements:
in the account of the "evacuation" (as they call it) of Fort Sumter,
as given by the returned officers, it is said in one sentence that a
terrible gale from the South east prevented the fleet from entering to
assist the fort, and that the Captain of the Pawnee was mad to make the
effort at all hazards: in the next sentence it is declared that the
gale blew all the tug boats out to sea (South east wind!) and that the
Pawnee did not arrive until after the surrender. Capt. Doubleday
also asserts that the South Carolinians obtained the fort on terms
which would have been granted without firing a shot: if such lies are
generally told in war of what use is history? The Herald of the 18th
assured its readers Virginia would never secede: this of the 19th
declares, through its correspondents and reporters, that Baltimore
would allow any northern troops to pass and would aid and assist them -
that the Government had troops at Harper's Ferry that would hold it
against all odds - and that the United States vessels at Norfolk would
utterly destroy any secessionists who attempted to capture it. What
will he say to the late news? These false and ridiculous reports cast
doubts upon all his statements of northern feeling and preparation. The northern papers never tell the truth if possible to avoid it. Lincoln has raised an army to subjugate the south; he has declared a blockade of our ports, and has, or is about to, stop the mails: Congress alone has power to do these things, and his acts are manifestly usurpations of power; they have been so declared by a U. S. district Judge in Tennessee. The north is making every overture to the foreign population, of whom they have suddenly become very fond: regiments of Germans, Poles, Italians, French, Scotch and English are being formed; the Irish rather hold aloof. We would rather fight the Yankees than their Hessians, but are awed by neither.

April 27th

The Marylanders have failed to prevent the passage of northern troops through their midst: the Lincoln Gov't sends them by water to Annapolis, and thence by rail to Washington: it has control of the rail road. Lincoln is usurping every power; he is seizing provisions, ships and various property belonging to Southern people; all the flour in Georgetown has been siezed; all the steam boats on the Potomac have been siezed; the Key Stone State and the R. R. Cuyler owned chiefly in Savannah, have been siezed, and are being used as transports for Northern vandals. The northern press is bitter and blood thirsty in the extreme: we are to be utterly destroyed, horse, foot and dragoons: but these sanguinary threats and promises may be like those about the power of Fort Sumter to shell Charleston & knock Moultrie & the South Carolina
batteries to pieces; many of the best laid northern schemes have mis-carried and we opine that they will continue to fail. The northern people have the disposition to put us all to the sword as wicked and graceless rebels, but thank God their ability is not equal to their will.

April 30th

Nothing new from the seat of war: northern troops are pouring into Washington via Annapolis and the Potomac: the Virginians make no opposition, in obedience it is said to the orders of President Davis. Our Congress met yesterday and, it is thought, will at once declare war. The northern papers are planning most splendidly successful expeditions for Lincoln hordes. Charleston & Savannah are to be captured by forces landed at Port Royal. Mobile and New Orleans to be attacked simultaneously: the levees of the Mississippi to be cut and Louisiana to be drowned out, &c. Mob law rules the northern cities: no one dares to express any sympathy for the South, Southern men are insulted, warned, threatened, and maltreated. Merchants write to their friends here that they sympathise with us but are compelled to hold their peace: one writes that the mob compelled him to subscribe for the fitting out of volunteers &c., that the house of a poor German was gutted because his sentiments were displeasing; that the rich to protect themselves and their property are obliged to subscribe liberally for the prosecution of the war. I saw a letter from the old furnisher and friend of the Blues - Mr. Allen - stating that he could do nothing, his hands "were tied." Southerners to get home have to sing union songs and display United States colors
in their button holes; the newspaper offices, and the houses of many rich men were assailed with hoots and brick bats until they threw out United States flags. This is the land of boasted "free speech!"

Abolition doctrines are going home to roost. Here in the benighted and barbarous South we behold nothing of the kind: northern men are here, and as kindly and politely treated as if we were in profound peace. Even agents for northern houses are at the south collecting debts and yet no one molest them, although the funds they obtain go to furnish the enemy. I yesterday heard read a letter from the wife of a southern officer; she is now in New York unable to get home; she says a reign of terrorism exists "worse than the inquisition" - that she dares not open her mouth - and that her friends have warned her it is as much as her life is worth to express any sympathy with the south. Mr. G. B. Lamar, who is unable to leave his dying wife, writes that his life, and those of his children, are in danger every moment he remains in New York. In Boston a committee has been appointed to visit suspected persons and learn their sentiments, so not even thought is free in Massachusetts. Southern people can get home only by the way of Cincinnati and by the utmost caution: all letters to the south and from the south are opened: the appearance of the seal, and other signs, indicate this beyond doubt. The present condition of northern, free society only proves the truth of predictions made by Mr. Calhoun and other southern statesmen, and exhibits, by contrast, the conservative effect of our slave institutions: at the south alone is rational, constitutional
liberty enjoyed or appreciated. Our pretended friends at the north have all turned against us, either intimidated by the mob, or because only attached to us from sordid, mercenary considerations. Commodore Stockton and Caleb Cushing, notwithstanding their recent bold words on our side, are now swelling the cry of coercion; Buchanan contributes for our subjugation: Pierce, Dickinson, Everett, Major Wood and all join the northern hordes in their war cry of subjugation. In the first revolution Chatham, Camden, Burke and our friends in England did not desert us when we most needed them, and were most wronged; they opposed the dominant of the hour and defied the king to his teeth: they were made of better and sterner stuff than our professed friends at the north who vanish at the first blow and melt in the first trial. This fickle friendship only illustrates a very noticeable feature in northern character, resulting chiefly from the nature of their government and institutions. Carlyle says the great want of the present time is faith: its absence is always seen where great equality of conditions prevails; it was apparent in the French revolution, and is now manifest in the free states. The want of permanence and stability in their social and political status, prevents that fixedness of opinion and character which gives rise to faith. They have no intense and lasting convictions as the southern people have: hence their opinions and their friendships are as unstable as water. This trait was manifested in a remarkable degree by New England in her course on the war of 1812: the same thing is now seen in their sudden hostility to privateering: Kent, Story and
all the American publicists sanction it as founded upon the law of nations and upon the practice of the United States Government: Mr. Marcy, Secretary of State under Pierce, refused to unite with the European powers in its abolition, declaring it was the "militia of the ocean," and the United States could as well dispense with their militia forces as with Privateers. Notwithstanding the precedents the New York Chamber of Commerce has just declared it piracy & requested Lincoln to treat it as such: accordingly he has issued his proclamation to that effect, and our Privateers are to be hung as Pirates. The free states of the north are true to only one thing - their pockets!

May 5th

The twenty days, which Lincoln gave "illegal assemblies" - five millions of Southern citizens - for their dispersion, end today, and we anticipate active measures by the administration. Thus far, since the capture of Sumter, they have done nothing but threaten and collect troops in Washington. A large batch of northern papers came this morning, so it appears the mails are not yet stopped: I endeavored to read the Herald, but was utterly disgusted with its arrogant boasts, brutal threats, and shameless apostacy and lies. It says the north is about to precipitate three hundred thousand of the northern city men called "roughs" upon our towns and villages - that they will be a foe beside whom the Goths and Vandals were meek and gentle - and it seems to gloat over the terrible ruin and devastation that will follow their bloody tracks: but we are not afraid of "northern roughs" with all the
ferocious courage the northern papers give them: all that renders us sad and despondent is the reflection that our best people are to meet the scum of the earth. The Herald says most of the northern people think the war will be over in ninety days, but it gives six months for our complete subjugation. I will save these papers as a memento of one of the most wonderful phases of human nature: time will show whether the Herald was a prophet. Indeed the history of the world never exhibited anything so brutal and fiendish as the present tone of the northern people, as displayed by their public press: this is particularly observable in the papers of the north west. The Tribune says the lands of Virginia must be divided out among the northern soldiers, and tempts their cupidity by the most glowing promises: I saw a late number of the Chicago Tribune; it declared that the Germans of the north west were determined to exterminate the proud and cruel southerners, that these valiant Teutons would neither ask nor give any quarter, - that if any persons in Illinois sympathized with the south they must 1st change their opinions, 2nd leave the State, or 3rd be hanged; so in the land of "free press, free speech, and free men" free thought is punished with exile or the halter!

Among other resolutions adopted by a church meeting one declared their hate and execration of the "blistered, perjured, heaven-hating, hell deserving Southerns:" can the spirit of intolerance further go? This is the sentiment of the north west. In New York City the feeling is equally bitter and brutal: a disposition is manifested to discard all the practices of civilized warfare: Germans, French, Irish and
foreigners of all stripes are mustering to subjugate free southern people; it is openly declared that liberty will be proclaimed to our slaves and arms placed in their hands to cut our throats; a Zouave regiment of coarse and brutal New York firemen has been organized by Col. Ellsworth of the Chicago Zouaves; Alderman Wilson, a notorious rowdy, has organized a Zouave corps which, in the words of their commander, will contain all the notorious black-guards, shoulder-hitters and jail birds of New York; merchants, who have made their fortunes from the south, are fitting up these miscreants to butcher us; those who once declared themselves our friends subscribe money to aid these brutes in desecrating our soil, and murdering our people; and this is patriotism! Great God how the language Thou hast given us is perverted! Notwithstanding these formidable preparations and brutal threats the South exhibits a sublime spectacle of calm, confiding and serene courage: there is no bluster and bravado among men who are determined to preserve their liberties and honor, or perish, and who confidently lean on the good God for support.

May 8th

Secrecy has been removed from an Act of the Congress of the Confederate States, which recites that Lincoln has called out 75000 men to retake forts and arsenals in the Confederate States, and has blockaded their ports, which, therefore, regards Lincoln’s course as a declaration of war, accepts it as such, and gives the President of the Confederate States full power to meet it. The Act also provides for the granting of letters of marque and reprisal, for which there are
said to be three hundred applications already. War has therefore begun, and widespread desolation and sorrow are to ensue: we have made earnest efforts for a peaceable solution of our troubles; the olive branch has been rudely dashed from our hands, and the gage of battle thrown at our feet; we take it up with sorrow, but with fixed determination, fervid patriotism, and abiding confidence in the goodness of God.

Our enemies surpass us in wealth and numbers; they exceed us in threats and brutality; but we at least equal them in trust and courage, and exceed them in the justice of the cause for which we struggle. The battle is not always to the strong, and we well know that the Judge of all the earth shall do right!

May 11th

Lincoln continues to usurp and concentrate in himself all the powers of the Government; although his first call for 75000 volunteers for three months might be excused under the U. S. Law for suppressing insurrections. A second call he has made for 42000 volunteers for three years is entirely unjustifiable. A military despotism is rapidly growing up at the north. The northern papers, especially those of the large cities, endeavors to forward their bad cause, and bolster up the courage of their people by the most shameless and reckless lies about the south; they assert that large portions of our people are still in favor of the union, and publish pretended letters from pretended union
men asking that troops be sent to invade the south: they declare we are dissatisfied, discordant, starving, oppressed, that our army is utterly demoralized and does nothing but drink whiskey, and that a perfect reign of terror prevails. The most horrible stories are told of our hanging, beating, and whipping northern men. The correspondence of the Herald and Tribune from Savannah is utterly false and ridiculous, and proves that these letters are all manufactured in New York: the Tribune's correspondence from Charleston continued regularly notwithstanding the long interruption of the mails. The northern cause must indeed be forlorn if it has to be sustained by such a system. The only injury these stories can do us is their effect abroad: Europe receives all its information of the South through northern papers, and they endeavor to portray us as the most barbarous people on earth.

May 11th

Important events are culminating: the Lincoln and Confederate forces are approaching each other near Harper's Ferry and a collision must soon ensue: many failures are reported in the northern cities, and the war furor there has somewhat abated. Poor Maryland is completely subdued for the present: she has a large northern and anti-southern sentiment in her borders, has no arms or military organization, and lies prostrate before the vandal hordes now occupying her capitol and towns. Troops pass through Baltimore without opposition. Her position presents a cogent illustration of the necessity of a good volunteer organization: this might have saved her from oppression and disgrace.
Collisions between the troops and people have occurred in St. Louis but nothing certain is known; it seems that a body of State Militia surrendered to the United States forces, and the excitement consequent led to bloodshed. The position of Missouri and Kentucky is very dubious. In Western Virginia the people seem opposed to secession; a Convention is now sitting at Wheeling looking to a division of the State. We obtain news of these events however through the north, where everything is transformed and perverted.

There is much activity among the military in Savannah; Companies are out by twos and threes every afternoon; four day before yesterday, two yesterday and several today. There is a battalion drill every week. The Oglethorpe light Infantry have enlisted for the war under a recent act of the Confederate Congress, and soon start for Virginia. The Blues have received orders from Gen. Lawton to be ready to move at an hours notice.

The weather for some days has been rainy, with an oppressive, steamy atmosphere.

May 17th

Everything is in statu quo, the promises of the northern papers that Lincoln would possess Harper’s Ferry, Norfolk and Richmond by May 15th not being fulfilled.

The riots in St. Louis were very serious: Capt. Lyon of the U. S. Army, with 8000 men and 8 cannon surrounded 800 State Militia and took them prisoners; as the U. S. forces (chiefly Germans of the Republican party) passed through the Streets the people taunted them, when they fired, killing and wounding many. A conclave of Virginians (so called)
which met at Wheeling to form a new state of Western Virginia, has adjourned without accomplishing anything. The ports of Virginia are now blockaded; several war vessels have been seen off our port and off Charleston. The north continues violently agitated; they are striving to give the contest a religious aspect: ministers make the most blood-thirsty addresses to the troops: church steeples and pulpits are decorated with United States flags, and the worship of God is commenced by the singing of the "Star spangled banner" and the "red white and blue." The leading northern papers (the great power in their society) exhibit their usual recklessness and inconstancy of opinion: the Times which has published so many lying stories about the slaughter at Fort Moultrie and endeavored to make its readers believe them, now says that "the Rebels" had so much time for defence it would indeed have been strange had anybody been killed; the Herald only a week ago was clamorous for immediate and active hostility by Lincoln; now it is convinced delay is the wisest course.

Here there is little outward excitement, but deep feeling pervades all: our volunteers are drilling steadily every afternoon, the three companies encamped near the city are regularly instructed by competent officers. Our parade ground presents a beautiful scene every bright afternoon: I find it extremely difficult to study or attend to business; of the last there is a "plentiful lack."

May 19th

The Convention of West Virginia Counties, which met at Wheeling,
adjourned to June 11th when it is supposed efforts will be made to divorce some few counties from the old Dominion. Tennessee and North Carolina have waked up with wonderful energy: each appropriated five million dollars to the war, and called out a large body of troops.

Assemblies and Dioceses of different churches have convened in the States of our Confederacy and formally separated from the northern churches: in so doing, they have exhibited in their proceedings and resolutions, a mild and Christian temper in marked contrast to the spirit of the northern church, not in the worst days of the French Revolution was more malice, cruelty and diabolism displayed than is now exhibited everywhere at the north: the northern papers abound with accounts of proceedings in the Courts of law, in anniversary meetings, in religious conventions and in churches, that manifest an utter disregard for law, truth, charity and all the Christian graces: flags are raised upon church steeples before immense crowds - they cover the pulpit and even the communion table - ministers preach with sword and revolver on, and urge their flocks to the most bloody deeds - their cruel harangues are greeted with wild applause, and then these mockeries of divine service are concluded by singing the "star spangled banner," and by taking up collections for arming burglars, thieves and cut-throats to devastate the South. One young woman writes to her brother that he can bring her no present so gratifying as the scalp of a southern woman. In after days these things can scarcely be believed: yet they may be daily seen in any of the northern papers. The northern people are extremely theatrical: they are fond of large words and large
displays: every house exhibits a U. S. flag, and one hangs from the button hole of every coat. We southern people smile when we peruse their paper campaigns, falsehoods and brutal threats: we cannot sympathise with the tears their officers shed when they address their troops and apostrophise their flag: all this may be genuine and of terrible import to us, but we are a plain, earnest, straight-forward race, and such exhibitions seem to us like the impotent anger of children and the harmless fury of old women. General Benj., Franklin Butler of Massachusetts is now playing the petty despot in Baltimore: he has distinguished himself by precipitating his regiment gallantly upon a rail road and occupying it in the face of - no opposition: he has boldly siesed a steam gun guarded by - three men: and performed other heroic feats which the telegraph duly disseminates over the land.

His first order - heralded in the northern papers, in large type, as "Highly important order from Gen. Butler" beats any that Mexican General ever produced in anti-bathos and bombast: it consists first in the long announcement of a soldier's accidental death, second in thanking two Massachusetts officers for their "coolness" ("coolness" is indeed good!) "promptitude and zeal" - in doing what? in performing any service that demanded risk, pluck or heroism? No! in arresting one poor Merchant, on his way from Baltimore, for saying he thought the people of that city were right to oppose the passage of the Massachusetts troops: for using his constitutional franchise of "free speech" so much prated of and valued by the Yankees, Gen. Butler
informs the army "he has been arrested and sent to Annapolis, there to be dealt with as the magnitude of the crime deserves." In the third place this wonderful "order" announces that a soldier of Massachusetts has been poisoned, though it has since been proved too much bad liquor was the only poison used, and was administered by himself. These brilliant services of B. F. Butler have already given him an immense reputation North; the Herald pronounces him, and Capt. Lyons, who with 7000 men and 8 cannon surrounds and captures 800 Missouri Militia, two men for the times, and the most distinguished soldiers of the war. B. F. Butler, it is said, will be made a U. S. Major General! I keep an account of all these strange proceedings, as the moral phases constitute the most important portions of history. One of these days it will be amusing to read them. Now they seem purely farcical; like anything but the preface of a terrible tragedy.

May 24th

The Convention of North Carolina has passed an ordinance of Secession unanimously; in the Arkansas Convention there was only one vote against the Ordinance; and the telegraph reports that the people of Virginia yesterday voted, by an immense majority, to sustain the action of their Convention. Surely history cannot exhibit so unanimous a revolution; and yet the pretext for invasion that the north now employs, is their obligation to support the "Union men" of the South? even those few who are opposed to secession are still more opposed to resisting the action of their States. Another clap trap lie, which
the northern press is clamoring all over the north to rouse northern
feeling, is that Washington's remains have been removed from Mount
Vernon, and that it becomes the religious duty of northern men to
replace them. The northern press continues to circulate the most
shameless lies: the New York Herald actually says the Montgomery
Congress has offered a bounty of $20. for every dead Yankee and $25.
for every live one and has an inflammatory editorial telling the
deluded people of the north the South desires to capture them for
slaves. These lies however must eventually react upon themselves.

There seems no danger now of immediate collision; the Minnesota
& Monticello attacked an unfinished Virginia battery at Sewell's
point, but were soon driven off.

My Father has been elected Colonel of the Savannah regiment and
we soon go into service. Our ladies are now holding a fair for the
benefit of the troops: they have all along displayed a patriotism
worthy of the best days of Rome or our first revolution.

May 25th

The Telegraph brings the startling intelligence that Alexandria
was seized early yesterday morning by 5000 U. S. troops; the Virginia
garrison of 600 retreated in good order. The New York Zouaves at-
tempted to tear down a Confederate flag from the Marshall House;
Mr. Jackson the proprietor shot Ellsworth their Colonel dead, and
was instantly butchered by the ruffians; if this be true Mr. Jackson
voluntarily made himself a martyr, and has set a noble example to the
Southern people.
Our soil is now actually invaded: the aggressive and bloody purposes of Lincoln are unveiled, and we will stand justified before Heaven in fighting our enemy at home and abroad. The fact that northern democrats should aid this unholy war is one of the most amazing in history: never has been witnessed a baser sacrifice of principle, a more shameless apostacy! History will stand aghast to think that northern democrats invaded the south to enforce Republican doctrines. They falsify all the principles of their creed, all the doctrines and promises of their lives. Caleb Cushing, who recently defended the cause of the South, upheld her, and denounced coercion; Major Wood, who was censured at home for his unqualified maintenance of our cause and who actually suggested to the City Council of New York the secession of that City from the State, is now a bitter coercionist; Commodore Stockton, who declared he would raise a regiment to oppose any regiment going to invade the south, is now on the side of Lincoln; Dickinson, Everett, Buchanan are all against us - all false to their own teachings and promises. They stand revealed before our newly opened eyes, in all their naked deformity: we have done only what we said we would do, and what they said we had a right to do if no guaranty of our constitutional claims were given: our claims have been unheeded, despised, and yet these false friends have fled. God alone is true! we rely only upon him. Lincoln violates the constitution in the most palpable manner, but these valiant northern democrats enter no protest: he makes war, and raises armies; he blockades ports and suspends the Habeas Corpus by proclamation: Harney, his servant, annuls the act of
the Legislature of the sovereign State of Missouri; a petty Captain in the Army countermands the order of the Governor of once sovereign Maryland; but northern democracy is dumb and consolidation stalks at noon-day. Northern democracy has lost the benefit of southern suffrages; Lincoln makes Generals of the democrats Dix, Butler, Sickles and Reeder; this tells the story and proves the philosophy of democratic reticence. We are taught to rely upon ourselves alone, and gallantly we hope, to fight the southern battle. If it comes to the worst we can rely upon guerilla warfare, and decimate our foes as did the guerillas in Spain, irregulars like "Hodson's horse" in India, like the Texan Rangers, like the men of Marion and Sumter, will soon rid our Southern country of the foe. Our own Washington after the disastrous and disheartening retreat from New York said, in the last resort he would try a predatory warfare. See Vol. 2, p. 446-448 of Irving's Life of Washington, which is instructive to us now.

May 28th

We have all sorts of rumors from Virginia of battles and marches, but nothing is definite. Alexandria and Arlington heights have been siezed; the news of Mr. Jackson's heroic courage is confirmed; he is the first Southern martyr and well does he deserve the crown. He shot the Colonel who desecrated his flag, in the presence of his regiment; not one man in ten thousand would possess the heroism for such a deed. Ellsworth is a serious loss to the enemy and the noble Jackson's example is worth a victory to us! The tone of the English press is
very favorable to us: from the debates in Parliament we have reason to believe our recognition as a nation is not far off; Lord John Russell says we must be recognized as a "Belligerent," and our letters of marque as valid. Lincoln talks loudly and threatens foreign nations: any assistance direct or indirect, granted us will be considered cause for war by the U. States: the Monroe doctrine is to be enforced &c.

Lincoln continues the practice of his lawless and unconstitutional acts; he has seized all the telegraphic despatches in the northern offices, and thus, exceeding the inquisitorial tyranny of an Eastern Despot, has violated the sanctity of private property and confidential correspondence. His Agents are seizing numerous vessels on the coast for pretended attempts to violate his unheralded and invalid blockade: rich tobacco vessels have been taken on the coast of Maryland and Virginia; he has seized State Maps on their way to Virginia, and even the private baggage of Gen. Lee passing through from Texas. Private letters are constantly opened: a Surgeon of the U. S. Army (now of the Confederate Army) applies for $800. back pay, due before his resignation, and is informed he can look to his own State for it.

The invasion of Virginia has occurred at an opportune time, it will have to be made with very raw volunteers: Regiments formed since the battle of Fort Sumter can not be so soon well organized, equipped and drilled. The difficulties of organization are immense, especially where every man is equally free to condemn and foment dissatisfaction: our Regiment in Savannah has just elected officers, and a most unexpected and foolish impediment occurs. The Colonel (my Father) as the Surgeon
was an Allopathic physician, appointed a Homeopath as assistant Surgeon, many of the men preferring that practice. But to his great surprise a tempest is at once created, - in some little minds professional etiquette overcomes patriotism: Dr. Mc - F - d of the Blues resigns, as he cannot disgrace his profession by serving in a Regiment with a homeopathic physician. Dr. Reed is in high dudgeon and threatens to withdraw his company (Irish volunteers) from the Reg’t. The Allopaths make a dead set on the Surgeon, and he probably will withdraw, and thus we stand. It is not [an] easy matter to form a Regiment of patriotic, satisfied and well-officered men; it is not done in a month!

I would that I could write at length in my journal every day: hereafter it will be most valuable to me, reproducing the stirring times in which we live; but I have to jot down my impressions at odd and hurried moments, before breakfast or after dinner; my days are spent in the office, my nights given to love! I am getting out of my regular business habits; but I am never lazy. I am occupied if not busy. I look forward with immense pleasure (there being only one drawback, in the shape of dear blue eyes and their surroundings) to an active outdoor campaign: the tent and the open air life, I have always loved; the free air and sunshine chase everything like dyspepsia away and fill my heart with gladness. I am like the Prairie Indians my Cousin Robert tells me of, they pine instantly in confinement: Oseeola died in his prison like a captive eagle, and even I feel my spirits droop in the close atmosphere of rooms. I would look forward to a summer's tramp,
with gun and rod, with feelings I cannot describe, but this simple pleasure - much as I love it - I may never enjoy. However a soldier's life for the summer, even amid the musquitoes and sun beams of our coast will gratify my inborn taste, and I hail it with pleasure.

May 30th

Our Savannah troops are now about to muster into service; they are not absolutely needed, but the ardor of the men could be no longer restrained, and many would have left our Regiment and joined others for the Seat of war. Gov. Brown is determined to keep all our troops in and near Savannah for the protection of the City and coast; so notwithstanding our earnest efforts to be "near the flashing of the guns" we must remain here in anticipation of future hostilities and glory in this vicinity. The Oglethorpe Light Infantry is our only representative in Virginia; we could have twenty full companies there if only permitted to leave. The other Georgia cities have done splendidly; Augusta has nine companies in the field, and ten at home drilling steadily. Our companies will be distributed between the Fort, Thunderbolt and the coast; we are getting our blankets, haversacks, havelock helmets (of linen to protect head and neck from the burning sun) musquito nets &c. some of the men are preparing a guaze network with wire frame to protect the face from sand flies. The Guards now have their tents pitched in Court House Square; the mounted companies are destined for the coast. Col. Semmes Reg't is to be moved to Brunswick, and Col. Williams Regulars from the fort to Tybee, where a heavy battery is being constructed. Our
ladies (God bless them!) continue their patriotic efforts; they make haversacks, mosquito bars, shirts, &c. &c. They realized $6000 odd by their fair. They have presented flags to most of the companies; our people value nothing so highly as the praise of the fair sex, and no flag thus given will ever be dishonored.

August 9th

On Monday 5th I returned to the city after two months service at Fort Pulaski and Tybee Island. I returned strong and robust, the open air life of the soldier much better suiting my health than the sedentary habits of the lawyer. During this period many matters of interest occurred, short notes of which I jotted down in a little pocket diary, and which, at some future day, I may transfer to these pages: nothing is more pleasant than the perusal of old events and different habits of life.

I reached Fort Pulaski on Friday, May 31st; the company were transferred to Tybee on July 17th. We found Tybee a pleasant post - healthy - with a constant breeze from the sea; the tents were pitched upon board floors and under palmetto roofs or awnings, erected by Col. Williams' Regulars. We had a fine place on the broad beach for drill; the surf bathing was delightful. The mosquitoes and fleas, however, interfered sadly with our comfort; when the air was still the mosquitoes came in swarms, and would discover the slightest hole or opening in our nets; the fleas were very abundant: the free use of myrtle, mint, penny-royal &c in a measure abated the nuisance, but they caused many
a miserable and sleepless night.

The great event at Tybee was the battle near Manassas: we were all intensely interested in its details, and gloried in the prowess of our gallant Savannah boys: several Blues had brothers in the Oglethorpes. When our term of service expired we were asked to remain a week longer, which the two companies of Blues cheerfully consented to do: this conduct was in glaring contrast to that of the northern "three months" volunteers, nearly the whole of whom left just after the battle of Manassas when their services were most needed to repair losses, and some of whose Regiments left the very day the battle was fought, though urged to remain. Not a Regiment - not a company - of southern troops would have been guilty of so cowardly desertion in the hour of need & danger.

Our men have given proofs of the truest patriotism, in remaining patiently performing camp drudgery - without the chance of fighting or glory - within a few miles of their business and families, without the chance to see either. Nothing tests so severely the principles and qualities of a soldier as the patient performance of the monotonous and often irksome duties of camp, and the faithful and willing adhesion to his post, when his business interests suffer for a few days attention, and daily letters tell him his family is sick or needs his presence. All this the Savannah volunteers have cheerfully undergone for months, and are willing again to undergo for the sake of their country. How well they are fitted for the duties and perils of the field, let the shattered ranks of the gallant Oglethorpes attest: they carried seventy eight men
into action (after a weary forced march, two sleepless nights, and one meal in twenty four hours) and fought until only sixteen remained untouched. The dying words of the heroic Barton - "they have killed me, boys, but never give up the field" - will be the motto for Savannahians.

Among our own men instances of great sacrifice and pure patriotism were not rare: many left their business and their families - some gave up their situations; several tore themselves from their brides - and one was married at nine and returned to duty at ten the same morning. While such men may be overcome by brute force their spirit can never be subdued.

Lincoln’s Congress has just adjourned after passing many atrocious acts: they voted a half-million of men, and $400000000, a portion to be raised by loan, and a portion by direct taxation; they increased the high tariff imposed by the Morrill bill - increased the pay of their soldiers - and passed a bill to confiscate all southern property used in any way to aid "the rebellion" - and to free all slaves so employed. They showed themselves willing tools of a vulgar despot, and on the whole did much more to destroy their own constitutional liberty than to restore the union or to exterminate the rebels.

At the battle of Manassas a large number of hand cuffs were taken; these they probably intended to manacle the rebels. Arms in boxes were taken, probably intended to be placed in the hands of "loyal citizens," or, perhaps, in those of our slaves. The knap-sacks captured had nooses tied to them (were these for hanging the rebels?): their prisoners
(of whom we took some 2000, including one member of Congress) say they were offered extra pay, and also land in Virginia. The Radicals are trying hard to make the war a grand scheme of agrarianism and abolitionism: their sentiments make the madness of Jacobin France pale its ineffectual fires. To stimulate the courage and patriotism of their venal hordes they are compelled to appeal to their fanaticism and their avarice. Extra pay, a farm in Virginia, and the ultimate settlement by the Rebels of all the expenses of the war - are urgent considerations with an agrarian German, or fanatical and sordid Yankee. Mr. Breckinridge alone in the Senate denounced their atrocious confiscation bill: he told them every item was palpably contrary to the Constitution - that as all slaves were employed in raising the very subsistence of "the Rebels" the bill was an act of general emancipation. We however, regard the north as a foreign power - and laugh at their impotent acts and harmless threats: they surely cannot believe they will ever get our property to confiscate it: they see the necessity of making their own sordid people believe that the war is to cost them nothing.

One of the most tyrannical acts of Lincoln's minions consisted in the arrest of the Baltimore Police Commissioners: this was done by the military authorities & without the shadow of legality. They were confined in Fort McHenry; they petitioned Congress to release them, and Congress did summon independence sufficient to ask Lincoln for the correspondence showing the cause of their arrest: he coolly replied
its production would be incompatible with the public safety, and quietly spirited the poor Commissioners off to New York where they are confined, no one knows where.

The northern press - which has made northern opinion - has cursed the land with its lies, slanders and unbridled license; it has educated their people into false views of constitutional freedom, and inculcated a general disrespect for law and order; hence the north, at one bound, practises all the expedients of a worse than Asiatic despotism.

On Tuesday last I presented a Confederate flag - in behalf of some young ladies - to the Savannah Cadets; it was received by Capt. Chisholm in a very eloquent speech.

On Wednesday I drove to Berwick at one o'clock, we had heavy rain, with severe lightning - on the way Eddie and I got quite wet. After dinner with Mama we went to the rice fields, where I bagged Eleven and he six Summer ducks. We had to wade up to our hips. The sport towards dusk was very exciting; my left barrel got wet and would not go off, otherwise I would have killed more. We walked home in the dark; I nearly trod on a large snake. After changing our wet clothes we started for town, where we arrived about ten.

August 11th

On this day, only one year ago, I left New York for Savannah; at that time the country was apparently quiet and peaceful, confidence reigned supreme, and our (pretended) northern friends laughed at the idea of trouble from Lincoln's election. But the poison of puritan
fanaticism had leavened the whole north - the licentious northern press had done its work - and the land was fully prepared to suffer from the terrible malady which had penetrated its vitals, and is now convulsing its frame. The South bore shameless, cruel interference with its vested rights - with its domestic policy, and with its religious convictions, until endurance invited further oppression: then she cast off the dead body tied to her free limbs, asserted her independence, and, by the blessing of God, has nobly maintained it upon the bloody fields of Bethel and Manassas. One of the greatest blessings of non-intercourse with the North is the absence of the northern press; it was truly demoralizing, in its lies, its slanders, its exhibition of deformed moral tastes, its false sentiment, its fanaticism, its elevation of fashion, frivolity, and show at the expense of what was real, simple pure and true. Thank God the minds of our young people are no longer subject to its malign influence: its incendiary appeals are no longer addressed to our ignorant and susceptible slaves, they are contented and happy, and we feel safer while war is raging, than during our mock and hollow peace. No European peasantry could have stood the indidious and dangerous appeals to their passions and avarice to which our negroes have long been subjected. We lose nothing, but gain everything, by the absence of the north: henceforth it is to us as a foreign nation: we only lose what was enervating and hurtful: we enjoy an opportunity to return anew to the simple tastes and healthy habits of our Fathers. How many a young man have I known ruined by the corruption and luxury of New York, how many a young woman spoiled by the fashion and frivolity
of Newport and Saratoga! I trust we are done with them forever, and will learn to seek our pleasure in the quiet and virtuous home paths that branch out from the domestic circle. We have delightful summer resorts among the wild woods of our own mountain country - a fine healthy climate, with delightful bathing, and invigorating sea breezes all along our coast. The change, even to Tybee, I know to be like that to Newport, equally improving and strengthening; and at all events, impediments to comfort like heat and mosquitoes are vastly better than foes to morals like the fashionable gathering places at the north.

I am for the present in Savannah, where I go to my office, to find it empty of clients: I sit there with a mind little fitted for business, listening for the echoes of battle, and starting at the tap of the spirit-stirring drum, now so familiar to our streets.

War has broken up our household: my Father is in command at Fort Pulaski; my sisters and brother were with different Aunts, but are now at Meriwether Springs. Nearly every male relative I have is in the field serving his country: I had one cousin badly wounded at Manassas - another at Scarry River in Western Virginia. I am ready to re-enlist with my company, and go with it wherever duty calls: I hope to be married in the Fall notwithstanding the hard times and uncertainty. Life at best is uncertain, and the same God who protects me in the peaceful paths of life can cover my head in the day of battle.

This struggle may last many years, and I can see no advantage in postponing duty or happiness to its uncertainties. I never for one moment have doubted the result of the contest; we are a united, brave
and martial people, and cannot be subdued; we are too numerous and dwell in too vast and impenetrable a country to be exterminated; we are a praying people, and God is the hearer of prayers; we firmly believe events have shown God to be on our side; who then can be against us. We may be destined to pass through a Red Sea of blood, and to stand in a fiery furnace; but by God's help we shall come out unscathed.

We lose some of the best soldiers in the Blues; they leave tomorrow to fill the broken ranks of our heroic Oglethorpes. B. Purse fills his brother's place who fell dead at Manassas, only seventeen years of age; Henry Davis joins his Brother who was badly wounded in the same battle. Our boys are prompted by a noble spirit, but we grieve to lose them; we think too that every man will soon be wanted nearer home. The northern papers are already threatening our coast.

August 14th

Joe Davis, James Sweat, Wm. White, Julius Smith, O. Dauvergne, Corporals Wm. Luddington and Habersham Wylly left today to supply the places of dead and disabled Oglethorpes in Virginia; they are among the best boys in the Blues. We have also lost B. Theus, Tondee, P. Russell, and John Symonds who take lieutenants places in other Corps. Munnerlyn and Walker are in Kershaw's Regiment.

We have had a meeting tonight, and obtained nearly a full company for six months service on our coast; our men long for active duty, which they think can be found only in Virginia, and service on the coast
is not very popular; however patriotism overcomes inactivity, insects, and the other inconveniences anticipated, and I think we will get a full company from the Blues.

My partner commands the Phoenix Riflemen and is about going into service, so our business must come to a standstill: with rent &c. to pay, this is not pleasant, but the Southern people are ready to make any and every sacrifice.

Our Privateers—especially the Sumter out of New Orleans, and Jeff Davis of Charleston (whose 1st Lieut. is an old Blue) are now playing great havoc with northern commerce: some of their numerous prizes have been recaptured and others beached to avoid capture. Our cause appears to improve in Europe, notwithstanding the studied defamation of northern diplomats, emissaries and papers: The Reverend Cheever is now in London appealing to the abolition element to excite hatred against the South; our papers cannot find their way to Europe, and we are seen only through the mendacious northern prints. We have had a good many country companies—among others three from Screven and two from Bryan—recently passing through Savannah for duty on the coast; one Regiment from the seaboard is to be located near Brunswick, another near Savannah. The men are fine material, tough and dead shots, but perfectly raw: it requires much patient effort to drill them into good soldiers: Bryan Connor, an old Serg't of the Blues and splendid drill officer, is now employed at Tybee to instruct these recruits. Our people suffer much for competent officers: they are willing to learn, but there is no one—in the country—to teach them. In South Carolina the numerous military
schools supply this desideratum. Some of the Citadel Cadets of Charleston have gone to Virginia, by invitation of Gen. Beauregard, to act as drill officers. Charleston exhibits a most ardent spirit: the business houses are closed in the afternoon, and all the Volunteers and Militia come out to drill. In Savannah also great spirit is manifested: we are a miniature Sparta and every man is a soldier: besides the very many native companies there are two of Germans and six of Irish: these latter embrace our cause with great spirit and ardor.

The old town of Hampton has been burnt by the Virginia troops to prevent its becoming winter quarters for the foe: the two leaders of the expedition were natives of the place and heroically fired their own property. The old Colonial Church - the most ancient on the Continent - was set apart to be saved but perished in the general conflagration. This act evinces the spirit and character of our people: the vandals had defaced the old church by filthy drawings and inscriptions, and it was meet to give it to the flames. The Yankees and the world will yet learn how much of the stuff is here of which heroes are made!

August 15th

News comes this morning of a great and decisive victory in Missouri, resulting in the death of Gen. Lyon and the complete defeat of his forces. This news is derived from Federal sources and probably correct: though all the news from Missouri has been so unreliable, we await for a confirmation.

Georgia's Commercial Agent - Hon. Thomas Butler King - is now
doing good service by writing pamphlets on direct trade in Europe: 
this is the only way to defeat the efforts of northern papers and 
emissaries who seek in every way to poison the European mind.

In Savannah every man available for military duty is either in the 
field or under drill: even the City Police are drilled daily. The 
Savannah Cadets - though boys of twelve and fourteen - are armed with 
muskets, drill beautifully, and now act on fire alarm duty.

August 17th

Yesterday about 2 P. M. Eddy and I drove out to Berwick, to try 
and shoot a few Summer ducks. We reached the fields about 1 and found 
several men shooting on the place. It soon began to rain hard and no 
ducks appeared: I obtained only one shot, which I bagged. We started 
for the house at six in a drenching northeast rain. On the way several 
ducks rose from the field, one of which Eddy killed. Near the house 
we started a bevy of young quail. We were thoroughly wet, changed our 
clothes, drank some port wine, and left for town at 7. We arrived 
about ten. A north east storm has prevailed for several days.

I find it very difficult to attend to the little business that 
comes in: the Riflemen go into service on Monday, and my partner's 
office is constantly filled with his men: we see, hear and think of 
nothing but war and soldiers. The zeal of the Southern people seems 
steadily to increase, while that of the Lincolnites appears to wane, 
as large bounties are given, by act of Congress, to encourage enlistment.

Southern volunteers are pouring into Virginia, and every southern 
town and county is alive for home defence. Screven, Effingham, Bullock, 
Bryan, Glynn, Tatnall, and all our seaboard counties are mustering every
able bodied man. Their whole voting population have become soldiers - and this notwithstanding the great difficulties under which they labor, the want of competent officers and instructors, and the distance at which the men live from each other, which renders it difficult to meet for drill. Gen. Lawton has received the offer of more than 5000 men for the war, most of the tenders coming I believe from the lower counties, whose population is very small and diffuse. Our low country men are tall, boney, swarthy fellows: they are more useful than showy - strong, hardy and seasoned, daring and resolute, and soldiers by instinct and habit. Every man of them is familiar with horse, gun, exposure and hardship. Their uniforms are of the plainest material and make - of coarse home-made cloth, sewed together by our pure and noble women. Everything about our gallant troops denotes use and not show; they need no gaudy trappings, or martial bands to inspire their courage: Heaven gave them the animal instinct with their tough frames, and education, tradition, and female influence have added the sentiment. Oh war has its fierce delights, its regenerating power, and its ennobling influences! How utterly sordid, selfish and groveling does a man feel if he thinks of his property and his lucre in the presence of our brave soldiers, or our braver nobler women; God bless our patriotic women; what champions of liberty are they! They make the soldier's uniform and accoutrements, they inspire him with courage and chivalry, they give him the flag he would die rather than disgrace, they pray for him in the field, shelter and nurse him when sick, surround him with comforts
and kindness when he lies wounded and dying. Our Southern women are doing everything; their "Soldiers Aid Societies" are hardly less important than our armies: I read the address of one of these Societies in the Charleston Courier, and tears came to my eyes: how noble and holy its sentiments! who would not fight bravely to defend the honor and happiness of such women! Oh that the high and generous sentiments engendered by this revolution may make us and our posterity what our Revolutionary Fathers were - a simple, virtuous, liberty-loving, God-fearing people!

August 18th

Col. Heintzelman (regular army) has made his report of the battle of Manassas: the New York Fire Zouaves (Ellsworth's), whom the Gothamites invested with the most terrible courage, were under his immediate command: he says that "after the first fire they broke and most of them went to the rear." These were the terrible fellows in red breeches, who were bold in killing cattle, pillaging houses, and insulting women and prisoners, and whom the Yankees, with Chinese like anticipations, expected to frighten the Southerners with their gaudy colors and brutal manners. The Brooklyn 14th Reg't - who were (in Brooklyn) so full of blood and thunder and whose Chaplain, in the house of the living God, declared their flag should be baptized in the best blood of the rebels - was also under command of Col. H. and was conspicuous for its cowardice and want of discipline. Those valiant Senators and Congressmen and editors, who had written brave words and spoken brave speeches away off at home, how did they redeem their threats and promises when they
came out, thirsty for Southern blood, to glut their eyes over the bleeding and mangled forms of the defeated rebels? Surely they vindicated their courage and sincerity by seizing muskets and rallying the fugitives, or at least in offices of mercy to the exhausted and wounded soldiers! Oh no! they ran with pallid faces and swelled the rout - they outstripped the terror stricken warriors of the north - they pushed the exhausted and bleeding soldiers from their vehicles - Wilson, the speaker of brave words, Raymond the writer of valiant editorials, all the bold Congressmen and Editors ran like sheep from the "cowardly Southerners," as those same southerners always expected them to do. The barking dog seldom bites: the northern's lion's roar subsided into the gentleness of a sucking dove! Those valiant northern troops are desperate fellows in assaulting a hen roost or sacking a house; their own papers acknowledge their excesses & enormities: the Washington papers are filled with letters from "Union Men" complaining of the depredations and outrages of these carpet knights. On the battle field of Manassas, before great fear came upon them, they were quite kind to our wounded, filled their canteens and gave them water, but the wounded all declare they at the same time despoiled them of watch and purse. The Valiant Regiments of Maine and New Hampshire - who deserted their commanders just before the battle, because their time was up - exhibited their courage by packing the offices of Democratic Organs in Bangor and Concord, thus suppressing "the glorious freedom of speech and of the press," both of these they had ostensibly organized to protect. But enough of Northern valor and love of liberty; their own papers supply details usque ad nauseam.

The Privateers of the Savannah - of the Petrel, sunk by St.
Lawrence - and some few constituting the prize crew of recaptured prizes - are now being treated as Pirates at the North, and loaded with chains, insults and barbarities: they are brought heavily ironed into Court, and dragged like felons through the street, the sport and jeer of an unfeeling mob. President Davis - imitating the example of our own Rebel Washington - has informed Lincoln that swift retaliation will follow the execution of any of these Privateers; but should not retaliation follow their cruel treatment? it is a sad necessity, but how else can we protect our own captives? The Lincolniters, like the British in 76, persist in treating us as Rebels: they refuse to recognize our official status in any way: they sent a messenger, without the proper papers, to reclaim Col. Cameron's body: Beauregard very properly had him arrested at once. These cute Yankees made the few prisoners they took at Manassas promise not to fight against them "until exchanged;" now they declare they will not exchange them at all: various officers in the battle say they would fall down as if dead, when a volley was fired, and then when the Southerners had passed over them in pursuit would rise and shoot our men in the back: if attacked in turn they would immediately surrender and ask for quarter. All our officers declare that, while at first they fired well, the Yankees never once stood a bayonet charge. Jonathan has no stomach for cold steel.

August 19th

Glorious news comes from Missouri: Lyon's defeat and death are fully confirmed - his forces driven back in confusion - many prisoners,
small arms and six guns, with baggage &c. taken by Price and McCullough. God defends the right. His great name be praised!

A Federal vessel threw shells into the town of Galveston, Texas, directing them against innocent spectators - including many ladies - on the sand hills near the town. One man was killed and several wounded.

Mr. Breckenridge, in a recent speech in Baltimore, boldly told the people they were living under the shadow of a vast and growing military despotism; this is abundantly manifested by every act of the Lincolnites: Mr. Smith, former Navy Agent in San Francisco, and Mr. Faulkner, ex-minister to France, have both been arrested in New York, on their way to Virginia, and thrown into prison; no reason alleged for the arrests. Indeed men are now arrested every day; it ceases to excite attention. Lincoln's tools issue their warrants, like the French lettres de cachet, and the once model Republic excels the worst species of despotism.

On Saturday night last the Blues formed one Company to go into service for six months: today (Monday) they elected Capt. Anderson as their Captain, myself as 1st Lieut., Geo. Anderson as 2nd & Dan Olcott as 3rd. Wm. Dixon was made 1st Sergeant.

August 21st

Yesterday afternoon at 5½ P. M. the Blues marched up to the Barracks and were mustered into the Confederate service, for six months, by Lt. Col. Rockwell. We will probably march to our destination in a few days.

This morning I went to the office and attended to law business until after twelve: I then walked to the Barracks and obtained a promise from Gen. Lawton that he would grant me a furlough in the Fall to enable
me to go to Virginia and get married. May the good God enable him to fulfill his promise, and me to enjoy the fruits of it! If the Yankees purpose attacking our coast I devoutly pray they may postpone it until after October.

At the Barracks I saw three genteel looking Spaniards, who claimed to be passengers on board a prize of the Jeff Davis, recently brought in near Darien; they were brought here, and are anxious to reach New York. As they have little money, and only one speaks English, their situation is anything but pleasant. They were told not to divulge anything they might have seen, and then directed to the Spanish Consul for his advice and aid. I felt sorry for the poor strangers and took the liberty of referring them to my friend and brother Blue, Mr. Molina, a countryman of theirs and most estimable man.

**September 19th**

On Tuesday Aug. 22nd the Blues received sudden orders to proceed to St. Catharine's Island at 5 P. M. on Friday. We promptly prepared for the march; on Friday we met in the drill room at 3 P. M. and learned that our boat was repairing her boiler and would not be ready before night. We marched however to Broughton St. where (EH) Serg't T. McNish presented a flag - the gift of his wife, to the company. Capt. Anderson received it.

It was intensely hot and dusty. We returned to the drill room and were dismissed till eight. I spent the interval with my dear Nannie, and bade her farewell with a heavy heart.
The rain fell in torrents; we determined to delay until 4 in the morning. Most of the men spent the night in the drill room, but I went home and got several hours sleep.

At daylight the long roll was beat and we soon turned our faces from Savannah. Oh how much I left behind me! The rain fell in torrents all day with a strong wind from the north east; I felt sad in mind and sick and feverish in body.

We reached Mr. Waldburg's house about one o'clock; the men were at once marched on shore, where they stacked arms, unslung knapsacks, and proceeded to unload the Lawton: our tents, baggage and stores were soon on terra firma. A large wagon being filled with our tents, the men slung knap-sacks, and, under my command, started for our camping ground on the north end of the island. We had a weary march of five miles, about three of them along the beach. The site for a camp was selected in a pretty spot behind a low sand ridge; tall pines, broad oaks, and thick clumps of palmetto and Spanish bayonets decorated the location. Before dusk all the tents brought along were pitched. The officers tents had not arrived, so I slept on my mattrass in a non commissioned officer's tent.

The drums roused us early Sunday morning; the day was beautiful and clear, and the pure, cool breeze from the ocean most refreshing after the hot atmosphere of the city. The view from the low sand hills was very attractive, and our ears were greeted with the constant roar of the surf and the moan of the pines. The engineer officer - Capt.
Echols - arrived Sunday morning and located his battery on the ground occupied by our camp. We had to go to work and remove it several hundred yards back into the woods; all this hard labor the men performed cheerfully. We soon had a pleasant and comfortable camp, and on Monday commenced our regular drills.

The company was divided into messes and each mess hired its own negro cook; each mess appointed an orderly who was excused from guard duty and ordinary drills. The men caught plenty of fish near camp, and the woods abounded with squirrels. On Monday some 160 negroes from Liberty and Bryan Counties commenced the construction of a sand battery; they worked well and cheerfully, singing over their hoes and axes. At night they would sing and dance, and cook and eat until morning. These African Battalions are not the least useful portion of our army.

I took one deer hunt and got a shot at a fawn but missed.

On Tuesday Sept. 3rd I left in the St. Mary's for Savannah, having received a summons to attend a Court Martial on 5th. Cousin George Nicoll accompanied me, and learned on his arrival that his wife had on that morning given birth to a son.

This morning (Sept. 4th ) Eddie became the Father of a fine boy, and last week Cousin Robert received a similar present.

Today I spent the morning with my dear N; she left in the Charleston train at ½ to 2 for Virginia. When I saw her borne from me I felt as desolate as the great vacant Rail Road yard, the hot tears blinded me, and I could only pray God to bless and keep her. The house seems lonely and desolate indeed and I long to rejoin my brave boys in camp.
September 5th

Spent the morning at the Barracks on Court Martial.

Forts Clark & Hatteras (sand batteries) on either side of Ocracoke Inlet, N. Caro. have been taken by the Lincoln fleet. The Lincolnitites had some ten war vessels, mounting one hundred guns, and four thousand men, against twenty five guns and less than eight hundred men. This gives them the possession of an important point, and leaves the coast of North Carolina open to their forays. But few particulars have reached us, though it appears the fleet stood off with long range guns and demolished the batteries at leisure. We lost some 25 guns, 700 odd prisoners, and from 60 to 80 killed and wounded. This is the most serious reverse we have yet received, but it has only served to animate and arouse us. Redoubled exertions are being made to fortify our coast. Tyler with 900 Ohio troops has been badly defeated by Floyd in western Virginia: one hundred odd were taken prisoners and the rest utterly dispersed and demoralized: the Colonel, Tyler, was the first to run.

Lincoln's vile tools continue to suppress northern papers that denounce his acts: men are seized every day without law or warrant & quietly immured in Fort Lafayette or some other northern Bastile: a telegram from Washington says "political arrests hereafter will not be made public," was it ever worse under Louis XV? could Austria or Russia, or Naples do more?

Mrs. Phillips (formerly Miss Levy of Sav'h) Mrs. Senator Gwin, and
other ladies have had their trunks examined and their persons imprisoned because of their sympathy with "the Rebels." Fremont has declared Missouri under martial law, has declared that all people away from home are prima facie rebels, that all rebels with arms in hand shall be shot, and that all the property of rebels is confiscated and their slaves made free. The veiled Prophet stands unveiled: Republicanism appears in all its true diabolism!

September 6th

The northern Congress having confiscated all the property of Rebels, and the northern people being now engaged in the seizure of all they can lay their hands on, our Congress has retaliated by sequestering all northern property in the south (said to exceed $300,000,000) and appointing receivers to hold it, in order that the Southern people may be indemnified for their losses. This is a very just and proper act; my Father for example owns some $100,000 of copper stock in Minnesota, bought in good faith, and yet he must lose this because the Yankees call him "a Rebel." Our Congress has transacted its business in secret session; no speeches have been made for the galleries, and hence a large amount of work has been done.

The whole north is gloryfying Butler's capture of two sand batteries, as if it were a Jena or a Waterloo: our men were huddled in these little sand forts, without bomb proofs, pits, or any other protection, and the large fleet, with its heavy metal, had them at its mercy. Their
guns were of small caliber, and their supply of ammunition very small: after losing about thirty men killed and wounded, the whole force, Col. Martin, Major Andrews and their men, surrendered themselves prisoners of war. It is deeply mortifying to hear the Yankee boasts: it is the first time a southern man has ever surrendered a fort.

In Missouri civil war exists in every county; in Kentucky a similar state of affairs is imminent. In Virginia our forces are approaching Arlington Heights and Alexandria; after sharp skirmishes they have captured Manson's and Shuter's hills, prominent and important positions. (Capture of Shooter's Hill not confirmed Sept. 15th)

September 8th

It is amazing how soon the mind accommodates itself to altered circumstances; at one time the presence of a ship near Tybee would have thrown the whole city into excitement; yesterday it was reported that a fleet was off our bar and that troops were being landed on the South Carolina coast, and yet it produced not a ripple of excitement. Wars and rumors of wars soon cease to create agitation and alarm.

In the early portion of our difficulties Col. Williams, at Tybee, reported at Fort Pulaski that a hostile ship was outside and he saw a boat approach Hilton Head which he thought contained troops; it soon became reported in the city that a fleet was in the offing, Tybee invaded and Cockspur assailed; everybody was in a fever of excitement, soldiers got ready, one company came down at once from Effingham, and a boat with the Chatham Artillery was dispatched to seek the imaginary
foe; a despatch was sent to Richmond announcing that Georgia was invaded by ten thousand troops. Such reports now would produce little excitement. Do we, in the same manner, become used to wounds and death?

Our dear, noble ladies who pioneered this revolution are bravely supporting it: they are literally taking in the sick, feeding the hungry, and clothing the naked. Their influence is potent with our brave men - their applause the soldier's dearest recompense.

The northern three months men who ran home before and after Manassas were received with plaudits and encomiums, as if they had done something noble. If a southern regiment had acted thus they would never have dared to face their own wives and daughters.

I saw a letter today from my cousin Caro, who, with my sister, is at Meriwether Springs: she says the lady visitors have instituted a "soldier's Aid Society" and meet daily to sew for our brave lads.

September 9th

The Blockade is fast rendering us commercially independent: we are making our own arms, shoes, clothes &c: our productions are as yet rough, but we will rapidly improve, and lean upon the Yankee crutch no longer.

Important events are probably occurring in Virginia: the telegraph has been silent for several days: this is caused by the action of the government, and is the lull before the storm. Kentucky is fast reaching a crisis. Gov. McGoffin has issued a proclamation calling upon the people to maintain their neutrality, and throwing all the responsibility
upon Lincoln: we are informed this morning that Lincoln has siezed Paducah. Gov. Brown and Adj't Gen. Wayne are now here to inspect our coast defences: the Governor has never accorded with the Confederate States - our General has been inactive - and we are still in a state of unpreparedness. The general Court Martial will detain me here some time; it is tedious work, and I long to re-join my company.

When not engaged I read the news or study tactics. The weather for several weeks has been very sultry, with a moist, sticky atmosphere: we have rain, thunder and lightning nearly every day. The city is healthy.

September 11th

On Tuesday 10th I drove out to Berwick with Eddy. The day was clear, with a cool, refreshing breeze; for two days now the weather has been delightful. I spent the morning reading the papers, and tactics. We took an early dinner and then walked through the fields in search of Summer ducks. The rice was ready for harvesting and presented a beautiful appearance. From five until dark a good many ducks flew over the fields though they did not offer many good shots. I got two and Eddy three. We waded in the fields and had to change our clothes. We reached town about nine.

This afternoon I walked to our parade ground: it presented a stirring appearance: five companies are encamped on the parade, one in the woods on the left, and one near by on the right.

Tonight I read full northern accounts of the capture of the sand
batteries on the North Carolina coast; it appears that the Wabash was
struck by two 32 lb. Shot, and that 7 eight inch shell - loaded with
sand - passed through the Monticello. Nearly all the shot from the
batteries fell short, the vessels keeping out of range. The best guns
were found not mounted. The Monticello and Harriet Lane both got
aground; the latter throwing over her guns: several surf boats were
swamped. These facts prove the difficulty of landing. A body of
Lincoln troops were - with difficulty - landed two miles above the
battery: the war vessels could render them no aid during the night,
and, if attacked, they would have been destroyed: proper pickets might
have furnished this information, as it appears there were woods on the
banks. The bombardment continued all Wednesday and until 11 A. M.
Thursday; five or six shell per minute fell in or near the batteries;
700 odd men were huddled in them without any adequate protection, and
yet only some forty casualties occurred. It is apparent from this,
that with proper bomb proofs - even large trenches covered with logs
and earth - these batteries could not have been taken: at all events
their garrison could have held out until night, and then spiked the
guns, blown up the carriages and retreated.

The issue of the attack has been most unfortunate, and will
encourage our enemies to assail other points along our coast. We are
getting pretty thoroughly aroused in Savannah, and the work of defence
is redoubled.

September 13th

The weather yesterday and today has been very sultry; we have
frequent rains, and the grass in our squares and parade ground is as beautiful as the finest English turf. It makes excellent hay. The blockade is fast rendering us commercially independent: every paper contains notices of some new branch of manufacture springing up in our midst: cannon are cast and ball & shell made in various places - numerous powder mills have been established. Shoes are being made of wood and canvas, and Southern industry and ingenuity largely developed.

The north has lost much of its confident tone - though at present jubilant over the affair at Hatteras - and Philadelphia and Cincinnatti (those former boastful threateners) are calling upon Lincoln to protect them from Southern invasion. Old Longworth of Cincinnatti months since declared that city alone could subdue South Carolina!

September 15th

The weather yesterday was delightful; very pleasant today.

Our army near Manassa is in statu quo. Skirmishes - magnified by northern papers into great battles - have occurred between Wise and Cox in Western Virginia. Floyd has completely defeated Col. Tyler's Ohio Reg't at Cross Lanes: the enemy confess very heavy losses.

On Sept. 10th it seems Floyd and Rosencrans had an engagement near Gauley river: each of course claims a victory. The Federal account is that Floyd's main body was entrenched across Gauley River, but a part of his force, on the other side, was attacked; after a "furious fight" (?) of nearly a whole day the Federals confess a loss of 15 killed and
70 wounded; they claim 70 wounded; they claim the victory because Floyd's troops crossed the river during the night and joined his main body. Per contra a despatch comes this morning announcing that Floyd defeated Rosencrans with a loss of 600 killed, 1000 wounded and some prisoners; Floyd lost one killed and eight wounded; he crossed the river by night to his main body on learning that a portion of the enemy had crossed above to take him in rear. How difficult to arrive at truth between these conflicting accounts! Americans certainly seem obnoxious to foreign charges of exaggeration; the federal account says the fight was "furious" and yet declares only 15 were killed. Kentucky has now taken a strange position; she has several times declared for strict neutrality; both Federals and Confederates are encamped upon her soil, and her Legislature (which it is to be hoped for her own honor does not express the popular will) has ordered the Confederates to remove, allowing the Federals to remain; Gov. McGoffin vetoed the bill and it has been passed over his head. Civil war must soon rage in Kentucky, and the fate of unhappy Maryland and Missouri be hers.

In Baltimore wholesale arrests have just been made: without affidavit, warrant, charge or legal forms - in utter disregard of the first principles of the Constitution - the Mayor of the City - Gen Howard the Candidate for Governor - Teacle Wallace - Mr. Winans and other prominent men have been seized and confined in Fort McHenry. Little did the noble Col. Howard of the revolution think his struggles for liberty would be rewarded by the enslavement of his son! Surely the once free people of Maryland cannot long brook such tyranny! Gen. Dix has recently
distinguished himself in the same ill fated city by making his Police
seize all rebel badges, remove all rebel colors from the shop windows,
and steal from the little news boys all rebel songs, or doggerel dis­
respectful to king Abe.

For many years the sentiment of the northern people has been
thoroughly vitiated: while observing the forms of constitutional freedom,
they have imbibed and inculcated the belief of the absolute power of
the majority: vox populi vox dei has been the cry! True liberty had
perished in their hearts, and is now destroyed by their acts.

September 16th

We had a long session of the Court Martial this morning, and
disposed of one case. The day has been very pleasant; the afternoon
truly lovely.

Soon after dinner I attended to a little matter, which constitutes
a memorable item in these stirring times, and in the now important
events of my life. I went and got measured at Symonds for my marriage
suit. Does it not seem strange to be preparing so quietly for my
wedding - almost wrong - while perhaps the hostile sword is suspended
over my head: war is raging, and the bitter north full of blood and
threats: many think our own coast will be speedily attacked - even a
few days may rouse me from my sweet dream of hope, and expose my life
and limbs to battle's cruel chances.

The comforts of this world, too, are difficult to procure - money
is scarce - my Father's property depreciated, that at the north probably
confiscated, and his prospects sadly altered; my profession brings me nothing, and my pay as a first Lieutenant goes but a little way. And yet I would not change my plans: God is over me now as always - bullets are not more fatal than a thousand other forms of death while peace is reigning - and my young arms and energy can procure me and my loved one all that we really require. I would be missed as a lover no less than as a husband; and if times grow harder and dear friends fall, I will have a stay and comfort for my weary heart. Let me look bravely at the curtained future, and asking the good God for His favor, obey the pure promptings of my nature and affection. I have always prayed for a good and gentle and christian wife; and such an one I firmly believe God is about to give me: she cares nothing for the flimsy gew gaws of fashion, but young and hopeful, is willing to sacrifice all the luxuries and attractions of a gay life, for the plainer endearments of a quiet home and a pious unselfish regard. Oh that I were better and worthier of her! If I live to grow old I can never forget these eventful days - their trials, privations, anxieties and hopes. Fashion and frivolity have fallen to the ground; war's rude shock has shaken the spangles from brave and manly forms, and our virtuous people stand erect in their god-like simplicity and truth. Marriage does not now suggest the idea of fine clothes, handsome presents, and luxurious feasts. It is a simple, holy ceremony, full of trials and struggles perhaps, but no less full of pure sacrifice and devoted love. Thank God that our people prove themselves worthy of his blessing.

Never have marriages been more frequent in our good old city than
since the opening of this war: and they all possess the merit of being pure and generous: mercenary matches can scarcely occur under the present state of affairs. Wealth is reduced, and property and position unstable: we know not what a day may bring forth! All must make sacrifices, especially our fair women. But what is nobler or more purifying than the crucifixion of self.

Our city tonight is full of rumors; one is that an English vessel, with my Uncle Ned on board, is in Vernon River with a large supply of arms. Another that a battle is raging near Port Royal; my Father has sent word from Tybee that heavy guns have been heard in the direction of Port Royal all last night and to-day; he sent a detachment on the boat to try and discover the cause. Probably the Lincoln ships are exercising their men.

The Georgia Hussars leave for Virginia tomorrow morning: they have just had a parting treat at the Pulaski, and their cheers are yet breaking the silence of night. I have two cousins (Willy Gordon 2nd Lieut.) and many friends in the corps. Three of our Blues go with them. This corps has made noble efforts to get into active service: the Government refused them unless armed, and Gov. Brown ordered them not to remove the State arms. They have purchased their own pistols, sabres and horses and pay their own expenses to Virginia; many of the sabres are old revolutionary blades; some were manufactured in Georgia. Their Capt. Fred. Waring has shown great perseverance, resolution and liberality.
September 17th

One of last night's rumors proved partially true; a fine British steamer ran the blockade and reached our city this morning. She has on board 18 rifled cannon, 8 to 10,000 small arms, ammunition, shoes, blankets &c. This is a most acceptable arrival, & caused great excitement. Hundreds of our citizens boarded her - I among them, and congratulated Capt. Peck who brought her in. The arms were purchased in Europe by my Uncle Ned, a Major in the Confederate army.

I received a letter from my sister this morning which gratified me much, and did her honor; its sentiments were noble and excellent, and show that all our people - especially our fair women - are ready to make any sacrifices in this holy cause. While sitting on Court Martial all morning our blessed Savannah ladies were in a room next us busy sewing for the soldiers. Tonight they have tableaux for the benefit of our troops. Does not such conduct dignify human nature, and almost compensate for the cruel issues of war?

September 18th

Last night I went to the theatre to see the juvenile exhibit for the benefit of our sick and wounded soldiers. It was gotten up by some of our patriotic ladies, and consisted of tableaux, singing and dancing by the children. The house was crammed, hundreds could not gain admittance, and the audience was full of zeal and patriotism. It was a gratifying evidence of our feeling in this cause.

Rain fell at midnight and today is delightful.
September 20th

The weather for the past two days has been delightful. I am still detained on the Court Martial.

My whole thoughts are now occupied with my approaching marriage in October, and much of my time occupied in preparation for that event. Father being in service and Mamy and the rest absent, I have attended to matters and things in person, except so far as aided by Mama's kind attention. I have selected furniture for my room, got my necessary outfit, set the servants cleaning house &c. &c. Clothes, jewelry &c. are now scarce and expensive, and marriage has to be shorn of much of its surrounding pomp and ceremony. How much a woman gives up to leave her own family and come to a distant State - to part willingly from old friends and accustomed enjoyments - and to cling to her husband when he has no wealth to attract her, but is a soldier, exposed to danger and death and unable to spend even a sixth of his honeymoon with her! Oh how much of that quiet, domestic happiness I so much prize, do I look for in the rosy future; what beautiful day dreams to be realized. God grant that all my fair hopes and prospects may not be dashed to the earth! War is a rough visitor and no respector of persons. But I am cheerful and hopeful of my future, and now live constantly in my castles in the air.

September 22nd

Kentucky has at length reached a crisis. The Legislature has ordered the Confederates to evacuate Columbus and Hickman: Gen. Polk
(formerly bishop of Louisiana) has refused to do so unless the Federals evacuate Paducah: Kentucky claiming to be neutral must act impartially towards both belligerents. At last accounts the two parties were marching against each other: the whole state is divided in feeling, and her fair soil is about to become once more "the dark and bloody ground."

A perfect reign of terror is reported in Baltimore, and all sorts of horrible outrages are committed by the Yankees.

All our cities have been remarkably healthy this summer; no yellow fever has made its appearance: this furnishes a strong argument for the advocates of quarantine.

Two skirmishes - amounting almost to battles - have occurred near; one at Lewisville, and the other at Hall's house; in each the Yankees were signally defeated.

A large fleet is now collecting in Hampton Road, designed doubtless to inflict another Hatteras defeat on our coast.

The tribune says two expeditions, aided by 25,000 troops, are being prepared; it behooves us to be active and vigilant. The North has some 6,000 marines, besides 25,000 or 30,000 excellent sailors: these sailors are being regularly drilled at Howitzers and as infantry they will operate boldly on land. Sailors did all the hard fighting in the battle of Bladensburg, and manned our siege batteries at Vera Cruz.

September 23rd

Yesterday was cloudy and unpleasant, with drizzly rain in afternoon.
During the night rain fell and today is quite chilly. I find winter clothes very comfortable. No news of importance.

September 24th

Today continues cool and bracing; the sky clear and atmosphere pure. Winter clothes are necessary and blankets at night not uncomfortable.

September 25th

Today is cloudy but still quite cool: the Board of Health report twenty-five interments for the week: many of the deaths due to congestive chills. The general health of the city has, however, been remarkably good, notwithstanding the presence of many who heretofore spent their summers at the north. Our troops occupy several important points in Kentucky. We have news that a large fleet has sailed from Old Point, and that it is destined for Brunswick, Ga.

September 26th

A north east storm is now prevailing and the rain falls in torrents. I learn that several deaths from yellow fever have recently occurred among the Irish: this, however, is kept very quiet.

I was asked yesterday by a respectable gentleman if I desired to go to the Legislature, and was assured I could go if I wished; I felt flattered of course, but respectfully declined as I am in the military service and do not intend to abandon my post; besides, my partner is a candidate for the Senate, and I for matrimony.

Today Charly Lamar, Colonel of an independent Confederate Regiment,
with the appointment of field officers, told me he had always intended
his friend Mr. Jones to have the Majority, but he doubted whether he
would accept it, and he intended next to offer it to me: I was indeed
flattered by this kind proposition: the position would be high indeed
for a young soldier like myself, and did I consult ambition alone I
would proudly and promptly accept it; but I owe something to the Blues
who have been so kind to me, above all I owe much to the young girl who
is soon - God Willing - to become my wife: she will forsake home and
friends for my sake: I cannot consent, just after I am married, to
muster in for the war, and leave her to go I know not where.

My Father is in service and she would have no protector: while I
am in the Blues I can be near her and at the same time do my duty to
my State and country. Ambition makes a powerful appeal to my spirit,
but I have no hesitation in deciding upon my course.

We have heard nothing further of the fleet: no news from Kentucky.
A large number of Lincoln prisoners have been sent from Richmond to
New Orleans.

September 27th

Last night the wind blew a heavy gale from the East, and this morning
fallen trees and branches displayed its power. This afternoon the wind
veered towards the north west, and it cleared up cool and bracing.

There is a derth of news from all quarters: details of affairs in
the mountains of Western Virginia begin to come in. Rosencrans made
a sudden and brilliant march, escaping Lee and Loring, and unexpectedly
attacking Floyd at Carnifex Ferry on the Gauly River: Floyd with 1700 men repelled four attacks from 5000 and held his position until night. By night he crossed the river safely, retreated first to Sewell mountain, and finally to Meadow Bluffs. Rosencrans confesses a loss of 120 killed and wounded: Floyd had seven wounded, including himself.

The campaign in Western Virginia has been simply a great game of chess: the loss of life has been small. There is a lull now throughout the land: both sides seem preparing for tremendous struggles.

September 28th

Sat on the Court Martial until after one, and finished the testimony in the case of Charles Farrelly, alias handsome Charley.

The weather is clear, cold and perfectly delightful. I noticed this morning a remark made by Holmes, in the Autocrat of the Breakfast table, that "the people who shorten their weapons, extend their boundaries." This contains much philosophy: the short swords of the Romans evidenced a hand to hand courage, and nothing better proved their conquering spirit than the armament of their first war boats: They used grappling irons to seize the Carthaginian ships, not missiles to drive them off. Does not the favorite weapon of the Southern soldier - the terrible bowie knife - evince a Roman spirit?

In New Orleans a boat has been constructed to run into the enemy's frigates and sink them: at the north, on the contrary, they never seem to think themselves armed unless they have Enfield Rifles or Minnie Muskets that kill [at] half a mile, or rifle cannon that are fatal at
three and four. All our southern boys ask is to let them have cold steel and close quarters.

September 30th

The weather still continues delicious and the city healthy. We have news of the capture of Lexington, Missouri by the Missourians under Gen. Price, together with a large amount of arms and military stores. Kentucky is in a blaze of excitement, and the respective forces are gathering for the struggle. The enthusiasm in Georgia is said to be immense, and thousands of soldiers are ready to fly to the defence of the State coast now threatened by the enemy. With some thirty thousand volunteers at Pensacola and in Virginia, we can raise double that number for home defence. Our greatest impediment is a want of arms and military supplies, but our brave boys are mustering with their ready rifles and shot guns.

I walked out this afternoon to the parade ground: about half of Charley Lamar's Reg't is encamped there preparatory to a march to Brunswick: the men are tall, brawny, swarthy fellows, as yet undrilled, but patriotic and full of fight. They are quiet, temperate, psalm-singing, simple-hearted men: I was much amused by their remarks on seeing - for the first time - a Shetland pony. When the fountain in the Park began to play, they broke and ran to it like quarter nags. They are armed with the splendid Enfield Rifles recently brought from England by the Bermuda: when they walk to town they carry their rifles on their shoulders. These honest countrymen, who leave their homes and
volunteer for the war, dressed in the roughest garb, and without fine music, or any of the pomp and circumstance of war to tempt them, furnish the best credentials of their own courage, of the unity of our people, and the justice of our cause. At present the subject of exporting cotton to England or elsewhere, before our independence is recognized, excites much attention. Some few sordid merchants and speculators, tempted by the hope of immense profits, advise it; but ninety nine hundredths of our people are opposed to sending one pound abroad until we are recognized as a nation. Commerce now controls the world, and Cotton is a power of tremendous influence: we must let the North and England understand that not one ounce leaves our ports until the blockade is removed or our independence recognized: the war is assuming the character of a regular cotton hunt; we will burn every pound before it shall go to busy Yankee looms. The "safety guard" of Savannah bring this matter to public notice today, and announce that our cotton must not and shall not leave the port. The north boasts that it will seize our cotton ports and plantation gin houses and thus supply Europe and themselves: they admit the power and influence of cotton: we know it also and will employ it to extort a recognition of us by foreign powers.

October 2nd

Yesterday was cloudy and blustering, today quite sultry; the Board of Health report 25 interments for the week. There is now one case of Black Vomit in Castle Row, in which neighborhood the disease originated in 1854. No doubt we have a few isolated cases every year.
The Court Martial adjourned today after sitting twenty-two days; we have disposed of five cases in that time. I am heartily glad it is over, and will rejoin my command (probably arrived at Warsaw, from St. Catharine's today) by the first opportunity.

The news from Missouri is indeed cheering: Gen. Price has taken Lexington, after three days siege, with a large number (from 3000 to 7000) of prisoners, arms and stores, and $250,000 in specie, stolen by Mulligan from the Banks. The fruits of this victory exceed even those of Manassas; we are greatly in want of arms, and thus far have supplied ourselves chiefly from the enemy. Kentucky is all ablaze.

October 5th

The weather for the last three days has been unpleasantly warm. I went to the wharf yesterday expecting to join the Blues at Warsaw, but discovered that the St. John's would not stop at the island. I must await the earliest opportunity. Gen. Price's official account of the capture of Lexington is received; he lost only 25 killed and 72 wounded - took 3500 prisoners (about 125 officers) 750 horses, 5 cannon & 2 mortars, a large number of arms and sabres, quantities of stores, and ammunition, and $900,000, which the Lincolnites had stolen from the Missouri Banks.

We have reports of a great victory gained by Lee over Rosencrans at Sewell Mountain; the last report seems reliable, also by Gen. H. R. Jackson over Reynolds at Cheat Mountain. In Kentucky Gen. Buckner is advancing north, breaking up all the Lincoln camps on his way and
capturing many arms. Our batteries now command the Potomac, and until they are captured they are closed to the enemy.

October 6th

Sunday. The early part of the day was very warm, but now (noon) a pleasant breeze prevails. The city is quite sickly, the prevailing diseases being bilious and intermittent fevers, with some cases of congestive chills and a few cases of yellow fever.

Our camp at St. Catharine's became very unhealthy before the company left for Warsaw: many of the men were taken with chills and a slow fever and (as we had no Doctor) had to be sent to town.

The camp of the Guards at Green Island is also unhealthy; batteries have recently been built at both places and the up turning of the earth may have caused disease. At Tybee, where the earth has not been disturbed, the camp has been remarkably healthy. I have been writing to ask several of my distant friends to attend my wedding; I find they are all in service.

I have been feeling badly for several days, but now feel strong and well again.

October 7th

Walked to Barracks and saw Quartermaster, but could not find any means of getting to Warsaw; I was told the Court Martial would probably be re-convened. At the Barracks I saw as fine a body of men as I have yet beheld: they were the Bartow Avengers from Murray County, in Col. Wm. H. Stiles' Reg't, and enlisted for the war; they were being supplied
with the Enfield Rifle. Their dress was rough copperas dyed stuff, but the men were large, robust, finely formed, with those honest, often noble countenances that are so often seen among our rural population.

I am sure if the Bartow Avengers meet the enemy they will make them remember it.

October 11th

On the night of Oct. 8th there was a sudden change in the weather, which since then has been cool and delightful. There were exaggerated reports of the prevalence of yellow fever in the city, and some alarm was caused; but for the last day or two nothing has been said on the subject. I could learn of only two genuine cases: the cool, damp morning and evenings, and the hot noons, have however produced considerable sickness; the last Report of the Board of Health showed 31 interments.

Yesterday the Court Martial re-assembled to correct its sentence in the case of Farrelly; a new case being then brought before it I asked to be excused; the Court granted my request, and Gen. Lawton put another officer in my place. I expect to go to Sumter Court on Saturday and to return, if possible on Tuesday; if so I will start for Virginia on Tuesday at two P. M.

Our arms have recently achieved several brilliant successes: Gen. H. R. Jackson has driven the enemy back on the Greenbrier River with apparently serious loss: the North Carolina naval forces, with three companies of the 3rd Georgia Reg't have captured the Federal Gun Boat.
Fanny with $100,000 worth of supplies; the 3rd Ga. then drove an Indiana Reg't from Chicamacomack capturing all their tents and stores. Our forces have attacked the Yankees on Santa Rosa island & completely defeated them.

October 15th

I am again safe in my dear old home, and about to start to Virginia to seek my mate who is to share it. I leave by the Charleston train at 15' to 2, in company with my sister, Mama, Papa, Eddy and his wife.

I left Savannah at 11:10' on Saturday night and reached Americus about 2 on Sunday. I met several members of the bar and found my trip much pleasanter than I anticipated. Court was opened at 10 on Monday, but the Judge refused to allow verdicts to be taken where the defendants or their counsel were in active service; as the defendants in my cases and their attorney were all in Virginia, my visit proved fruitless. Americus is prettily situated on a high ridge in a rolling country, and contains many handsome lots and private residences. The people are large and present the appearance of robust health. While in Americus we received the glorious news of our naval victory near New Orleans: Capt. Hollins with 300 men and 16 guns boldly attacked the blockading fleet containing 1000 men and 100 guns. He sank one (supposed to be the Preble) with the iron boat called the Ram or Manassas, peppered the others well and drove them from the bar; he captured one schooner; all this without the loss of a man. We have
whipped the Yankees on their own element.

I left Americus at 4\(\frac{1}{2}\) yesterday afternoon and reached home at 7\(\frac{1}{2}\) this morning.

November 10th

I arrived safely at home on Friday 8th to find our city greatly alarmed and agitated; on Thursday the great Yankee fleet attacked the batteries at Port Royal, and after a fierce bombardment of five hours dismounted nearly all the guns and rendered the batteries untenable. Our forces retreated safely, with the loss of some ten killed and twenty wounded. The Yankees have possession of Hilton Head Island, and have secured a fine harbor in Broad river; Savannah is thus placed in a perilous position and many of our people are removing their families and valuables. The Banks, Courts, &c. are transporting their papers, records, &c. to places of safety. All day yesterday the work went on, the Express and Rail Road Companies had their hands full. Vigorous measures are being adopted to defend Savannah: obstructions (the large ship Sebastianook, the prize Santa Clara, and the dry dock) were towed down the river to be placed in the main and south channels and in Wall's cut. We hope the Yankees will give us time to prepare a vigorous and effective defence. Our timid people have either left or are becoming more calm. It will be some days before we can correctly estimate our defeat at Port Royal; it has produced a depressing effect, and at first caused what seemed to me, very unwarranted alarm. Several officers went so far as to declare that if Savannah was attacked it should at
once capitulate, and many old women in breeches were in utter alarm and despair.

On Friday night a report was circulated in the city that the enemy had landed at White Bluff; this caused great excitement. Last night, however, the various channels were obstructed, and today a feeling of comparative security prevails: the troops and guns are being removed from Tybee and Warsaw and Fort Jackson is being armed. Tybee battery with its two guns and Warsaw with five would only have afforded a little amusement to the Yankee Armada. The fleet consisted of eighty odd sail and was thoroughly equipped with the heaviest rifled guns, ammunition, light batteries, horses, wagons, intrenching tools, drivers for the wagons from New York, surf boatmen from Cape Cod, and wreckers from New Jersey. Probably it was the most carefully prepared and most complete expedition ever put afloat - not so large as Philips' Armada but far more thorough. On Friday night Nov. 1st the fleet was partially dispersed by a terrible storm: two of the vessels are known to have been wrecked, and the crews were all captured; others are presumed to have foundered, as many parts of the beach were strewn with dead horses. The vessels soon began to collect off Port Royal and on Thursday made the attack. The channel is about three miles wide with Fort Walker on the north end of Hilton Head Island, and a battery at Bay point, some fifteen large vessels attacked these sand batteries, while others sailed into Broad River and passed the batteries with perfect impunity, Fort Walker, it is said, mounted only thirteen guns on the water side, and only three or four of them of heavy caliber. The first discharge
from the fleet dismounted the best gun, and we fought with 32 and 2½ pounders; these made no impression on the immense war vessels & iron plated (as supposed) gun boats. Hundreds of the heaviest guns rained a terrible storm of shot and shell on the two sand batteries, and in five hours nearly all their guns were dismounted and rendered useless. The garrisons then retired in good order, but having no spikes left their guns as they were. The reinforcements on the island (among them Spalding's and Stiles' Georgia Reg'ts) were drawn up on the island to repel a landing; but being in sight they were shelled by the fleet and met with some loss. The retreat was safely but hurriedly conducted; our men lost their blankets and knapsacks. The troops at the south end of Hilton Head island left their tents and all their baggage behind them. Indeed the whole force might have been captured had the Yankees known the various channels; a few tugs and gun boats sent into Skull creek and round Braddock's point would have effectually cut off the retreat of our men. As it was all are believed to have gotten off safely. Capt. Tatnall, with his little fleet, behaved most gallantly but could accomplish nothing; the Savannah fired boldly at the great Yankee ships & whole broadsides were returned; she was struck three times but not seriously injured; one shell penetrated her wheel house but did not explode. Messrs. Pope and Baynard, planters near Blufton, burned their houses and crops, but others left a quantity of corn and provision some cotton, and plenty of cattle and horses on the island. A large number of negroes will be captured. On the whole then, the
Yankees have little to boast of; some three hundred heavy guns destroyed, two sand batteries with less than thirty light pieces: after a furious cannonade of five hours they killed and wounded about thirty men at Fort Walker: the result at Bay Point is not known. The whole North however will go crazy over this victory: they will so magnify it as to deceive themselves and Europe; it will revive their courage and add volunteers to their army; it is a moral defeat to us, but nothing of which they can magnanimously boast. It was a trial of heavy metal and long range not a test of courage. Our men at the guns - among them Capt. Jacob Read's company from Savannah - displayed undaunted resolution and fought till all their guns were dismounted. It is said, however, that our men lacked that knowledge so essential to artillerists: I was told their firing was very bad, that they did not know how to use hot shot, and that many of their shell exploded a few hundred yards from the muzzle of the guns. It now remains to be seen how the enemy will follow up their success: we must, at all hazards, keep them under the guns of their fleet, or cut them to pieces as soon as they touch the main land. The attempt to defend Port Royal entrance was unfortunate, as the great width of the channel rendered it almost impossible: Gen. Beauregard examined the coast and advised that no defence be attempted. The effect will be to arouse intense military ardor in Georgia and Carolina.

November 11th

The Yankees remain quiet in Broad River, and appear to be prudently
intrenching themselves on Hilton Head Island. In Savannah the alarm has almost entirely subsided, though many families are prudently removing their silver and valuables, and many women and children are leaving. The same state of affairs occurred in Newbern when Hatteras was taken. In the mean while we grow daily stronger, the river is obstructed by sunken vessels (the dry dock has not been removed) and Fort Jackson is being well armed. All the roads leading into the city are being protected by earthworks: there are some eight or ten thousand Georgians on the coast, and some seven thousand troops are along the rail road connecting Savannah and Charleston. Our men are eager and bold but badly armed: many of our companies have to be provided with shot guns and country rifles, both without bayonets. In coming from Charleston to Savannah on Friday 8th I saw many of the planters and country men hastening towards Beaufort with their rifles and double barrel guns. If the Yankees will only leave the cover of their ships guns they will have "bush fighting" and guerilla warfare to their hearts content. On sea they enjoy every advantage over us: their vessels are armed with immense rifled Dahlgreen, and Parrot, guns, which throw shell with great accuracy for miles: during the recent engagement they threw shell into every clump of trees which might conceal a foe, and I was told a sugar cane patch a mile behind Fort Walker was torn to pieces. Their immense naval armament, and success has thoroughly alarmed some nervous people, and an overweening confidence in sand batteries has given place to a timid faith in the resistless power of the Yankee ships: on Friday there were men (?) here who counseled
the evacuation of the Green Island battery and even of Fort Pulaski, and who believed that Savannah could be captured by a single gun boat: a Capt. of Engineers said the city would have to capitulate and a former Brig. General declared Fort Pulaski would be a mere plaything for the Yankee ships: many cowards endeavored to pack up their wares and desert the city (but this the people stopped promptly) and some, it is said, escaped in female apparel. But these were the exceptions: many brave hearts stimulated the wavering around them, and were prepared to die in their streets on the threshold of their beautiful city. Now everything is more quiet, but still we feel that the war is at our own doors, and that ere long we may be compelled to leave our dear old homes. I trust we will burn our city rather than suffer it to fall into Yankee hands. It was a sad sight for me on Friday last to meet on the road ladies and children flying from Beaufort and Blufston.

The number of casualties is diminished by later accounts: fifty will probably cover all the killed and wounded. Dr. King told me today he had witnessed the death of Lieut. Norris of South Carolina, at the house of Mrs. Marshall, where he was carried: a large piece of shell struck him in the back, while he was lying down, and inflicted a frightful wound. When told that he was dying, with perfect calmness he took off his watch and ring, and asked a lady to send them to his widowed Mother: his last words were: "cut off a lock of my hair when I am dead, send it to my Mother and tell her not to weep for me, that I died for my country and my companions will avenge me."

Numberless instances of personal daring and coolness are related.
Our people have the spirit to repair any reverses, and this will soon be cancelled.

Heavy firing was heard this morning to the south; some think an attack has been made on Brunswick (where my Father is in command); others fear a steamer loaded with arms with my Uncle Ned on board, may have been intercepted and attacked. Scarcely a blow can be struck now that does not imperil the life of some one of my family. This is a sad state of affairs for one who has just brought a young wife home; I hoped to find peace and quiet, but there is only excitement and apprehension. However I do not complain; nothing can swerve me from my determination to live, or to die, free. I expect soon to join my Father in Brunswick as his Assistant Adjutant General; but while Savannah is threatened, and in real peril, I cannot leave my young wife, and the two children, without some male protector. If the fight is to occur here I desire to share in its danger and glory.

November 12th

Report this afternoon says the Yankee fleet has sailed south.

The Blues came up from Warsaw today, after removing the guns, and this afternoon went to garrison Fort Jackson. While I was in Virginia the dear old company had the honor of repelling the first attack upon Georgia; one of the blockading vessels sent three large barges, filled with men, toward the Warsaw battery, commanded by Uncle John, and garrisoned by the Blues & Coast Rifles Capt. Pritchard; their object was either to land and capture the battery, or to burn a schooner
aground near the beach. The attack was made at dark, and shell were fired into the battery and camp from boat howitzers: one exploded just above the Blues, another by the Captain's tent, but no damage was inflicted. Our men replied with muskets and the heavy guns, and the enemy soon retired, with what loss the darkness rendered it impossible to say. The Blues exhibited perfect coolness and courage. I could not but deeply regret my absence on this occasion.

While in Virginia the splendid and complete victory at Leesburg, Va. was gained by Gen. Evans, with the 8th Va. and two Mississippi Reg'ts over a larger force of the enemy. This is the first occasion on which the Yankees acknowledge their thorough defeat; as one of the prisoners said they were driven into the Potomac like swine at the point of the southern bayonet.

About the same period the active Gen'l Jeff. Thompson engaged the enemy in Missouri: each party claiming a victory.

After my wedding (which occurred on the twenty third day of October) at the house of my Father in law, in good old Virginia style, I went to Richmond and spent a week. In Richmond I met many of my old Princeton and University friends, nearly all of whom were in service: I walked out to the camp of a South Carolina mounted corps from Camden; these patriotic men had equipped and uniformed themselves, and paid their own expenses to Virginia: two of my old Princeton friends, Chum Cureton and Charley Haile, among the wealthiest young men in Carolina, were doing duty as privates in the ranks.
I left Richmond on Tuesday Nov. 5th, spent the day in Petersburg, left Wednesday morning, and reached Charleston Thursday, too late to go on to Savannah.

There was little excitement in Charleston on Thursday: on Friday we started for Savannah at 11 A. M. and arrived at 7 P. M. All was excitement on the road, and there we learned the capture of our batteries.

On Friday night Savannah was in great trepidation, as it was supposed the Yankees would speedily follow up their success: many of the German Jews endeavored to remove themselves and their property beyond the reach of danger, but the authorities, aided by the people, soon embargoed these timorous or avaricious movements. Now that the result at Port Royal can be calmly contemplated everybody is cool, and the timid are smiling at their own fears.

A battery mounting from ten to thirteen guns bearing on the channel, is attacked by from three to four hundred of the heaviest guns, and after five hours of the most terrific cannonading all but two of the guns are rendered unserviceable, and twelve men killed in the battery. The other deaths occurred among the infantry outside, who were imprudently drawn up outside in full view and range of the ships.

In Fort Beauregard, at Bay Point, also subjected to a very severe fire, not a man was injured, except two who were wounded by the bursting of a gun. The infantry, at Hilton Head, when first shelled, were ordered to retreat to a safer place; thinking they would return they left their blankets and knapsacks behind and all were lost. Col. Stiles' Georgia Reg't lost over 400 blankets. Such was the battle of Port Royal: surely it possesses no feature which can discourage us.
I went out today to endeavor to purchase some gold lace for the designation of my rank, but neither lace, military buttons nor anything of the kind was to be had. Cloth for military suits had reached a fabulous price; a pair of ordinary leather shoes cost me $3. Our Tradesmen - especially provision dealers - have taken cruel and unpatriotic advantage of the public necessity.

In Vol. 2nd of Steven's History of Georgia I read tonight the heroic spirit of our ancestors! when five British ships advanced to five fathom hole to attack Savannah, the Council unanimously agreed to destroy the eleven vessels laden with rice at the wharves, and to burn the town. I feel sure the descendants of these heroic men will imitate their ancestors when the occasion arises. The patriots of Georgia (and there were less than 3000 fighting men in the Colony) resolved not to import or use any luxury or other article taxed for revenue by Great Britain, and resolved never to deal with any merchant who raised his price because of public necessity. These resolves were religiously adhered to.

November 13th

Our city has been greatly excited and rejoiced today by the arrival of the steamer Fingal, with Capt. Jas. Bullock and my Uncle Ned on board. She is loaded with 12,000 rifles, some six rifle cannon, a large amount of fixed ammunition, blankets and army supplies. When the news first arrived this morning the whole city was intensely excited; joy beamed on every countenance, and all declared that the safe arrival
of this vessel, notwithstanding the fleet off Port Royal, and the receipt of arms just where they were most needed, were wonderful instances of divine interposition and favor.

About three P. M. the Fingal reached the city - the partial obstructions at the oyster bed not preventing her passage - and a great and overjoyed crowd welcomed her at the wharf. The family was indeed delighted to see Uncle Ned safe in Savannah. The depression caused by the disaster at Port Royal has been removed by this timely arrival; we now have arms and ammunition for our brave men.

We have no very late news from Port Royal: the Yankees appear to be quiet. Many of the wealthy planters in the vicinity lose all their crops and most of their negroes, who have either hidden in the woods or gone to the ships. Some have burned and destroyed their crops and dwellings, but others had no time to do either.

A Mr. Chappell - a Yankee school teacher who married a lady and plantation on Hilton Head - is said to have gone over to the enemy: they will boast much of the "Union sentiment" they have discovered in the very hot bed of secession. Many of our planters along the coast are removing their negroes to places of safety: the negroes generally are very unwilling to go, but this seems attributable to fear, local attachment, and an unwillingness to lose their pigs, poultry &c. Mr. Gibson finding his negroes unwilling to be removed, offered to purchase their property at market value, when they cheerfully asented to the change of residence. One of the Screvens today however, found his
to go, but this seems attributable to fear, local attachment, and an unwillingness to lose their jobs, partly, it is said, from fear of their property being destroyed by the negroes, unwilling to be removed, offered to purchase their property at market value, when they cheerfully accepted of the change of residence. One of the reasons for day, however, found the negroes so insubordinate that Gen. Lawton, at his request, sent twenty soldiers over to his aid. Beaufort is reported completely gutted by the negroes, the houses pillaged, ornaments destroyed, the women and their mistress' best apparel, the men robbing of their master's wine. It seems uncertain whether these outrages are committed by the town negroes instigated by the Yankees, or by those from the country. Very certain it is that few of the slaves have manifested a more loyal and affectionate spirit; many instances of their fidelity and devotion might be mentioned. They are however, ignorant and susceptible, and the Yankees undoubtedly will influence them by threats and promises. The expedition is a great John Brown, Abolitionist, said, and it is said one thousand negroes joined with the fleet, who will be employed to operate upon our shores. The occasion demands the utmost caution, censure, and courage from every man. I believe we will meet our dangers with a Spartan spirit. Since the first alarm subsided our people are calm and resolute; we doubtless have in our community many worthy fathers who would sell their souls for gold, and unprincipled Yankees who will attack themselves to the stronger side; but upon the whole we are as one man, and no revolution ever witnessed a more harmonious and united people. The men who left Savannah at the first alarm were not our own people but aliens to the soil; on Sunday Bishop Elliott denounced the conduct of even the women who went away as cowardly; he said they should remain to nurse the sick and encourage the strong. My Father writes from Brunswick than the value on the islands been very vague and think the guns should be
negroes so insubordinate that Gen. Lawton, at his request, sent twenty soldiers over to his aid. Beaufort is reported completely gutted by the negroes, the houses pillaged, ornaments destroyed, the women wearing their mistresses best apparel, the men rioting over their masters wine; it seems uncertain whether these outrages are committed by the town negroes instigated by the Yankees, or by thieves from the country. Very certain it is that thus far the slaves have manifested a most loyal and affectionate spirit; many instances of their fidelity and devotion might be mentioned. They are however ignorant and susceptible, and the Yankees doubtless will influence them by threats and promises.

The expedition is a great John Brown, Abolition raid, and it is said one thousand negroes sailed with the fleet, who will be employed to operate upon our slaves. The occasion demands the utmost caution, coolness and courage from every man. I believe we will meet our dangers with a spartan spirit. Since the first alarm subsided our people are calm and resolute; we doubtless have in our community mercenary wretches who would sell their souls for gold, and unprincipled Yankees who will attach themselves to the stronger side; but upon the whole we are as one man, and no revolution ever witnessed a more harmonious and united people. The men who left Savannah at the first alarm were not our own people but aliens to the soil; on Sunday Bishop Elliott denounced the conduct of even the women who went away as cowardly; he said they should remain to nurse the sick and encourage the strong.

My Father writes from Brunswick that the men on the islands seem
very uneasy and think the guns should be removed; he is in consultation with Gen'ls Lawton and Lee on this subject. The planters on the coast of Georgia, he says, have resolved to destroy everything rather than allow the hated Yankees to seize it. Tybee was evacuated rather hastily and in a manner calculated to demoralize the men; this was the Col's (C. C. Wilson) fault and many unpleasant things were said of him; two companies remained to destroy the houses &c on the island.

The retreat from Port Royal was also very irregular: the men were allowed to fall back in squads, and many stragglers came up after the boats left, these were saved by an old negro in his canoe. The Carolina troops - it is said - crowded rather ungallantly into the flats to the exclusion of the Georgians, who had hastened to their aid. Our men were most unwisely drawn up in the open fields in view of the ships and were shelled unmercifully, it was a trying position for volunteers never under fire, and when ordered to retreat they fell back in disorder. They were easily rallied however and reformed in rear of their old position. Some hard things were said of the conduct of Col. Stiles, who commanded one Georgia Reg't; Col. R. Spalding, who commanded the other, was intoxicated when his men left Georgia, and could not take command; he however fought in the ranks of DeSaussure's Reg't. These facts are interesting items of "unwritten history."

There were more Georgians than Carolinians on Hilton Head Island. On the whole the conduct of our troops was all that could be desired; they kept cool under two or three hours shelling from ships a mile off;
they only ask to be placed where they can fire in return. The great mistake made was in manning the guns with inexperienced infantry, and with the German Light Artillery of Charleston, sent to the battery just before the action. Capt. Read's men, from Savannah, though drilled at the heavy guns, arrived too late, and were enough to man only three pieces. The result was miserable firing caused by a want of practical knowledge; the guns were fired at too great an elevation and probably did little damage. On the other hand the three or four hundred guns on the ships were worked by the best gunners in the Lincoln navy.

November 15th

I attended divine worship this morning the day being set apart both by the Confederate and Municipal authorities as a day of fasting and prayer; our new Government at every step of its progress, has never ceased to recognize the favor and to implore the protection of God.

Tonight my wife and I paid a visit to Cousin Caro; we found her in the house alone with her children, her husband being off to the wars; Jany was sewing and knitting for the soldiers; all our ladies, young and old, are working hard for them.

The Mercury announces that the Yankees have crossed Skull Creek and seized Pinckney Island, where they have taken possession of a large number of negroes. They come as plunderers & robbers; B. F. Butler, recruiting for the Southern expedition in Massachusetts, says they will suppress treason and traitors "by the light of their burning cities and dwellings." They are authorized by their instructions to receive all
negroes who go to them; we well know what this means, and doubt whether such incendiaries should be treated like ordinary enemies.

A Yankee Gun Boat has recently shelled Urbana on the Rappahannock River, and some two hundred negroes have been stolen from the vicinity. More than one thousand stolen negroes are in Fortress Monroe. The great hope of the north is that this great naval expedition will open a cotton port, and that the planters will come forward, take the oath of allegiance, and sell their cotton; they imagine also our army in Virginia will hasten South to defend home and fireside. They are doomed to double disappointment; even if a cotton port is opened no cotton will find its way thither; we can raise plenty of men for local defence; several thousand Georgians have gone to Virginia since the battle at Port Royal. No Southerner ever dreams for a moment that they can overrun or subdue us; but, with their immense naval power, they may render our coast and seaboard cities untenable, and compel us to destroy them and retire inland. No people on the earth were ever more resolved and resolute than we.

The English papers nearly all sympathize with us and ridicule the northern boasts, and asserted victories; England is becoming very clamorous for cotton. Our people are suffering much from the greed of speculators and extortioners; all the necessaries of life are becoming very dear, and the people are holding meetings, and petitioning the Legislature for relief.

The Gov't will keep some 5000 of the rifles, brought by the Fingal, in Georgia and Carolina.
November 17th

I expect to leave home and wife tomorrow morning & to join my Father at Brunswick: these partings are among the saddest fruits of war.

The evacuation of the batteries at Port Royal has reached the north; the New York Herald announces that Savannah and Charleston have been captured, 5 000 prisoners and 20 000 stand of arms taken, and Beauregard made captive; no doubt this shameless sheet knew it was uttering a deliberate lie; but McClellan's men on the Potomac need to be stimulated.

We have heard nothing further from the fleet. Gov. Brown has called for three more regiments of six month volunteers; he has effectually killed volunteering for the war, and done so simply to promote his own popularity. These six months troops leave just when they are becoming good soldiers, and when, perhaps their services may be most needed; after an experience of the dull monotony of camp life, they are not over-anxious to enlist again.

Brunswick
December 22nd

I reached Brunswick on the 18th November, and at once began my duties in the Assistant Adjutant Genl's office. My Father's command consisted of some 1900 men - 15 companies under Col. C. W. Styles on St. Simon's Island, 7 companies under Col. Lamar on Jekyl, Capt. Blain's comp'y on Great Cumberland, and Capt. Hopkins' mounted company near
Waynesville. Our party consisted of the General and myself, Edw. C. Anderson, Jun'r A. D. C., Jos. Clay Habersham, Vol. A. D. C., Harden, acting Ordnance officer, and John Postell, employed Engineer. By orders previously issued all the women and children had abandoned Brunswick, and men were detailed to burn the town if the Yankees passed the Batteries. Brunswick was in consequence a deserted village. Our party at first boarded at the Hotel, but finding that uncomfortable, we leased Mr. Burke's house and formed a very pleasant mess, adding to our party Capt. Davenport and Col. Schlatter.

On Monday Dec. 22nd I went to Savannah to bring my wife to Brunswick. Eddy and I had leased Dr. Haslehurt's house, and concluded to bring our wives to Brunswick, which we considered at least as safe as Savannah.

On Thursday 19th I returned to this place, bringing with me my own wife, and Eddy's wife and child, together with three servants and plenty of baggage.

We are now very comfortably fixed in a nice little house, and if the Yankees do not succeed in driving us off, I shall certainly be as happy as poor mortals often are. I spend the morning in the office, and an hour or two at night, but in the afternoon am free to be with Nannie, or walk, ride or fish, as suits my pleasure.

Since I last wrote in this book - which I had left behind me in Savannah - several most important events have occurred. Chief of these was the seizure of Messrs. Mason and Slidell on board the British mail steamer Trent. These gentleman having been appointed commissioners to Europe by our government, ran the blockade at Charleston in the
Theodora, and at Havanna embarked, with their Secretaries, on board the Trent. The Trent was stopped in the Bahama channel - under British jurisdiction - by the U. S. war vessel San Jacinto, Capt. Wilkes, and Lieut. Fairfax sent on board with armed men to arrest our commissioners. The U. S. officers boarded the British vessel and threatened to use force if any resistance were made. Against the protest of the British Captain, and the remonstrances of the passengers, Messrs. Mason and Slidell, and their Secretaries, Messrs. Eustis and McFarland, were removed from the Trent to the San Jacinto, taken to Fortress Monroe and thence conveyed to Fort Warren, Boston, one of the northern Bastiles. To cap this great outrage, the Secretary of the Lincoln Navy officially approved the act of Capt. Wilkes. Congress tendered its thanks, and the northern cities lionized him and praised his conduct. In addition Messrs. Mason and Slidell are to be treated in the same harsh manner, which northern cruelty to our privateersmen compels us to mete out to some of the northern officers.

Various speculations were indulged in as to the effect of this news in England; the South was doubtful, the Yankees confident of British acquiescence. A few days since, Steamers arrived from England which bring startling intelligence. Britain is thoroughly aroused, and France and Germany unite in denouncing the outrage. A large meeting was held in Liverpool which called upon the Government to redress the wrong. The Queen’s Council unanimously determined that the Yankees must restore Messrs. Mason and Slidell, and must apologize for the insult to the British flag. A Queen’s messenger has reached Boston
with this ultimatum. In the mean time intense excitement reigns in Great Britain and Canada, and both are preparing for war. It is impossible to foretell the result of this quarrel: the temper of the north is defiant, and its people mad, and it is said the Lincoln cabinet has determined not to restore our Commissioners. The Yankee press is full of insult and bravado and declares that England must be humbled. We await events with intense interest; but on some accounts we shall regret a war between Yankeedom and Great Britain. We wish to achieve our independence without any foreign aid, and feel that we can effectually dispose of the Yankees, even though we must first suffer much and long.

The next most important event was the great fire in Charleston, which swept through the city and destroyed much of the best part of it. Some of the finest buildings, the handsomest churches - the oldest mansions were consumed. The fierce conflagration could not be controlled and only stopped at the water's edge. Millions of property were destroyed and thousands reduced to penury and want. It is uncertain whether the fire was accidental or incendiary. The Yankee vessels outside the bar are said to have fired salutes when fierce destruction raged in the "rebel city," and the northern papers exult with ungodly glee. No scenes of the French Revolution can surpass the genuine deviltry of our Satanic foe. The poor sufferers of Charleston are receiving every possible aid. The Georgia Legislature promptly appropriated $100 000 and the city of Savannah $10 000 for the unfortunate citizens. Congress
advanced to South Carolina $250,000 for the same charitable purpose. These generous acts, while beautiful moral exhibitions in themselves, attest the perfect unity of the people of the Confederate States.

Since the capture of Port Royal Batteries nothing has been done by the Yankees; they have utterly failed to profit by their success. They have simply intrenched themselves on Hilton Head Island, landed a force on Tybee, prowled along the coast, and stolen some few negroes and plantation supplies. They did not occupy Beaufort and Port Royal Island until a few days since. On Wednesday last, in attempting to cross Broad River they were fired upon by one of our light batteries and a flat full of Yankees sunk. As yet they are no nearer Charleston and Savannah than the day after the batteries were taken.

In Eastern Virginia all is quiet and the Yankees do not attempt to advance; in Western Virginia most of the northern troops are being transferred to Kentucky or retiring into winter quarters. Col. Johnson of the 12th Georgia Reg't with a force of 1200 men has just defeated some 5000 Yankees at Valley Mountain; his troops were Georgians and Virginians. No details of this fight have been received.

At Pensacola, after a two days bombardment, Fort Pickens and two Yankee ships concluded they could not destroy our Batteries; we lost only some ten or fifteen killed and wounded. The Yankee loss is not ascertained but they acknowledge the Niagara and Richmond were injured, the latter severely.

In Kentucky the hostile forces are confronting each other, but no serious engagement has occurred; we have just received a report of an
engagement on Green River between some 300 Texans and 300 Indianans, in which the latter were defeated with severe loss. On our side the brave Major Terry was killed. The Yankees are concentrating immense forces in Kentucky. Since our splendid victory at Belmont the Yankees have attempted no further advance: an attack upon Columbus from Cairo was imminent but was defeated by the brilliant movement of Gen. Price; after retreating to Arkansas and drawing the enemy after him through a desolated country, this active officer suddenly advanced towards St. Louis, compelling Hunter to make a precipitate & ruinous retreat, and forcing the Yankees to abandon their attempt against Columbus for the protection of St. Louis. A movement of Gen. Hardee compelled Gen. Nelson to fly from the Cumberland Gap with his cowardly Yankees, who threw away guns, knapsacks and everything in their dastardly retreat.

Among the most memorable of recent events is the proclamation of Cameron, Secretary of War, who counsels the emancipation of the slaves, and the placing of arms in their hands to destroy their former masters: this portion was suppressed by Lincoln, but was ferreted out by the indefatigable Yankee correspondents. Lincoln suggests the same satanic scheme in his message, but does not openly advocate it, inasmuch as he still pretends to abide by the constitution of the defunct United States. This emancipation stroke creates great fluttering among the "union men" of Kentucky: Prentice of the Louisville Journal, that servile Yankee transplant, openly denounces it.

The applications for seats in Congress by Foster, a Yankee, as a
representative from North Carolina, and by a Mr. Segar, as Representative of a farm seized by the Yankees near Fortress Monroe, are amusing instances of Yankee sham of a similar character is the so called "Provisional Government for North Carolina," erected by the Yankee soldiers among the ignorant "Bankers" near Hatteras. It is declared to the world that more than half the Counties in the State are represented, and a flaming proclamation - said to be written by Geo. Bancroft - is issued by the "Provisional Governor," a renegade preacher, who deserted his Regiment when Hatteras was taken and went over to the enemy. Surely when the history of these events can be coolly written, the Historian will wonder that a people so boastful of their immense power, so confident of their ability to "crush the rebellion," having an immense navy, and an army - according to the report of their Secretary of War - exceeding 600,000 men, should find it necessary to resort to so petty and contemptible tricks and subterfuges, in order to deceive Europe, comfort themselves, and undermine their adversaries. History presents no contrast like that of Yankee promise and Yankee performance. But these vainglorious warriors do not simply trust to falsehood - they resort to measures which circumstances have placed in their reach, but which impartial history will denounce as utterly contemptible and worthy only of a people lost to all true courage and magnanimity: finding that one regiment cannot march from New York to New Orleans, and that one Revenue Cutter does not disperse the Rebels, they are venting a cowardly spite in the infliction of mean injuries and insults. They
are plundering our plantations and stealing our negroes - shelling isolated dwellings and deserted islands, and unprotected villages - they are employing their navy in sinking old ships in our channels, and boasting that this new "Yankee blockade" will effectually destroy our commerce and ruin our people; already have they sunk old whalers, loaded with cobble stones, in one of the channels leading to Charleston, and they tell us every Southern port will be treated in the same way.

This is the grand exhibition of their naval prowess - the true illustration of Yankee courage, and the sort of victory that brings joy to their craven hearts, and they imagine that when they have prostrated and destroyed us we will beg to be restored to their embraces - and will again welcome the universal Yankee to cheat, swindle and enervate us as he has done heretofore.

December 25th

We have passed a quiet but sociable pleasant Christmas: Father and Harden dined with us, and we had a fine dinner of fish, turkey, fowl, pork steaks, egg plant and other vegetable, with a nice dessert and champagne and madaira. Tonight we had some egg nog.

No news of importance has arrived today: a Corporal of the Irish Volunteers deserted and it is supposed gave notice of the intended departure of the Fingal: she found the Yankee gun boats heading her off at Warsaw, and was obliged to return to the city; Capt. Tatnall's little fleet went down to meet them and firing was exchanged for an hour - without any damage to our side. Several of the Yankee vessels
attacked the lower Battery on Skidaway, but Capt. Pritchard prudently kept silent; the Yankees fired forty shots without effect. These feints are simply to unmask our Batteries and no attention should be paid to the foe: Capt. Screven recently committed an error in firing upon their Gun Boats from the Green Island Battery. Just before the Yankee vessels appeared off Warsaw a Confederate boat, containing some marines and two mid-shipmen, among them my cousin Edw. Anderson, was sent to reconnoitre & has not been heard of since: it is feared she was captured by the enemy.

A few days since a heavy skirmish occurred at Dranesville, Va. in which a Confederate foraging party of some 2500 men attacked a large force of the enemy in a strong position, and seem to have been worsted. Details have not been received, but our loss was very severe; the flying Artillery from Sumter Co. Ga. lost seventeen killed and wounded.

We heard firing this morning towards the South east and thought Fernandina was being attacked; but the telegraph promptly informed us the Yankees were only firing a Christmas salute. From the cupulo of the hotel we could distinctly see the smoke of the guns.

December 26th

The papers last night brought nothing of interest, and the Telegraph reports nothing today. The troops on St. Simons and Jekyl Islands are now suffering greatly from measles; the men composing these commands are respectable young farmers and constitute the material for a fine army. They are excessively temperate and tractable; but, from their
surroundings and education are no respecter of persons, and have little reverence for uniform or rank; only this evening one asked me if I knew where Mercer (referring to the General) was, they speak of him as "that ar man," and do not hesitate to come to him for business at all times and in all places. If told that this is disrespectful they seem very penitent, but it is useless to attempt to instil an habitual military manner or demeanor.

When I came to Brunswick General Lee and Staff were in the car on a tour of inspection; we stopped at Camp Harrison, the encampment of the State troops, and when it became known that the General was in the car, loud calls were made for a speech; this proving unavailing, numbers of these homespun-clad but honest country lads crowded into the cars and duly inspected the General, expressing their feelings in stage whispers; one having satisfied his curiosity turned to the door and exclaimed in a loud tone "give me room, boys, I've seed the monkey" - At this there was a general titter. There is however some demoralizing tendency in an army life and soldiers soon lose a very nice appreciation of meum and tuum; on St. Simons Island the Planters have great reason to cry save us from our friends: fine orange trees have been cut down for walking sticks, and fences and even out-houses, used for fire wood; and the Colonels seem powerless to prevent these depredations. Strict orders have been issued against the practice, but the offenders cannot be brought to justice.

While in Savannah I witnessed a review of Gen'l G. P. Harrison's Brigade of State troops encamped near the city. I have never beheld
finer looking men, or men better drilled after two months service.

The Legislature of 1860 made provision for calling out 10,000 of these troops. There are three Brigades of some 3,000 each - Gen'l Harrison's, Gen'l Wm. H. Walker's near the Altamaha, and Gen'l Caper's near Waynesville. Major Gen'l H. R. Jackson has command of the whole; this position was at first offered to my Father by Gov. Brown, but declined. The Legislature just in session passed a resolution to turn these troops over to the Confederate States; this produced great dissatisfaction among the men, many of whom thought they had been deceived and declared they would disband. The Legislature has since made the transfer purely optional with them, and has appropriated $500,000 to pay them, if they continue in the State service. They are a fine set of men, and it is a great pity they are mustered in for six months only.

December 29th

We have no news of a positive character but plenty of rumors; it still appears uncertain whether the very severe action at Dranesville was a drawn fight, or disastrous to us. Out of 2500 men engaged we have lost upwards of 200; the enemy had a vastly superior force and it is declared their loss was proportionably severe. Several little affairs have occurred on the South Carolina coast; the Yankees are fast pushing towards the main land. Several of their gun boats entered North Edisto Inlet and, approaching Rockville, began to shell the shore; a portion of the 1st Rifle Regiment, Col. Branch, from Charleston, retreated twelve miles, leaving their Commissary and Quartermaster stores behind;
no landing was made and the stores have been recovered.

A Yankee vessel has been crippled near Blufton by a North Carolina Artillery company. An attempt to cross to the main, near Port Royal Ferry, in flats, was defeated by another North Carolina Battery, who sunk a flat and inflicted severe loss on the Yankees. The last report is that the enemy have landed some 250 men on the main land near Cole's Island, about thirty miles from Charleston; they indicate an intention to seize the Charleston and Savannah road, some eight miles only from that point. Our troops are concentrating along the coast; several Regiments - Virginia and Louisiana - from Western Virginia are near the threatened localities. The Yankee light draught vessels enjoy great advantages from the employment of those vile Yankees, who have made all their money in carrying our crops to market, and are thus familiar with all our rivers and inlets.

An attack has been anticipated at Skidaway Island, as the enemy's vessels have been collecting in Warsaw Sound: yesterday, it is said, we had concentrated 10,000 men on the Island. Our forces on the Georgia coast, including the State troops are about 15,000 strong; on the South Carolina coast they are said to reach 20,000. The number of available troops however is always more or less a matter of conjecture.

The boat with Eddy Anderson and others, supposed to have been captured, put into a creek for safety, and the party has reached Savannah.

The last foreign news represents intense excitement in England over
the seizure of Mason & Slidell, and the voice of Great Britain is undoubtedly for war if ample reparation is not made: what reparation England will demand, and what course Lincoln will pursue, are still matters for speculation. If Lincoln refuses concession war must result, if he yields he and his government are disgraced forever: the people and press have applauded the act of Wilkes - the Secretary of the Navy has officially endorsed it - and Congress has entertained a resolution thanking Wilkes for his course. War or disgrace Lincoln cannot avoid.

I have been reading this morning a most interesting budget of foreign news, contained in late copies of the Richmond Examiner; the English papers severely denounce the outrage of the San Jacinto and demand the amplest reparation. The piratical conduct of the Yankees is subjected to the most indignant and scathing sarcasm; the German and French papers unanimously side with England. French papers make the insult to the English studiedly galling. The piratical, fanatical, and tyrannical conduct of the "free people" of the north with their much vaunted "free speech, free press and free soil," is amply demonstrated in these foreign extracts: the English papers are filled with letters detailing the arrest of British subjects in America - the placing of spies (among them the New York prostitutes) on the transatlantic steamers to dog the steps and listen to the conversation of "Southern sympathizers" - the filling of Canadian Hotels with secret police - and the dogging of Englishmen by these disciples of Fouché even in Liverpool and London. No wonder the freemen of England are disgusted with the servile Yankees and their miserable creatures.
1862

January 2nd

The New Year was introduced by a most lovely day - very different from the dark, gloomy weather which initiated the year just completed.

1861 was a memorable year for the country - a most important one to me individually. In all coming time it must ever be remembered.

The New Year witnesses a people struggling for their independence - united, calm, hopeful and determined to be free. All the prospects of the Confederate States are bright and cheering - the eye of faith and courage sees in the future an early solution of our troubles - while memory revert proudly to the Past, illustrated by the victories of Fort Sumter, Bethel, Bull Run, Manassas, Springfield, Lexington, Leesburg, Green Briar, Scarry River, Carnifex Ferry, Belmont and Valley Mountain, besides numerous successes of smaller dimensions and importance. Candid and impartial history will record few decided checks to the Confederate arms - Rich Mountain & Laurel Hill, Hatteras and Port Royal were defeats inflicted as much by circumstances as by the foe, and notwithstanding the exhibition of a courage which even our enemies proclaimed. We march into the future with renewed faith and fortitude.

Since the Port Royal fight only four collisions of any importance have occurred - those of Valley Mountain, Green River, Dranesville, and a recent affair in Missouri. In the two first we have been signal success: at Green River the gallant Col. Terry, with his Texans, utterly routed a large force of the enemy. At Dranesville neither party
achieved any very decided success: both retired from the field after
a general skirmish; we lost upwards of two hundred, and all our
officers engaged declare the Federal loss was at least as heavy;
however Gen'l McCall officially reports the Yankee loss as three killed
and four wounded. If this is truth it is far stranger than fiction.

In Missouri our arms have met with a somewhat serious disaster;
some 1500 recruits for Gen'l Price's army were surprised, surrounded
and captured, with their arms and baggage. So say the Yankee accounts,
but even if correct, the stains of Springfield and Lexington are not
yet effaced: they must do more than capture a camp of raw recruits.

January 3rd

The papers tonight bring us most important news. Mason and
Slidell have been surrendered to Great Britain: the boastful Yankees
have cringed to British power, and the once proud stars and stripes lie
trailing in the dust. If the seizure was wrong a prompt reparation
would be magnanimous; but to yield, after people and press, the Secretary
of the Navy and the House of Representatives had all applauded the act
of Wilkes, is indeed base and cowardly, and unworthy the once proud
American name. The Yankees have sneaked out of a war with England; we
must meet them alone and unaided, and I for one rejoice at the result.
I wish History to record that the Southern people beat back the northern
hordes by their own brave arms.

A fight occurred on Wednesday morning 1st at Gardner's corner near
Pocotaligo, S. Caro., and another yesterday, the enemy having landed
near Fort Royal Ferry under cover of their gun boats; in the first
fight we were victorious, the result of the second is not known, and
we await further news with intense interest. The Telegraph line
between here and Savannah is not working. Port Pickens and our Bat-
teries have again bombarded each other for a whole day, with no injury
to our side. The Yankees are reported to have landed 5,000 men on the
cost of Mississippi.

It is now raining hard. I have passed the day in the house reading;
it is the anniversary of the seizure of Fort Pulaski, and the same
foggy, gloomy weather prevails.

This morning I went to see some shot heated in a hot shot grate
constructed by a soldier from St. Simon's: in one hour and a half 32
pound shot were thoroughly heated. All our carpenter, blacksmith,
printing, telegraph work &c has been performed by soldiers detached
for the purpose.

January 4th

We await today, with intense interest, the news from South Carolina,
God grant that our arms are successful. A little British sloop, loaded
with salt, that ran the blockade was towed here by the St. Marys yest-
eryday: I heard the Captain remark that "all the people in Nassau were
Southerners;" these evidences of foreign sympathy for our just cause
are exceedingly gratifying.

The hypocritical, pharisaical Yankees - whose mock and morbid
philanthropy has precipitated this revolution - are actually discussing the question of appropriating the country, set apart by Treaty for the Indians, for the purpose of negro colonization: they propose to take the negroes they steal from us and "apprentice" them to cotton growers in the Indian country. These are the "free and equal rights" to which they declare the slave is entitled. Heretofore every Yankee has religiously pretended to believe, and has loudly asserted, that Slavery was an element of weakness and ruin: now Secretary Cameron unblushingly states in his official report that emancipation is necessary to crush the South - that our Slaves are an element of so much strength they must be removed before the rebellion can be destroyed. What a pregnant confession - how it proclaims Yankee dullness and ignorance and vindicates the predictions and philosophy of southern statesmen. The Yankees are very wise in their own conceit, but they still have a few things to learn.

January 8th

Nothing has occurred today to mark the Battle of New Orleans: Brunswick is apathy itself.

Yesterday morning we were startled by heavy firing towards the north east, and supposed an attack was being made on the Batteries near Savannah: today's paper however informs us the Yankees were only shelling Warsaw Island, which has been abandoned for some time.

The news from Carolina is not so interesting as anticipated: some 3500 of the enemy landed near Port Royal Ferry and on the 1st advanced
towards the railroad, only a few miles distant; they were met by
Col. Jones' S. Caro. Reg't and four companies of Col. Dunnovant's
Reg't, who fired one volley, then charged bayonets, and drove the
Yankees like sheep to their boats. There they remained, and soon
left the main land altogether; if they meditated a seizure of the
railroad, they made a feeble attempt, and suffered a disgraceful
defeat. This was a very good beginning for the New Year, and our
brave troops are well satisfied. We lost nine killed and seven
wounded by the explosion of a single shell, which was fired from a
gun boat, and struck the head of a column, marching by the flank in
files of four. The Yankee loss was about the same as our own, they
left one wounded man behind, but, under cover of their gun boats,
carried off the remainder. The shell which caused our whole loss
was fired from a long distance, and accidentally passed through one
of our companies.

The Yankee gun boats and large barges armed with howitzers
give them great advantages over us, which, however, they have
thus far used to little purpose.

The English papers are criticizing Lincoln's last message, and
Welles' naval report, without mercy; they justly ridicule a navy
which boasts so much and accomplishes so little. The London Times
declares the sinking of old hulks in Southern waters is an act of
unparalleled barbarity, and the London Post denounces it as an act
of hostility to the whole human race; foreign powers are correctly
estimating this malicious, cowardly and contemptible Yankee trick.

The Yankee blockade of Charleston, however, does not seem very effective: the Ella Warley (formerly Isabel) has recently steamed into that Port over hulks and all.

For the past few days I have been extremely busy in examining Master Rolls and Monthly Returns: they are seldom correct in the first instance, and I have to write long letters pointing out their defects. Revising these papers, instructing by letter Captains and officers, who neither own nor consult the Army Regulations, and who are generally utterly ignorant of all the papers they prepare and the returns they are obliged to make, occupies quite a large portion of my time. I often miss the drums and parades that enlivened our days at Tybee.

Our Batteries on the Islands are very nearly completed, and the men are heartily tired of the long continued labor which has fallen to their share: they are in good discipline and cheerful spirits. Some of Col. Lamar's men, on Jekyll Island, have evinced a mutinous spirit, from the delay in paying them off: this however, is chargeable to the ignorance of their own officers, and not to the Confederate States. The money to pay them has been here for some time, but they have never presented correct Pay Rolls: their officers have spoiled nearly all the Blanks furnished, and, owing to the scarcity of papers, the Govern't finds it difficult to supply their places. Col. Lamar, though not an accomplished officer, is a man of great energy, and has kept his men under thorough discipline: he has gone to Savannah, contemplating re-signing. Since his departure little authority has been exercised
over the men, the Lieut. Colonel being a man of the most yielding and unmilitary character. The troops are contemplating a new election, and the most prominent candidates for their favor are notoriously the least military and most useless men in the command. Capt. Tillman, a fat, easy man, who will grant every indulgence asked, is the most prominent competitor for the office of Colonel, while Capt. Colley, a gentleman, and a man of intelligence and fearless independence dares not even offer for the position. This is the beautiful result of universal suffrage and pure democracy - at least in the army. Soldiers often make choice of the most notoriously incompetent men in the command. Carlyle says if Democracy is so excellent it should prevail everywhere - in the army and on the man of war's deck. The sailors, if displeased with their officers, should meet on the forecastle and elect others. I have seen too much of the system, in its practical working, to admire a democratic army. The fearless officer, who does his duty, is deposed, the time server, who never looks beyond his own political future, is popular with his men and advanced to power. No I cannot believe in pure democracy: either a monarchy, or the "hewers of wood & drawers of water" in a democratic government must be kept in their place by the laws. Levellers will creep into power over the truly great, and the good, and Government will soon be vulgarized and enfeebled. A servile class - and restricted suffrage - can alone render the Confederate States truly dignified, stable and great.

January 12th

I visited the Batteries on St. Simons & Jekyl yesterday, in
Lee spoke in high terms of the Batteries, and Major Barnwell declared them the best on the whole coast. The great defect is the want of guns; we have only twenty in all for the whole harbor; but the Confederate States can not supply more, and we must do the best we can. On Jekyll Island there are two Batteries, and six guns—one forty-two and five thirty-two pounders. These Batteries are protected by bomb projs constructed under the superintendence of Col. James, and one of the Lieutenant: the bomb projs are made of the hardest timber, covered with iron and broad iron, and five or six feet of earth on top of them. The screens are made of iron and covered with numerous plates: hence he seemed to think these woods effectually resist shot; and indeed I can not see how they can be done, except by a strong shell passing through the embrasures. The Batteries are sunk nearly to the water level; the parapet is the earth in its natural position, and is exceedingly thick; masses of earth larger than most houses, are piled on the sides of these wooden case-mates; the labor performed by Col. James Batteries is really immense. His men have toaged and dug, and have had no time to drill; they have been "laborers" for months, and are so classed in the musters, roll by their captains. Some weeks must elapse before the works on Jekyll are completed. Notwithstanding these fine Batteries, which have caused the government so much expense, and the troops so much labor, the harbor of Brunswick can be captured at any moment by any engaging naval officer: from Jekyll and St. Andrews Sound to the south, two creeks—Jekyll and Coquito—lead into Brunswick harbor, some miles above the Batteries. These are large enough to admit good sized gun boats, and the jachts have plenty of pilots who know every foot of the way. If a single gun boat were to pass through Jekyll creek into the harbor we would be perfectly powerless; Brunswick would be taken, all supplies cut off from the island, and our forces compelled to retreat or ultimately surrender. Genl. Sherman has manoeuvred to obtain guns for the defense of these creeks, but the government-
company with General Lee, Major Long, Ordnance Officer of the Depart-
ment, Major Barnwell, my Father and his Staff. We found the Batteries
on St. Simons very nearly completed, and in excellent fighting con-
dition; nothing remains but to finish up and improve their appearance,
to saw off the ends of protruding palmetto logs and gabions, and to
remove whatever trash or boards might cause splinters. Capt. Van
Volkenburg's battery of two 32 pounders is farthest within the harbor -
then comes Capt. Dent's Battery of one ten inch columbiad, one h2
pounder, and two 32 pounders, then there are four other Batteries of
two guns each, one of the guns being a ten inch Col. another an eight
inch (in the outermost Battery) one forty two pounder, and the rest
32 pounders. These Batteries are distributed over a space of half a
mile in length, so that an attacking fleet cannot concentrate its
fire to advantage; all are connected by deep ditches, and provided
with blindases for the men; the flanks are protected by immense traverses
well sodded. This labor has been performed by Col. G. W. Styles'
command, in the course of a few months; the troops deserve great credit
for the willing and industrious spirit they have shown; and doubtless
they will fight these Batteries as well as they have constructed them.

Gen'l Lee ordered quoins to be fixed under the breech of the guns,
that, in the excitement of a fight, the men may not elevate too much
and overshoot the mark: this was the great mistake committed at Port
Royal. Gen'l Lee spoke in high terms of the Batteries, and Major
Barnwell declared them the best on the whole coast. The great defect
is the paucity of the guns; we have only twenty in all for the whole
harbor, but the Confederate States cannot supply more, and we must do the best we can.

On Jekyl Island there are two Batteries, and six guns, one forty two and five thirty two pounders. These Batteries are protected by bomb proofs constructed under the superintendence of Col. Lamar, and one of his Lieutenants: the bomb proofs are made of the heaviest timber, covered with rail road iron, and five or six feet of earth on top of that. The uprights are massive timber and supported by numerous braces; Gen'l Lee seemed to think these would effectually resist shot; and indeed I cannot see how any damage can be done except by a stray shell passing through the embrasures. The Batteries are sunken nearly to the water level, the parapet is the earth in its natural position, and is exceedingly thick; masses of dirt, larger than most houses, are piled on the sides of these wooden case-mates; the labor performed by Col. Lamar's Battalion is really immense. His men are ragged and dirty, and have had no time to drill; they have been "laborers" for months and are so classed on the muster rolls by their captains. Some weeks must elapse before the works on Jekyl are completed. Notwithstanding these fine Batteries, which have caused the Government so much expense and the troops so much labor, the harbor of Brunswick can be captured at any moment by any enterprising naval officer; from Jekyl and St. Andrews Sounds to the South, two creeks - Jekyl and Joynters - lead into Brunswick harbor some miles above the Batteries. These are large enough to admit good sized gun boats, and the Yankees have plenty of pilots who know every foot of the way. If a single gun boat were to
pass through Jekyl Creek into this harbor we would be perfectly powerless; Brunswick could be taken, all supplies cut off from the Islands, and our forces compelled to retreat or ultimately surrender. Gen'l Mercer has endeavored to obtain guns for the defence of these creeks, but the Government has had none to supply. He has recently made two requisitions for the guns, stating plainly that he considered the position untenable in its present state. He brought the matter strongly before Gen'l Lee yesterday, and it is hoped we may soon have the guns needed. Joynter Creek is surrounded by marsh on both sides, and there is no spot where a battery could be located; this however could be obstructed by piles & sunken live oaks (which sink like iron). Jekyl Creek has to be kept open to communicate with Fernandina and supply the troops there: this should therefore be defended by a Battery; and rafts made to swing across the stream as soon as an enemy appeared, and keep the hostile vessel, for a time at least, under the fire of our guns. The creek between St. Simons and the main has been obstructed with piles, and the Jackson Artillery stationed near to prevent their removal: these piles, however, are easily removed, and do not constitute a reliable impediment to an active enemy. We should have heavy guns at that point. Indeed the whole attempt to defend our islands seems almost futile: Gen'l Mercer has never considered them tenable, and has counseled the evacuation of all except Tybee, which is the key to Savannah. Tybee was given up, and only St. Simons, Jekyl, and Cumberland are retained. Our enemy has exhibited little enterprise or boldness,
and has never achieved one tythe of what his opportunities afforded him.

January 13th

Since the attempt to effect a lodgement on the main in South Carolina on the 1st of the month, our enemy has been quiescent everywhere, and our gallant volunteers are literally rusting from inaction. These long pauses of inactivity are very unfortunate; they depress the spirits and enthusiasm of our troops, and insinuate the idea that their services are not necessary, and that they are wasting the public money, & their own time, to no purpose; the newspapers, too, which must have some exciting topic to keep them alive, begin to discuss the war and the policy of our rulers, and to scatter the seeds of distrust and dissension. We are advised that a great naval expedition, under Burnside, left Hampton Roads last Sunday for the South; we have heard nothing of it since; its blows, whether hurtful to us or otherwise, will at least relieve the present stagnation. It is said our enemies are preparing a combined and overwhelming movement; their delay is certainly inexplicable.

Colonel Lamar was called yesterday from the work on his Batteries to attend Court in Savannah; he is much missed just at this time, as he alone has much control over his men; his Lieut. Colonel is easy, yielding, temporising - in a word a politician. He dares take no step without consulting the opinion which is hereafter to elevate or destroy his political fortunes. Democracy in the army is a thorough curse.

Col. Lamar's Battalion is now in a very disorganized condition:
he is ignorant of military details, and all his inferior officers lack his energy & firmness. His company officers - with a few exceptions - are unfit for their positions; the most complete democratic equality and familiarity has hitherto prevailed between them and their men. Gen. Mercer has just discovered that one officer has been messing with privates and actually cooking for them; while still another has done the washing for his mess. These are rare cases, and I have never heard of them among any other Confederate Troops. They are utterly subversive of all military efficiency and must at once be prohibited. Some of Col. Lamar's officers endeavored to get up a petition requesting him to resign; in view of his possible withdrawal the politicians in the regiment began actively canvassing for office; two of the poorest officers in the command were most popular with the men, and the Chaplain (not yet commissioned however) was a prominent candidate for the Lieut. Colonelcy, promising the men, it is said, all sorts of privileges and a cessation of their heavy work on the Batteries. This is the result of universal suffrage in the army. This miserable system, conducted by unworthy officers, has had its due effect upon the men; several weeks since, before they had received their first payment since entering the service, they were in a state of dissatisfaction bordering upon mutiny; this was produced solely by the conduct of the company officers & the unchecked efforts of a few bad men. The men are now willing and well behaved; their officers, not they, are to blame. My own experience with the country troops has shown them to be
the most temperate and tractable of men; the General has four detailed as boat hands, and they are as willing, obedient and industrious as could be wished.

Good company officers are sadly needed. Col. Styles' command is in a much better state of discipline and drill than that of Col. Lamar: the men may be of better material, but the superior type of officers accounts for the difference.

Capt. Hopkins' corps of mounted men are capital material. This pure democracy certainly does not produce an efficient army: the men think they have a right to displace any officer they put in his position: and the slightest enforcement of military discipline they construe into tyranny which merits removal. Indeed the philosophical abstraction of the Declaration that "all men are free and equal," has produced injury in more ways than one: it inculcates an idea of savage freedom which can have no place in civilized society. The Confederate States confer as much liberty as any people ever enjoyed; and yet how far from correct it is that all of their citizens are free or equal. The soldier is not, and cannot be, the equal of his officer; he is subjected to military rules which control him as absolutely as though he were a negro slave.

By the Act of 6th March 1861 the President is authorized to call out the Militia whenever he may deem it necessary, and they may be compelled to serve for six months: the Act renders them subject to the Articles of War: and can any man under the control of that Code be said
to be absolutely free? Why he cannot leave his post or camp without
a written pass - if he deserts the service or strikes his officer - to
whom philosophy makes him equal - he is liable to be shot, and even
free speech is taken from him, for he cannot denounce his rulers without
bringing upon himself severe punishment. It is this absurd and exag­
ergated idea of freedom which is now literally destroying the north;
there the mob is assuming control of the army and everything besides.
Congress appoints committees to examine into the errors of officers upon
the battle field, and entertains the proposition to make the Judges of
the Supreme Court elective by the people: Congress is fighting for the
army and judging for the Courts; and Congress is only the shadow of
the Yankee mob.

In consequence of African slavery we at the South suffer compara­
tively little from the excesses of the pure democracy which so sadly
afflicts the north.

January 21st

I received an official letter this morning from Capt. Blain,
stationed with his company on the South end of Great Cumberland Island,
reporting that during the fog on the 18th inst. one of the blockading
vessels had got aground near the Battery. When the fog lifted the
Battery at Fernandina, and that on Cumberland, both opened fire upon
the vessel; but with what effect could not be discovered. Capt. Blain
thought the shot fell short, and regretted the want of a heavy gun or
two, which w'd have enabled him to damage the Yankee. The blockader,
in order to extricate herself, threw overboard various articles supposed
to be her shot and some of her guns. She did not reply to the Batteries.

We have no news from any quarter: everything is quiet. The Burnside expedition is supposed to have gone to North Carolina.

The weather here is warm, foggy and rainy: my time is pretty busily occupied in writing; I had to dissolve a court martial this morning, owing to the great irregularity of the proceedings, and to write to the commander of the Post and the Judge Advocate, enlightening them as to their responsibilities and duties. My reading is chiefly confined to the news papers, though I manage to enjoy myself pretty often with Schlegel's Philosophy of History, Aristotle's Politics, and my great favorite, Burke.

January 23rd

For two days past we have had a heavy blow from the north east, accompanied with gloomy clouds and rain. The enemy's vessels on the coast must be exposed to considerable peril. We have received authentic intelligence that over one hundred Yankee vessels are now in Pamlico Sound, and it is supposed a portion of Sherman's fleet has united with Burnside's for an attack upon Newbern and Roanoke Island; it appears very remarkable that every expedition sent forth from the north has been met by angry elements: Sherman lost many of his ships in the fierce gale which greeted him, and Burnside's expedition was scarcely out of sight of land when the clear sky became filled with angry clouds, and a furious tempest prevailed. Ever since the departure of the Armada - which the north is watching so anxiously - Heaven has worn a cruel and
revengeful face. Should this immense fleet attack our Batteries of twenty guns, we would make the stoutest defence our circumstances permitted; the enemy will be resisted if he brings one thousand ships. The channel is a little more than a mile wide, so that attacking vessels would have to approach within rifle shot of our men: the sharp shooters in the trenches would probably inflict more injuries than the Batteries. No officer could appear with safety on the quarter deck: Cols. Styles and Lamar have soldiers armed with Enfield and Sharpe's Rifles, who can pick off an enemy at an immense distance; one of Capt. Blain's sentinels hailed a small boat more than a mile off; the boatman thinking himself secure paid no attention, when the Sentinel fired, and inflicted a wound which only the great distance rendered slight. One of Col. Styles' guard fired at a negro waiter who attempted to pass the lines in the darkness, and barked his skull, without, however, doing any serious injury. Gen'l Mercer can confidently rely upon his sharp-shooters; they have been trained in the pursuit of deer and turkeys, and no excitement disturbs the steadiness of their aim.

The Yankee papers advise us that an immense fleet of gun and mortar boats is now ready to descend the Mississippi, starting from Cairo: our Batteries at Columbus, Ky. will offer the first opposition to this pleasant little trip. The Yankees boast, as usual, of entire success. It is said our Batteries at Columbus are very strong, and that numerous torpedoes are sunk in the river. We should endeavor by skill and ingenuity to combat the great preponderance of power our enemy possesses.
on the water: the river might be obstructed by long rafts connected
together, and fastened securely to either shore: heavy booms and
chains might be stretched across, as was done near West Point in the
first revolution for independence. These obstructions, placed under
the guns of our Batteries, would effectually stop the enemy's flotilla:
if this could be done, and daring men from above (where we have possession)
could set immense fire rafts floating down the rapid current, the injury,
if not the entire destruction, of the Yankee vessels might be very
easily secured. No ship could evade a fire-raft floating in the rapid
current of the Mississippi. Fire rafts were tried with perfect success
when the blockaders attempted to enter the mouth of this river: they
produced such confusion and dismay among the Yankees that they very
speedily returned to the ocean. It is understood that fire rafts are
now ready near Savannah, to be used if the enemy's vessels pass our
Forts and Batteries. These bold experiments, and daring innovations
on established military rules discomfit the enemy and take him by
surprise: Price's use of hemp bales contributed largely to the great
victory at Lexington. This was the expedient of genius, not the
receipt of the books.

January 26th

On Friday we received the sad news that our forces under Gen'l
Crittenden had been badly defeated near Somerset, in Pulaski County,
Kentucky, and that the gallant and beloved Gen'l Zollicoffer had been
killed. This sad news has been confirmed, but few particulars of the
battle have reached us. It appears that our troops attacked a largely superior force, strongly posted: Gen'l Zollicoffer fell and some confusion resulted: the enemy then flanked us, and compelled a precipitate retreat towards Knoxville. We lost our baggage, camp equipage, and cannon. This is the severest check we have yet received, and will doubtless do us good: we are growing far too confident, and need a thorough defeat to arouse us to a sense of our position.

In Kentucky we are meeting the hardy western men, and Kentuckians who have embraced the Despot's cause; it is Greek meeting Greek, and we must fight with double resolve and daring. The losses on both sides in this severe battle appear to be very heavy in proportion to the number engaged. I felt exceedingly sad at first, and the tears filled my eyes for poor Zollicoffer; but now I feel that a defeat is nothing to a brave people determined to be free. Whenever I feel at all despondent I think of our revolutionary Fathers, and their struggles in the same holy cause in which we are engaged: probably we will never experience such a series of disasters as followed them from the defeat on Long Island to the retreat through the Jerseys. We will never lose what they lost at Norfolk - quantity of stores, and one hundred and thirty two vessels at one fell blow: and yet they bore up bravely under all adversity - Washington never faltered - never doubted. We have little cause for despondency - no people ever gained so many continuous successes as we; this is the judgment of all Europe.

Just before this defeat our forces under McIntosh gained a brilliant
victory over the hostile Indians on the Kansas border - Gen'l Marshall defeated the enemy at Petersburg - and now we learn that a good God has defeated the Great Burnsides expedition by storm and tempest. We have already a cancellation of our misfortune.

ten P. M. We have just received the following despatch from Savannah: "there are thirteen vessels at Warsaw, and an attack is expected. Burnsides' expedition knocked in the head by the big blow, several vessels sunk, and the rest said to have gone back." The time is big with great events, and the war is assuming titanic proportions: Fort Pickens and our Batteries, after a whole day's cannonade which shakes the very earth, only elicit a brief despatch that "Fort Pickens and the Confederate Batteries have bombarded each other all day."

I spent today on St. Simons obtaining reports from the Independent companies. I landed at the Batteries and then walked up to Col. Style's camp, about a mile from the former. The men are comfortably located in tents and palmetto huts. Capt. Dent's company has erected palmetto huts which are very airy and pleasant; they are provided with good board floors and chimneys of brick or mud. Indeed the troops on St. Simons have no reason to complain - none in the service have enjoyed better shelter, food and health: they are well satisfied notwithstanding their hard labor in the construction of the Batteries, and give very little trouble. Col. Styles has had a frame house constructed; one of the Captains has a neat little rustic cottage built by his men. The others have tents or palmetto huts.
January 29th

This morning I issued an order for the trial of one of the Captains in Col. Lamar's Battalion; the appointment of Courts Martial has several times been rendered necessary recently by the misconduct of officers. The offence recently charged is a wilful disobedience of orders. Some of the petty officers in Gen'l Mercer's command are wholly unfit for their positions, and give a good deal of trouble; they are disposed to inculcate a disorganizing, democratic spirit among their men, to despise all authority, to violate orders, and to neglect the proprieties of their profession. The General is making efforts to correct these abuses, and to rectify evils which the Colonels should themselves suppress. Our officers in the main are well disposed and excellent men: we have, as yet, none of those gross violations of military law & usage which prevailed in the first revolution. In Vol. 2. of Lossing's Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution (p. 821 n. 1) it is mentioned that, in October 1776, greed had usurped the place of patriotism among many of the subordinate officers. Officers were elected on condition that they should throw their pay and rations into a joint stock for the benefit of the company; surgeons sold recommendations for furloughs, for able bodied men, at sixpence each. Men went out in squads to plunder from friend or foe (see Washington's letter to Congress of Sept. 24th 1776) No such vices and abuses have yet penetrated the army of the Confederate States. Our great want among the officers is knowledge and skill; most of them never saw the Army Regulations, and are ignorant of military
practices and rules. I heard only today that a young lieutenant, in charge of a company on the Florida coast, had been sadly duped by some seamen from a blockading vessel: he had sent four men in a boat to reconnoitre; the blockader sent a barge full of sailors in pursuit, who, having failed of their object, came through mistake, directly under the bluff where the lieutenant had a full company under arms: the sailors perceiving the delicacy of their position, raised a white flag and came on shore. The Lieutenant thinking the sacredness of a flag of truce covered every purpose, permitted them to secure water for their ship and to obtain considerable information about the locality, the depth of water, &c. After satisfying their curiosity they returned to their vessel. We are fighting an enemy full of malice and cunning and we cannot be too cautious: we are becoming too careless and apathetic - too accustomed to despise and ridicule our foe, and yet we are in no position to indulge in all this self-complacent depreciation of our enemy: Brunswick - as I have already said - can be captured at any time in its present state of defence. So with Fernandina; two thousand men and 20 odd splendid cannon are exposed on an island which can easily be approached by undefended inland passages to the north and to the South. Cedar Keys has just been taken by a few sailors in two or three barges: only sixteen men - without provisions, without even ammunition - were left to protect an island village; of course it and they were an easy spoil. Col. Barton's capture of Gen'l Prescott in the Revolution could easily be repeated by any bold Yankee on Gen'l Mercer; here we are all undefended in Brunswick, with St. Andrew's Sound only fifteen
miles distant, and Jekyl creek - all undefended - between. The State of the case has been fully represented to the Government, and yet nothing is done: not a gun is furnished, though without additional guns Brunswick, our Batteries, and men, are exposed to constant danger: the islands are nothing but a trap in their present situation, and heaven only knows why our enemy does not close the door of escape upon all of us. Gen'l Lee, when here recently, said there was no danger that our foe would sneak in through these creeks - that we would be boldly attacked in front, and thus the safety of these coast garrisons is reduced to a calculation of Yankee chivalry. How fallacious the whole idea. We have just heard that the Yankees are endeavoring to creep into Savannah by the back way; they are gradually removing the obstructions from Wall's cut; they have passed between Little Tybee and Wilmington Island, ascended Wilmington river, and are now endeavoring to remove the piling across Freeborn's cut; this alone keeps them out of St. Augustina Creek, and if they reach this the Savannah River between Pulaski and Jackson falls into their possession: they can then land men at Causton's Bluff or Bonaventure - endeavor to pass our Batteries near the city - attack Fort Jackson in the rear, and starve out Fort Pulaski. If these Boats reach the Savannah River it will be due solely to our too great confidence and want of preparation. Gen'l Lawton has had ample time to obstruct all these cuts and creeks thoroughly. By ascending Wilmington River the enemy is within a mile and a half of Savannah river and endangers every boat passing up or down.
Five shots were fired at the Ida on Monday, and the shooting of the Yankees was admirable; they missed the Ida but came very near destroying her. The North Caro. papers notice their excellent practice on that coast, and a Florida gentleman told me today that one of the blockaders had anchored a buoy in sight of our forces and, at a distance of some two miles, destroyed it in five shots. The enemy is abundantly supplied with ammunition & practices assiduously; with us powder and ball are scarce and we practice but seldom; the economy however, is false, and our shooting rather indifferent. Our enemy is straining every nerve to destroy us - making his preparations with a cool, confident and disabolical malice: our people are insensible to the danger, despise the Yankees, distrust their courage, and, in consequence, may expose themselves to great injury and suffering. The question is not whether we can be conquered - but how greatly can we be made to suffer. We are all determined - one mind, one heart, one opinion. If we are driven from the Islands we will fall back to the main - if we lose the main and the cities, we will take refuge in the swamps - if hunted out of the swamps we still have the mountains to cover and defend us.

February 3rd

On Thursday last I visited the Batteries on Jekyl Island, and then walked up to camp and dined with the Colonel: a road, nearly two miles long, runs from the Batteries to the camp: it was made entirely by the troops, and is a work of great labor, many portions of it being cordurty, and the remainder cut through dense undergrowth. The Batteries
on Jekyl Island are more massive, probably, than any on the coast: they have cost immense labor and much money, and yet the government leaves them entirely exposed to an attack through Jekyl Creek.

On Friday we went in the Lamar to the south point of Jekyl and into St. Andrews Sound: we were more than ever convinced that Jekyl Island is utterly untenable without Batteries on the Creek: it is a fine, bold broad stream, and a vessel drawing eighteen feet water can float in it at high tide. The distance between St. Andrews and Brunswick Sounds is only some fifteen miles: any bold Yankee Gun Boat thus has us at its mercy. And yet the Government does not appear to appreciate our situation: two 32 pounders, which Gen'l Mercer after much effort was about to secure, were stopped in Savannah by Gen'l Lee.

On our return to the Batteries three shots were fired: the first, after several richochets, fell upon St. Simons beach; the second richochetted sixteen times, and the third seven times. This certainty in richochet firing is secured by fastening a piece of wood to the screw, so as to mark the elevation, and prevent firing too high, the great fault of inexperienced gunners.

On Saturday the General and his Staff visited the waters west of St. Simons; we passed beyond the point in Buttermilk Sound where the last row of piling is driven. The length and intricacy of the navigation, and the many points from which Artillery or Riflemen could act, render the Batteries on St. Simons comparatively safe from any attack from this quarter. Four rows of piles, also would produce at least a temporary delay.
On Thursday night we had a curious case of optical delusion, which somewhat relieved our monotonous life. Gen'l Mercer was assured that Mrs. Dart - a reliable and intelligent lady living near Dart's landing - had seen a large fleet of vessels enter the river and come to anchor near Hamilton: such a thing, though almost impossible, might occur, and if it had, our communication with the Islands was cut off, and Brunswick could be easily taken.

About eight o'clock Mr. Harden, Eddy and myself started up to see Mrs. Dart; it was dark as Erebus and we had more than a mile to walk. Mrs. D. assured us she had seen what she supposed to be vessels in the inland passage several miles above the Batteries - that fearful of creating a false alarm, she called several of her negroes and they agreed with her. She said she could hardly be deceived, and stated as a strange circumstance that she had heard no drums beat upon the island, as usual every afternoon. This staggered us somewhat, so we went through the woods and saw the negroes: two negro women were sure they had seen vessels.

We hurried back to Head Quarters, and Gen'l Mercer at once ordered a boat to proceed to the Islands and investigate the matter. The Chatham at once proceeded to St. Simons, but found everything as quiet as possible - no ships - no enemy was near, and Brunswick soon returned to its usual dullness. We do not know what could have thus made the eye of our informant "the fool of the other Senses."

February 7th

On Wednesday Gen'l Mercer and Staff visited the Islands to see
the effect of the guns on the Batteries. Although the experiment was attended with some little danger, the Colonels were permitted to fire a few shots each at the opposite Batteries, to try the accuracy of their gunnery, the resistance of the Batteries and the confidence of the men.

The Batteries are about a mile and a quarter apart: Col. Lamar having raised his flag to show that his men were behind the bomb-proofs, a shot was fired from the ten inch crombiad in Dent's Battery: at an elevation of six degrees the ball fell short and sunk. Richochet shots were then tried. At an elevation of from two to two and one half degrees, the balls ricocheted back beautifully: of two other shots from the ten inch guns, one fell just at the foot of the Battery and the other struck the beach and bounced over it into the woods. Two ³⁄₄ 2 and three 32 pound shot were then fired, and all appeared to fall on the beach near the Batteries. Col. Lamar fired three 32 pound shot in reply; the first passed right into Dent's Battery among his guns, the other two fell some thirty yards from the beach. The line shots were excellent, and every one would have told upon a vessel in mid-channel. This experiment convinced the men how safe they were behind their Batteries from the effect of solid shot.

Lately nothing of much interest has occurred: the Yankees are quiet everywhere. Near Savannah they appear to be attempting to force a passage through Wall's cut and thus get into Savannah River. Many think they will succeed very soon. The adjacent waters are under the
fire of their gun boats, and nothing can now be done to keep them out. Had the military authorities acted with proper vigor and energy, Wall's cut, Freeborn's cut, and all similar creeks might have been effectually obstructed. Large square boxes, filled with bricks, or even boulders of granite or other rock, from the up country, might have been used with perfect success. As it was, only piles were employed and these the Yankees are sawing off or pulling up. Fort Pulaski, however, is prepared for a six months siege, and Fort Jackson and several earth works will dispute a passage to the city. The Authorities are now acting with vigor.

The Burnside fleet is still lagging about Hatteras; it was severely crippled by the storm, and the northern papers describe some ten vessels that have been lost.

Later accounts have greatly modified the extent of the northern victory at Mill Spring or Fishing Creek: our severest loss was the death of Gen'l Zollicoffer; that caused a panic, and the Tennessee troops acted badly. We lost some 2000 horses and mules, and all the stores and camp equipage. It appears that only two Regiments - Battle's Tennessee and Waltham's Mississippi - were actively engaged in the fight; they suffered very severely. Our troops crossed the Cumberland River in retreat with the loss of only one man. This shows the retreat was well conducted. The chief confusion and alarm occurred after the river was crossed and our men safe. The Yankee papers assert that they captured eleven cannon - ours that these cannon were spiked and sunk
in the bottom of the river. It is difficult to declare which is correct; the Yankees however lie systematically and atrociously - this has been confessed by some of their own papers, by the prisoners we capture, and is demonstrated conclusively by events occurring in our own vicinity.

In the Port Royal fight Com. Dupont stated that Commodore Tatnall had eight steamers, which we all know to be totally untrue; in the fight at Gardner's Corner on New Year's day the enemy declared we had 8000 men engaged; we know that only one regiment of 500 men, and four companies were in or near the fight. These are only samples of what our papers daily reveal in extracts from northern sources. All the Yankee accounts acknowledge that our troops displayed great courage in the Battle near Somerset; one writer states that "the Rebels fought like tigers."

February 10th

The papers and Telegraph tonight bring us news of the saddest nature. The capture of Fort Henry on the Tennessee River, with some 80 prisoners and a number of cannon, is confirmed; the enemy's gunboats then advanced through Tennessee and have siezed the towns of Florence & Tuscumbia in North Alabama. In addition to this Roanoke Island has been captured by the Burnside's expedition and 3000 prisoners taken. All this is bad as bad can be. But we must not and will not repine! A brave spirit rises triumphant from the blows that beat it down. The Southern people will never doubt the result. God is with
February 12th

The news of our late reverses is fully confirmed: it produced a temporary depression; but the spirit of our people rose buoyant under their disasters, and new ardor and determination are filling all bosoms. Even to be defeated may be better than the dull, stagnant apathy that was lulling the Southern people into a sense of false security. We needed to be roused. We have relaxed our energies since the victory at Manassas, but now we will rise as one man to beat back the invader, who comes avowedly to emancipate and burn and destroy. The northern papers declare that the day of "the conservatives" (God save the mark!) has past, and that "the radicals" will now rule the counsels of the north. The notorious Jim Lane receives a Brig. Gen'l's commission, with the brutal threat on his lips that if he "finds no union men before him, he will leave no rebels behind him." With the Southern people now it is literally a question of victory or abject slavery. Men of our race and education will know how to avoid the latter. We have, as yet, few particulars of our late reverses; it appears that Fort Henry only mounted fourteen guns, all but three being of light calibre. Our men were driven out by shells from the Federal Gun Boats: Gen'l Tilghman, four officers and some sixty privates, with the guns in the Battery, and a Field Battery, fell into the hands of the enemy. The Gun Boats then performed a remarkable feat, whose very audacity must
have taken the people by surprise; they passed up the Tennessee River, all through the State of Tennessee, and took possession of Florence in north Alabama; we are told they carried off the Government stores from Florence, and here our information stops. Whether these Gun Boats will return without opposition remains to be seen: surely the people of middle Tennessee must offer some resistance to these marauders: the River might be obstructed with trees, or with something sufficient to cut off the retreat of these Boats - fire rafts might be floated down upon them, torpedoes placed in their path - cannon might be hauled to the river or riflemen line the banks to pick off the pilots and gunners. If something of the kind be not done, this will prove the most effective stroke the Yankees have made. The moral effect will be very bad; it will demonstrate the power of the enemy to penetrate, by their naval forces, the very centre of the Confederacy. We await further developments with great anxiety.

We have little information about the capture of Roanoke Island, only sufficient to exhibit a very decided reverse to our arms. It is said the battle lasted two days - that we lost 200 killed and wounded - the enemy 1,000, and four gun boats, sunk by our Batteries. The enemy, 15,000 strong - took possession of the Island, when our men, to the number of 3,000, finding all means of escape effectually cut off, surrendered themselves prisoners of war. The enemy lost 3,500 prisoners at Lexington, and yet soon recovered from the blow; this will by no means dishearten or seriously weaken us. The loss of 3,000 well drilled
soldiers with their arms & stores is doubtless a very serious reverse; but it will require very many such to conquer the people of the South. This battle however, has demonstrated one fact which it is a very great pity the Government did not recognize months ago - that is that without a navy we cannot hold these islands against the naval power of the north. The adoption of a policy different from what has heretofore prevailed would have saved us the stings of Hatteras, Port Royal, and Roanoke Island. Had our Government from the beginning authorized the construction of gun boats and floating batteries we might have held our islands; but now they are mere traps where men and arms are cruelly sacrificed. This truth was partially recognized after Port Royal, where we suffered defeat, Tybee (which, however, should have been held) Warsaw, Sapelo, and other islands were abandoned. Its more complete recognition has been enforced by the recent disaster at Roanoke Island. Gen'l Mercer's views are at last carried out, and he has received orders to evacuate St. Simons and Jekyl Islands, and to fall behind the Buffalo swamp. This decision has unfortunately been postponed until after the expenditure of great labor upon our Batteries; they have occupied months in their construction, have consumed time that might have been devoted to drill, and have cost the Government much money. The railroad iron upon them alone is valued at seventeen thousand dollars, besides the lumber, nails, &c. Nevertheless the decision is a wise one; it may save so many valuable men and arms to the government, while the cannon are greatly needed at Savannah. Measures are being adopted
for the speedy removal of the guns; our only fear is that the enemy may obtain information of our intention and come upon us while unprepared: from the mast head of the blockaders they can see what we are doing, unless we act with great caution.

February 11th

As soon as the order was received to evacuate the Islands measures were adopted to carry it into execution. On Wednesday Gen'l Mercer, Major Edw. C. Anderson & Mr. Harden, the acting Ordnance officer, went to Jekyl, and the disarming of the splendid Batteries was commenced. Yesterday - Thursday - the Gen'l and his Staff again went down in the Reliance. We met the steam flat Moulton, with three thirty two pounder guns, on her way to Brunswick. The men had labored hard all Wednesday night, three of the guns were already shipped, and we found the other three on the beach. A feeling of melancholy came over me when I looked at the massive works we were thus abandoning; Major Barnwell had declared they were the finest on the coast, and Major Anderson pronounced them stronger than Fort Pulaski. It was so sad to desert them, but the necessity was pressing, and wisdom easily suggested the proper course.

During Thursday the men labored hard; a flat was loaded with the three remaining guns, and carriages, and the Reliance taking it in tow we slowly steamed up to Brunswick, casting many a sad glance upon our fruitless labors. A fatigue party from Jekyl, and all the sick from St. Simons reached town in the afternoon. Just as we left the Island a large Steamer, and a sailing vessel, appeared outside.
Last night the men labored hard in Brunswick, and the six guns, with their carriages and chassis, are now on the way to Savannah. Two guns from St. Simons arrived this morning, and six others have been dismounted. Our success in saving everything of value will depend upon the ignorance of the enemy; he could now pounce upon us and defy us with one gun-boat.

At 4 A. M. Col. Styles sent to Brunswick for all the force on hand; he reported three vessels off the bar, signalling as though they suspected our movements. All the troops are now working like beavers, and we hope very soon that every article of value will be beyond the reach of danger.

My wife left me this morning for Savannah. Our pleasant circle, and happy domestic quiet - more prized amid the din of war - have been broken up - perhaps forever. I hope soon to see her in Savannah, where I trust this Brigade will be at once ordered; fierce battle is culminating there, and every son of the dear old city longs to be with her in the struggle. I have spent some very happy days in Brunswick; now that Nannie is gone, and the house looks deserted and bare, I can appreciate them more than ever, and realize more fully the sad changes and chances of war.

The inhabitants are fast leaving Brunswick; Capt. T. S. Hopkins, with a portion of his fine company, will be stationed here to watch the enemy and give notice of his approach. Gen'l Mercer has given him orders to burn the town if the enemy evince an intention to occupy
it. All the leading citizens are in favor of this course; this spirit animates the entire South - if the enemy triumph, he shall triumph over burnt homesteads, desolated fields and lifeless bodies. We are resolved to make his successes barren and fruitless.

February 16th

We have this morning by telegraph most cheering news: Gen'l Pillow has repulsed the enemy at Fort Donelson both by land and water; it is said he has lost four or five hundred men, and had his gun boats badly damaged, while we have lost only eighteen killed and fifteen wounded.

The steamer Victoria with 15,000 stand of arms, a large amount of ammunition and coffee, has run the blockade at New Orleans: the enemy fired two hundred shells at her without effect. This proves the immense difficulty of striking a steamer in rapid motion, a fact recently demonstrated by the Isabel running safely into Charleston, by the safe passage of our little steamers to Fort Pulaski, and by many other prominent examples. Indeed the introduction of steam gun boats of light draught has completely revolutionized naval warfare, and is materially altering the character of this civil war. The enemy are full of naval enterprise and mechanical skill; they own nearly all the foundries and ship yards in the land - located at the north by a Government always false to the South - and have thus obtained an advantage which places our water courses at their mercy. The Yankees have had good reason to appreciate our stubborn courage and reckless
dash on land. With every advantage on their side - with a far more numerous army, better food, superior equipments, and far finer arms, we have achieved a signal victory in almost every instance. Rich Mountain and the recent battle near Somerset, Ky, are the only successes of any moment obtained by their landsmen; in both they brought against us largely superior forces; they were forced to acknowledge our determined bravery, and from their own admissions we can attribute their success only to superior numbers and better arms. A written account of the battle near Somerset states that the wounded were only slightly injured "owing to the use of double-barreled guns by the Rebels." Can the bravest men overcome superior numbers, armed with the best rifles and muskets with bayonets, if they are provided only with flint lock country rifles and double-barreled guns? We know that the Moors defeated the best French troops until the latter obtained guns of longer range than those used by the Moors; Col. Steptoe, with the splendidly drilled U. S. dragoons, armed with musketoons, was defeated by Indians armed with long range Hudson Bay Rifles. If then a wide disparity in the range of guns enables the savage to defeat the civilized soldier, what shall we expect when men of the same race and blood meet in battle. Nevertheless, with all these advantages on the side of the enemy, we can confidently meet him on terra firma; besides our supply of arms is increasing; the Kate and Victoria have just added splendid arms to our stock - about 27 000. On the water however we are painfully weak: our Government has never provided even the nucleus of a navy; it is
just beginning to recognise the indispensable necessity of one. Workmen are busy at Norfolk — four gunboats have been constructed in Savannah by Willerik — others are being built on the St. Johns at Mobile and New Orleans. We have just received an order to report the names of all ship builders, boiler makers &c. in the command. Our people have foolishly relied on the interference of France and England and have depreciated the importance of a navy. The want of one has led to our defeats at Hatteras, Port Royal, Fort Henry & Roanoke Island — victories achieved simply by the use of an arm we had not. Floating Batteries, constructed of the heaviest timber and clad with rail road iron or iron plates, even a sufficient number of powerful steam flats, like the Moulton, heavily armed, would have saved us cruel mortification, and added greatly to our sense of security and to the safety of our bays and rivers. Now we are in some respects entirely at the mercy of the enemy, as his recent advance up the Tennessee River demonstrates; he counts his gun boats by hundreds, and many of them — as those which captured Fort Henry — are of immense size, iron-clad, built so that the sides form an angle and cause the shot to glance, and armed with nine or thirteen of the heaviest guns each. The enemy have an eleven inch gun on nearly every gun boat, while the largest guns in our service are eight and ten inch guns. He thus exceeds us in the number, weight of metal and range of his guns; no wonder he should achieve some successes. All his guns, with few exceptions, are either rifled or of very heavy calibre; very few of ours are either. We have resisted his powerful ordnance with 32 and 24 pounders — like a man armed with a
pocket pistol contending against an enemy provided with a musket.

At Hatteras the Yankees pounded our Fort and killed our brave volunteers with their heavy guns, while they themselves were perfectly safe from the effect of our feeble missiles; not a man of them was hurt, and they stated themselves that our 32 and 24 pound shot fell harmless from the sides of their vessels. At Port Royal we used only three or four heavy guns against hundreds of the largest size. At Fort Henry we had only one heavy gun (ten inch) and one rifled gun, while the enemy were provided with some fifty of the heaviest calibre.

The details of the Roanoke Island disaster have not reached us, but we feel sure it is another triumph of long range, heavy metal, and superior numbers. The Yankees well know their advantages; they boast that the world has never known such artillery as they possess. They are to us now what the Troops first provided with fire arms were to swordsmen and spear men. They think they will conquer us by skill and ingenuity, with steam and cunningly wrought iron. But the sides will soon be more equal; we have few foundries - few vessels, but slowly we too are rifling cannon, increasing weight and calibre, and building gun boats. The ingenuity of Archimedes at first overcame the Romans, but finally their superior courage and constancy prevailed, and Syracuse fell.

Our present reverses make us sad, but not despondent: we experience that mortification which the Romans felt after the disaster at the Caudine Forks, and which is natural to every courageous and sensitive
people. The historian has pronounced this very shame an evidence of the high spirit and character of the Roman nation. It is a pain that gives birth to new efforts for success, a resolve to cancel each defeat. I have never for a moment felt disheartened, but I have experienced deep pain from the consciousness of defeat; I have laid awake thinking of the brave men butchered, the sweet women widowed, the dear homes desolated. All night, after the news from Roanoke Island reached us, I was oppressed with hideous dreams; the idea that we had lost three thousand prisoners haunted me: 3 000, embodied in great letters of blood, sat upon my heart like some grim monster. But now I feel as cheerful as ever; renewed zeal and confidence in our good cause fills my soul.

The extent of our disaster at Roanoke island is greatly modified by later reports: it appears that 1700 instead of 3 000 prisoners were taken, and that the enemy experienced a very heavy loss in making the capture. We still await, with great interest, full details of this disaster, as well as of the descent of the Gun Boats into Alabama.

February 18th

We were the recipients of glorious news last night. Gen'l Mercer received orders to proceed with the bulk of his command to Savannah. Oh how happy and excited I was! The prospect of seeing wife and home again - of fighting on the spot of all others most cherished and most inviting to defend - of seeing something of the pomp and circumstance of glorious war - roused us from our lethargic round of duties here,
and filled our hearts with hope and joy. God, in his mercy, protect our homes and cover our heads in the day of battle!

On Friday we defeated an attack of the gun boats upon Fort Donelson on the Tennessee River; not a man or gun, after a terrible bombardment of four hours, was hurt on our side; so good batteries can resist gunboats with all their modern improvements!

On Saturday the fight was renewed by land and water, and it is said a terrible battle raged all day; we were completely victorious up to four o'clock Sunday morning, crippling the Gun Boats and inflicting immense loss upon the enemy. A renewal of the battle was expected on Sunday, and there was a vague rumor in Savannah that the Fort had finally succumbed, and that we had lost many prisoners. We await further news with very great anxiety. The Yankees are jubilant over their late successes, and predict an early suppression of "the rebellion." We shall see.

The last gun from the Islands goes to Savannah today; three thirty-two pounders will be sent to Fernandina. Only a few gun carriages, chassis, and some ammunition, remain upon the Islands. The evacuation has been speedily and successfully accomplished. Col. Lamar's Battalion will proceed to Savannah tomorrow, and Col. Styles' Reg't the day after.

February 18th

1 P. M. This has been a day of gloom and sadness for all of us! We learned at nine o'clock that the great battle had been renewed in Tennessee - that Fort Donelson had been captured with 13,000 Confederate prisoners - and that Nashville was in possession of the enemy.
We see no reason to doubt the truth of this very bad news. To any but a brave and determined people the reverse might be vital; but while we all feel terribly cast down, we know that this conflict can only end with our independence: we see before us doleful scenes of carnage and suffering, but Victory, though farther off, still sits enthroned in a bright and glorious future. I am deeply sensitive to these sad defeats, and few could have experienced more genuine suffering than I have today; but I cannot, and will not, despair of the result: the war will be long, bloody and terrible, but the South will inevitably achieve and maintain her independence. Our revolutionary Fathers lost nearly all their cities, and had their country over run, but they were not subdued. I trust, and believe, we inherit their spirit & love of freedom. I have prepared myself to hear much more very unpleasant news; but a turn in the tide will come soon - I trust firmly in the courage of our brave people, and in the goodness of God!

February 19th

The sad news of yesterday is confirmed today, with added cause for sorrow. Fort Donelson fell on Sunday, and 15,000 Confederate prisoners, with the city of Nashville with Government stores in large quantity, and Gen'ls Sidney Johnson, Pillow and Buckner, are said to have fallen into the hands of the enemy. This is terrible news - such as I never in my wildest dreams supposed the South would ever be pained to hear. Reverse has followed reverse in rapid succession; Mill Spring, Fort Henry, and the invasion of Alabama, Roanoke Island, Fort Donelson, and
the fall of Nashville are well calculated to depress and cast down our people. But what then? Are we, can we be, conquered - subdued! Every true Southern man and woman answers emphatically no! We have been supine; we have slept since Manassas; but we are now thoroughly roused. We begin to appreciate the terrible earnestness and magnitude of this contest, and to see the vital importance of placing every man in the field. Great Rivers, like the Tennessee and Cumberland have been defended by one Battery each, though leading into the very heart of our land; we have expected to beat the finest Gun Boats the world has ever seen without a navy or guns - to drive back an immense and splendidly equipped army with small numbers, many of them armed with double-barreled guns. But now our eyes are opened. God grant it may not be in vain! This terrible misfortune will do us great good if it only bears its proper fruits. We must all be up and doing. Business must be abandoned until our independence is achieved; money making must be despised until our liberty is won. Every man must become a soldier. Every woman must appeal to Father, brother, husband, son to battle for the cause. Every river must bristle with guns & be filled with obstructions. Every city must have triple breast works and brave hearts behind them. Every white man, every negro, must work with a will. Men of influence - men like our good and excellent Vice President - must visit the people, arouse their patriotism, and enlighten their ignorance; tell them of the servile degradation, the dishonor, the goading taxes which they and their posterity must carry like a mill stone round their necks, if they are overcome. Our country people are
sadly ignorant; Col. Styles assures me in this section many tell him it is his war and he must fight it out. If all these things are done, our reverses will prove our salvation.

Our brave ancestors suffered as we can never suffer, and won their independence. Rome was defeated in many bloody battles and Carthage thundered at her gates, but Rome became the Mistress of the world. We must never despair of the Republic.

Our prospects look gloomy now - our armies defeated - our strong position at Bowling Green evacuated, Columbus flanked - and our enemy full of zeal and power. But we will rise in our strength and teach the world that virtue and heroism are not dead. I am full of hope and I dedicate my poor services to my country!

We learn that the Gun Boats have returned from the Tennessee River, after destroying some property, and causing the destruction of much more by the people to prevent its capture; all the steamboats nearly, on the River, were burned by the inhabitants. Our loss in killed, wounded & prisoners at Roanoke Island would appear to be about two thousand.

Col. Lamar's command proceeded to Savannah this morning.

February 26th

On Saturday morning, Feb. 22nd, at 7 3/4 A. M. Gen'l Mercer and Staff left Brunswick in a special train for Savannah: we arrived about 5 P. M. Col. Styles' command were sent back to Waynesville, when only thirty miles from Savannah, by a special order from Gen'l Lawton. The men were thoroughly disheartened - nay even demoralized - by the course
pursued. Some twelve hundred excellent men are now in the pine-woods near Brunswick in a very poor and now completely exhausted country, where they are of no possible use; the section of country in which they are located could not feed them for a week; the enemy can have no object in invading it, and it is a pity these troops are not sent where they can give important service. We must soon alter our present policy; we cannot defend every point in our immense frontiers; our forces are now scattered and diffused, and the enemy brings largely superior numbers to bear upon us at every point.

We have many regiments posted in small bodies on our coast; this must be changed; our troops must be concentrated, or we shall lose Kentucky and Tennessee and Missouri. Reinforcements sent to Tennessee would have saved our men at Fort Donelson and spared us the pain of that disaster. We are still in doubt as to the results of this protracted and desperate battle. It seems pretty well settled, however, that we lost some 2,000 killed and wounded, and 12,000 prisoners at Fort Donelson, and that our troops have fallen behind Nashville. The enemy acknowledge that we defeated their Gun Boats on Friday, and their Army on Saturday; they claim to have had from 60 to 80,000 troops at Fort Donelson, and yet on Saturday our gallant army, less than 20,000 strong, drove them miles from their encampments, captured Gen'l McClemand's head quarters, several Federal Batteries, and several hundred prisoners; the latter are now in Memphis. By Saturday evening the enemy were largely reinforced, and our thoroughly exhausted men
were completely surrounded. Gen'l Buckner was therefore constrained to surrender with some 12,000 men.

This has been a very sad disaster, but has produced some good fruit already. Our people are rousing themselves, and becoming alive to the occasion; the twelve months men are re-enlisting, and numbers entering the field for the first time. The prisoners lost at Fort Donelson are probably already replaced by recruits.

From Roanoke Island we obtain very unsatisfactory accounts; the whole affair was disgraceful to our arms. It seems that only nineteen were killed and wounded, and that we surrendered over 2,000 prisoners to the Yankees. Many of the papers made sport of the Port Royal fight, but how superior in gallantry and resolution to this affair on Roanoke Island. At Port Royal we saved all our men.

On Monday I visited Fort Jackson and the Battery near it; the river, at that point, is commanded by the Fort with ten guns, the naval Battery with ten, and two other Batteries mounting some twelve guns: in addition there are five gun boats carrying twelve guns, and all these will be aided by obstructions in the river.

My Father proceeded to Skidaway Island today, where we take up our head quarters for the present. I proceed there tomorrow, and these notes of the war I fear must end; I cannot very well continue them during active movements in the field.

A journal from March 3rd 1862 to September 18th 1863 is contained in a small book with black morocco covers.
Day before yesterday I ordered a pair of shoes - price sixty dollars (60). To this complexion has it come at last! Fortunately have outer and under clothes sufficient to last some time; am having some coarse cotton shirts made and glad to get them.

We have ceased to require luxuries; we thank God for abundant food; butter is very scarce and poor; eggs expensive, meat not plentiful; but corn meal and rice are abundant and we are satisfied. The other day I bought two apples for fifty cents.

Today I issued an order for the construction of a rail road track from the Depot of the Savannah, Albany & Gulf R. R. to the Savannah River Batteries; this will prove a valuable addition to our defences. Major Screven (who superintends construction) thinks we should have a track leading to all our main works. A Telegraphic wire now connects them all. The rail road and telegraph are powerful aids in war.

The great Yankee nation that plumes itself upon its love of liberty and grew up from a revolution, now lends its moral aid to Russia in her brutal efforts to subdue the gallant Poles, struggling for independence and freedom. The great Republic - the champion for universal freedom - is rivetting the fetters upon the limbs of Poland, and forging the chains to enslave us: Russia and Columbia in accord upon a question of Political rights! Is there such a thing as national principle, consistency, and honor? Not in a rabid Democracy plainly!
September 26th

On the 19th and 20th a great Battle was fought on the Chickamauga (the river of death), in Catoosa County, Ga., between the armies of Bragg, strengthened by Longstreet's Corps, and Rosencrans: through the blessing of God we gained a great victory; the enemy was driven from his chosen positions, leaving in our hands forty cannon, twenty thousand small arms, and seven thousand prisoners. The losses on both sides were heavy. Our officers suffered particularly: in Col. Wilson's Brigade, composed of the 25th, 29th and 30th Ga. Reg'ts, only one field officer escaped. Of the results of this victory it is too early to speculate: God grant that it may be fruitful. Rosencrans is now at Chattanooga fortifying.

For the first time we have gained a decisive victory in the west: Shiloh and Murfreesboro covered our army with glory and gave us prisoners and guns, but were followed by the retreat of our forces: Donelson and Corinth witnessed our defeat after heroic efforts. But now our triumph is unqualified. A wily and victorious General, a large and boastful army, have been routed on their chosen ground, and Georgia rescued from impending ruin. Our people are re-assured and re-invigorated. I trust we may recover the portions of Tennessee we lost by retreat: I cannot help thinking the results would have been far greater if Gen'l Bragg had simply held Rosencrans in check, while a sufficient force from Gen'l Lee's army had penetrated East Tenn., through West Virginia, and at once siezed the communications of the Yankee Gen'l. A flank movement
of this nature can accomplish wonders: Gen'l Bragg's advance into Kentucky last Fall with a small army, on Buell's flank, caused the abandonment of Alabama and Tennessee. Direct movements upon the enemy's always superior force give him every advantage; in this last battle he had chosen a fine position, and had erected formidable field works: our losses were multiplied thereby.

October 3rd

The report from Rosencrans' Army of the first days fighting, as published in the Yankee papers, was that the position of the Abolition forces was so strong that the Rebels could not dislodge them even were their army twice its actual size; and yet on the second day, they were driven from their strong positions and compelled, after heavy losses, to retreat to Chattanooga.

When the battle of Chancellorsville began, Hooker telegraphed that the entrenchments occupied by his army were the best it had ever had; and yet this Army was hurled in confusion from its works. What unconscious tributes to the Southern valor that triumphed in these two great battles!

At Chickamauga the Yankees fought behind rude but formidable works: they cut down trees, with the branches outwards, and filled up the intervals with logs, stones and earth; from these they were driven by the most desperate fighting, often hand to hand. Our brave army suffered greatly, particularly in officers. In some Brigades all the field officers were struck; in the Brigade commanded by Col. Wilson,
and consisting of the 25th, 29th & 30th Georgia Regiments, the Battalion of Sharp Shooters, and the 4th Louisiana Batt. all from this District, the casualties among officers were appalling: Lieut. Col. Williams of the 25th was wounded mortally; Major Winn, 25th, seriously; Col. Young, 29th lost his right arm; Lieut. Col. Mitchell, 29th wounded dangerously; no Major was present. Col. Maugham of the 30th was wounded seriously, Lieut. Col. Boynton escaped. Major Schaff of the Sharp Shooters was wounded severely, and his clothes was struck seven times besides. Lieut. Col. McEnery of the 4th Louisiana Battl. was wounded seriously; Major Buie was not present; the brave Captain Marks and Captain Coleman, Lieuts. Fox and Briscoe, Commanding Companies, fell dead on that bloody field.

Oh it makes me sick at heart to think that these gallant officers I knew so well have perished; it seems but the other day when they left so full of hope and life. The dispatch says our losses will not exceed twelve thousand.

Twelve thousand patriotic southerners dead and maimed! What a gap in our brave army - how often can we lose twelve thousand! How many of us will be left if this war lasts much longer! But better to die - to perish utterly - than live to see our dear country enslaved. The world has witnessed no tyranny that could compare with the vengeance of the Puritan mob wreaked in the name of God and freedom!

Rosencrans is now shut up in Chattanooga closely pressed by our forces; doubtless Gen'l Bragg is maneuvering to compel the Yankees to cross the Tennessee River, and then to pursue them. Our force was too
small to enable us to follow up our victory immediately.

October 9th

All is quiet on the great theatre of war. Rosencranz is being reinforced at Chattanooga and promises to resume the offensive. We could not follow up our great victory; we are weak in all respects; we are greatly outnumbered, while we are poorly supplied with food, arms, ammunition, pontoons, trains, and all that renders a brave army effective. Our courage has been conspicuous upon a hundred fields, but our poverty in warlike resources has been no less manifest; we should remember our condition, and not condemn our Generals for the failure to reap all the fruits of victory. Our chief glory consists in the heroic fortitude we have displayed in weakness and through much suffering; it is easy to fight bravely, it is hard to bear with cheerful courage continued privations and pinching want.

A desperately bold attack was made upon the Ironsides a few nights since: Lieut. Glassell of the navy, with three men, steamed out of Charleston harbor in the little torpedo boat, and ran boldly through the Yankee fleet and into the Ironsides: the torpedo exploded, throwing an immense column of water into the air, which entered the smokestack of our boat and extinguished the fires; she lay for a while helpless, but finally drifted off, and was taken to Charleston safely; Lieut. Glassell and one man jumped overboard and were either drowned or captured. The Ironsides was injured, but probably not very seriously; she is supposed to be built with water-tight compartments, and one of
these was doubtless crushed in by the explosion. This attack, with a former attempt of similar character upon the same vessel, will rank among the boldest naval exploits on record; Lieut. Wood's recent capture of the Yankee Gun Boats Satellite and Reliance in Chesapeake Bay, by boarding, will also compare with any similar act in History.

A remarkable feat was recently accomplished at Sabine City, Texas, a fleet of four gun boats, fourteen transports, and some twelve thousand men, left New Orleans to capture Sabine City; the Gun Boats attacked our Battery manned by only one company of about forty men; the Gun Boats Clifton and Sachem were disabled and captured with all on board (several hundred), when the whole expedition returned to New Orleans. Not a man or gun was injured on our side, this is Gen'l Magruder's official report, and our Generals speak the truth in their official Reports. If we should finally fall in this struggle (which I consider impossible) it will not be for the want of heroic daring.

I finished last night Dugald Stewart's Philosophy of Mind; it is a fine treatise, but not equal, I think, in style or matter to that of his contemporary Reid on the Intellectual Powers of Man. Tonight I have been reading Shakspere's Coriolanus to see his picture of the mob. We behold its malign power and influence now, and feel concerned for our country's future: I sometimes sadly ask myself are we passing through the throes of this terrible struggle only to inaugurate a new reign of mob law - to make another nation for future distractions and civil feuds? Will majority again oppress minority, and force it into
revolution? Will man never tame his passions and respect the rights of his fellow man? Alas! I confess the prospect is not cheerful; our own experience has taught us that intelligence does not stifle passion, or mitigate the tyranny of parties; the sad history is now being written in letters of blood. We are in a fearful struggle today; it absorbs all our mind and soul; and yet what do we behold: on Wednesday I went to the polls to vote; I saw the candidates there supplicating the suffrages of every passer by, deceiving the ignorant, bribing the poor; I know the money of a rich citizen elected his candidates. I hear of intelligent men who voted for a candidate for Congress whose platform was to grant free postage, tax the rich for the benefit of the poor, and pay the soldiers fifty dollars a month; and yet this candidate knows that fifty dollars would soon cease to purchase more than the present pay of eleven dollars - that the currency would be destroyed by the enormous issues required; but what cares the demagogue for currency or country; he deceives the ignorant, nay even men called intelligent. If such things are done in the green tree what must we expect in the dry!
January 15th, 1864

The present is the gloomiest period that we have yet reached: for the first time since this struggle commenced, signs of disaffection are exhibited in the Army. Four days since Gen'l Mercer received a dispatch from Capt. Hanleiter, Comdg. Beaulieu Battery, that a mutinous plot had been divulged to Corpl. Frost of his Battery, who, with true patriotism, at once communicated it to his Captain. Private Coleman, of the 51st Ga. Reg't, who addressed Corpl. Frost, was at once arrested, and measures were taken to investigate the matter thoroughly; the result was the discovery of a plan for simultaneous desertion by a large portion of the three Cos. at Rose Dew Battery: Troops were immediately placed in position to intercept the deserters, but they failed to make the attempt. Further investigation has resulted in the apprehension of at least one of the ring-leaders, and the discovery of the following plan: On a given night a portion of the troops (the number not ascertained, though several Regiments appear implicated) were to desert with their arms and ammunition, and to march immediately to the country, and then return to their homes: their idea seemed to be that this example would be followed by the army generally, which would disband, and the war, with its attendant hardships, cease. The chief grievances appeared to be deficient food and clothing, suffering families at home and the inability to obtain furloughs. It is probable that not a great many
intended to participate in this scheme, though it seems that a written statement and pledge was circulated in several camps for signatures.

Three nights ago twelve men stole a boat, and deserted to the enemy from Cheves' Battery on the Savannah River; among these were the Sergeant and Corporal of the Guard and the Sentinels on post; they were all Irishmen. We have reason to fear that great weariness of the war, and an absorbing desire to go home, are prevalent among many of our men; officers from the Army of Tennessee represent the same spirit as common there, and think there will be great difficulty in retaining the three years men when their term of service expires. Many of the people at home, it is said, are so weary of the war that they would accept peace upon almost any terms; some (though I trust, very few) are ready to accept the pardon offered by Lincoln on condition of taking the oath of allegiance and swearing to support his proclamation of emancipation.

These are gloomy features in our struggle for independence, and well calculated to depress; they undermine the bases of confidence. We can succeed only by the steady patriotism and united efforts of all; if our Army loses heart and courage we are undone. The strain upon the patriotism of our people and our soldiers is now immense, and we can hardly wonder that some dissatisfaction should exist; our currency has depreciated to such an extent that people formerly in comfortable circumstances, can now barely clothe and feed themselves; the bare necessaries of life are hardly procurable, and actual want and suffering are widespread. The Government is unable to fulfil its promises to
the soldier; his pay per month will purchase nothing - hardly a dinner; he shivers in the cold without tents, blankets, shoes or comfortable clothes; his food is of the simplest and most meagre kind; often he has nothing but a little dry corn bread; a letter from my sister, received today, mentions that one of my cousins in Virginia slept on the wet ground and found his thin blanket frozen to him in the morning - that an officer stated to her he had eaten nothing for days but dry corn bread: an officer friend stated to me that for several days during operations near Chattanooga he was glad to collect and eat the stale scraps of bread thrown away by the men. Our troops here receive now no bacon, and but little miserable beef: men cannot march and fight upon dry corn meal. The Commissary states that in a few days the issue of meat will cease altogether, for some time; and that it is impossible to see where meat enough for one third of the current year can be procured. Very many of our soldiers here, and elsewhere, in this bitter weather are bare footed; none have over-coats and many are without warm clothes or blankets. In addition to all these causes for dissatisfaction they receive distressing appeals from perishing families at home. Can we wonder that many are weary of the war, that desertions are frequent, and that when the soldier reaches home he is loth to return? There is much in the dark future to make a patriot sad, but he should not despair; our revolutionary ancestors experienced every malady that has afflicted us, and many more besides. If we love liberty - if we are firm and true - we shall yet pluck independence from the dangers
that beset us.

In these gloomy hours it is a great consolation to me to read about the struggle of 1776, in which my brave ancestors bore for freedom a thousand trials I have not encountered; God grant that our people may not exhibit less fortitude.

February 16th

Sherlock is selling ready made English shoes for Seventy Five Dollars ($75) per pair, and every one considers it a fine bargain; I bought a pair this morning: the shoe makers ask $150. Mrs. Willy Gordon has just received from her Mother at the north a trunk filled with shoes, clothing &c. valued here at $5,000. it cost north the price of a pair of shoes with us - $150.

The beautiful estate of Lower Brandon, on the James River, Va. was recently destroyed by a party of Yankees sent out by Butler; everything in the Dwelling House was ruined; oil and molasses were poured over the carpets and furniture; ninety negroes were driven on board the Gun Boats at the point of the bayonet as recruits for the Yankee army; all the out buildings were burned; the cattle horses and stock were driven into the barn, which was fired and all burned alive. These facts are ascertained from the letter of my cousin who married Mr. Geo. Harrison.

The Yankees have landed a force of several thousand on the St. Johns River and are seeking to penetrate middle Florida; seven Regiments of Cavalry, and three light Batteries have been sent to meet them, and it is hoped their motley crew of mercenaries and negroes will
be severely handled.

A large Yankee army, under Sherman, has marched from Vicksburg through Mississippi; it is generally supposed that Mobile is the object of this expedition, though as yet nothing definite is ascertained: our small army, under Gen'l Polk has slowly retired to near the Alabama line. Our papers estimate the Yankee force as 40,000 - the New York Herald as 70,000, both doubtless enormous exaggerations. A severe battle in Mississippi must soon occur. This expedition into Mississippi, the one into Florida, and one against the Texas coast, are the only hostile movements of any magnitude made by the enemy this winter: their strength is palpably declining: the South was never more hopeful or resolute: the large re-enlistments for the war, of our veteran Troops in Virginia and northern Georgia have buoyed up the heart of the nation. Who can dare to flag when these heroes, war worn for three years, are voluntarilypledging themselves anew to their suffering country!

February 23rd

Yesterday was a day of excitement in Savannah: about ten o'clock a dispatch was received from Lieut. Col. Pritchard that the enemy had landed on Whitmarsh Island, advanced to Oatlands Bridge, and were there being held in check by two guns of Maxwell's Battery at the Bridge. In a few moments rumor had it that Whitmarsh Island, two hundred of our men, and one hundred negroes of the Engineer force had been captured; one excited negro assured me he had seen the Yankees cross the Bridge,
fire into our men and the negroes on this side, and kill several of
the latter. As Whitmarsh Island is an important point, and nearly all
our troops had been withdrawn to Florida, this movement of the enemy
was significant and serious. With the General's permission I at once
started on horseback to investigate the facts; on reaching Oatland's
Bridge I found that the enemy had landed a considerable force at day-
light, at Gibson's place, from three steam transports and one gun boat;
at the same time a force of several hundred passed up the Creek in
barges, and debarked in the marsh not far from the Bridge; they advanced
rapidly, driving the small guard across the bridge, and a Lieutenant
and some fifteen men passed over it, and approached within seventy five
yards of a small Battery, in course of construction, commanding the
Bridge. Lieut. Richardson, of Maxwell's Battery had charge of this
work, with two Napoleon guns; he was eating his breakfast, not dreaming
of the enemy, when the guard gave the alarm; with great promptness he
got his guns into embrasure and commenced firing upon the enemy; he
kept the main body in check, swept the bridge, and compelled the party
that had crossed to conceal themselves in the marsh; these two guns,
unsupported by any infantry, saved the bridge and the troops and negroes
on Whitmarsh Island; the party that had crossed retreated under fire
to the main body, except the Lieutenant commanding and one corporal,
who were made prisoners; the main Yankee force under the influence of
the shell and the approach of a small reinforcement from Fort Bartow,
retreated to their Boats. Lieut. Richardson lost one man and one horse
killed; his negro boy worked at one of the guns, and behaved bravely. The communication with Whitmarsh was thus opened, and our pickets and the negroes were brought safely off.

In the mean time the Yankee force that advanced to the Bridge, or the main body from Gibson's, encountered some thirty or forty men of our picket force; the latter fired one volley and fell back in some disorder; but the Yankees at once retreated to their Boats.

When I reached Whitmarsh, Lieut. Col. Pritchard, with about one hundred men only, was preparing to resist the advance of the enemy, he had a long line of skirmishers, deployed at wide intervals, in front, a picket force on the main road to Turner's Rocks, and a party of some fifty men under Capt. Turner, a brave and active officer, feeling the enemy towards Gibson's. All the prisoners testified that the enemy had landed four full regiments; we had not at this time two hundred men on the Island. The Yankees now began to shell the Island vigorously from their gun boat at Gibson's; for the first time I was exposed to these screaming missiles; they were passing in our direction but none exploded nearer than two hundred yards from us. A courier brought us word from Capt. Turner that the enemy were at Gibson's place - that his men and they were firing upon each other at long range - and that one of his men had been wounded.

At my request Col. Pritchard concluded to visit Capt. Turner that a full report might be made to the General; so we started off in company with Capt. Taliaferro and Lieut. Myers of Brig. Gen'l Colston's Staff.
As we approached the shelling continued at short intervals. The road being entirely under their fire; we dismounted and left our horses at a picket post several hundred yards in the rear of Capt. Turner's position: while walking along the road, Lieut. Myers and myself experienced a most miraculous escape; the Gun Boat was now within close range, but concealed by the shrubbery around Gibson's house: she fired a shrapnel shell, which tore through the woods and exploded directly in front of Lieut. Myers and myself; several of the bullets struck a thick bush about three feet to my left, one struck the ground just in front of us, while at least one, the whistling of which we distinctly heard, passed between Lieut. Myers and myself, we being scarcely a foot apart. I confess that I felt sobered in a moment with my curiosity gratified, and that every feeling save pride counseled me to return: we pushed on, however, communicated with Capt. Turner, whose men were lying flat in the woods, and having ascertained that the enemy had probably embarked, returned to our horses. While preparing to mount, a shell came screaming through the woods, and passed directly over us but fortunately did not explode; I am sure this shell did not pass two feet from my head. I must confess that I felt greatly relieved, and that I thanked God for His protection, when we got out of range, though I can say with truth I had thought much more of my wife and child than of myself, while exposed to danger.

On arriving at the Bridge we found that reinforcements had reached the Island, that the section of Artillery was ready to move, and that
Gen'l Colston intended to attack the Yankee Boats with sharp shooters and cannon; so I returned with him to make a reconnoissance of their position. The shelling had ceased; we approached the edge of the Creek cautiously, and discovered that the Boats had gone: the Yankees evidently embarked precipitately; they left haversacks &c, with bread, cooked meat, some coffee, cartridges and other articles; on these we made quite a hearty dinner.

During their short stay they constructed a small earth work and a line of abatti. Our loss for the day was one man killed, one wounded, and six or seven missing, doubtless captured; their loss, as far as ascertained, was four prisoners including one Lieutenant and the Orderly of the Colonel commanding the expedition.

I reached home at seven, having been in the saddle over eight hours; the day afforded an agreeable relief to the monotonous routine of office duties. It was my first experience under fire.

February 26th

We gained an important victory in Florida on 20th over a largely superior force of the enemy: our loss about 800 killed and wounded - his 2500 killed, wounded and prisoners. The negro troops - who are said to have fought well - were slaughtered without mercy. All of our available troops have been sent to Florida.

March 31st

Since the repulse of his attempted advance in Mississippi, Florida,
and upon Richmond, the enemy has remained quiet; this has been the least eventful winter of the war, and the Yankees have exhibited indubitable signs of weakness. He continues, however, to threaten dreadful calamities, and to hurl his prospective vengeance upon the head of our young Confederacy - "vaunting aloud but racked with deep despair." Our people are calm and hopeful of the coming campaign. I have never known a more patriotic and resolute spirit than now prevails; sufferings are borne without murmur, and the teachings of history are being again verified that a people aristocratic by birth or habits yield up luxuries and comforts with more cheerfulness than those who habitually lead a more austere life. The enormous taxation imposed by the last Congress, such as no other people ever experienced is cheerfully submitted to: it is the price of liberty exclaim those who suffer most. The tax on stocks, as the Law stands at present, is ruinous; my own stock pays me some $200. as dividends, and the tax will exceed $500. Butter is now $15. per pound, eggs 25 cents apiece, Baker's Bread $1. per loaf, meat extremely scarce and fabulously dear; a little mass of bone and gristle on our table, called beef, cost $1½. I ride regularly on horseback to save shoe leather; shoes cost a small fortune. It is believed, however, that the new currency bill, with its compulsory funding, and substitution of different notes, coupled with the heavy taxation, will produce a healthful change in our monetary condition in a few months. "Confidence is a plant of slow growth." said Chatham, and I fear we can never bring a paper currency into much favor; prices will be exorbitant until the days of hard cash return.
April 17th

I have now been in service since December 1860—nearly three years and a half, and am only a Captain; when I see my juniors in the Line advance rapidly beyond me, through the natural course of promotion, I sometimes feel a little dissatisfied and regret that I am serving on the Staff where advancement is slow and improbable; but fortunately, or perhaps unfortunately, I have but little ambition for high station, being desirous chiefly to perform with conscientious thoroughness any duties that may devolve upon me. I have suffered all my life from a morbid diffidence, and instinctively shrink from conspicuous advancement.

In 1861 I was offered the Majority of the then 7th Georgia Battalion of Infantry, now the 61st Ga. Reg't of Gordon's Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia: I refused this promotion, and remained a simple first Lieutenant of the Blues: had I accepted the offer I would now be Colonel of one of the finest Regiments of one of the finest Brigades of the noblest and most patriotic army on the earth. But having declined this promotion I should not complain: in a terrible struggle like this, for all that man holds dear, the humblest part should be performed with cheerful alacrity and patriotic devotion. Ambition is often a gnawing worm that torments its votaries: better a happy life and a calm heart, than to be tossed through seething passions to the topmost wave. I confess that I should feel almost afraid to rise too high; I prize so greatly the charms of a happy home with all its sweet endearments; station could
hardly repay me for the loss of happy hours in the bosom of a loving family; the call of duty must be strong to lure me from my calm retreat. This constitutional aversion has kept me in a narrow circle, and imposed a modest mediocrity: at college I could not thrust myself forward to speak or secure publicity; in life I have rejected many offers of advancement from a simple calculation of happiness. Even now at twenty-nine I yearn rather for some happy country retreat, with attendant rural sports, familiar books and company of wife and child, than for the more shining honors of the Judge's ermine or the Senator's robe.

If the plain voice of duty united with the call of ambition, I should shrinkingly move forward; but I am covetous chiefly of a quiet life and happy home, a Christian death and a stainless name.

Reading

I read regularly during my leisure hours in the afternoon and at night: I have just finished Vols. 7 and 8 (the last received) of Bancroft's History of the U. States. I am now reading for the second time Carlyle's French Revolution. I recently finished Scott's Rob Roy and Kenilworth, the Memoirs of Cellini and "The Initials" by the Baroness Tautphoens, the authoress of "Quito." Hildegarde Rosenberg is a most attractive character, finely developed by the writer: she reminds me of Ethel Newcombe, & there are some traces of resemblance to Nora Nixon in Quito. The pictures of German life are very interesting.

Scarcity of food

My Cousin's wife received a letter from her Brother in Gen'l Lee's
army: he says that for several months he has not enjoyed one full meal, but has always risen hungry; they are not now particular about the quality of their food but only solicitous about the quantity. The officers were proposing one meal a day, that to be a full one. Many officers have been obliged to dismiss their servants, being unable to procure food for them; my brother in law, Gen'l Lee's Staff Surgeon, cuts his own wood and brings his own water; another brother in law - Brig. Gen'l Walker - in a mess of eight, has one pound of bacon per day - no other meat. Has the world ever seen a more patriotic army?

Savannah
June 11th, 1865

Having left Savannah on the 30th day of April, 1864, to report to the Army of Tennessee at Dalton, and, after sharing its vicissitudes and dangers, having returned to my native city on the 15th of November, under orders from the Adjutant and Inspector General. I again left it with the troops on December 20th, the date of its evacuation.

After a trying campaign on the coast of South Carolina, I proceeded to Macon under orders, and was there captured by the force under Gen'l Wilson, which entered the City on April 20th 1865.

I was paroled on the 3rd of May under the terms of Gen'l Johnston's capitulation. On May 24th I returned to Savannah with my wife and child. Our dwelling house was fortunately occupied by northern men doing business in Savannah, who vacated the premises upon our arrival; so we are again established in our old mansion.

It would be difficult to paint in words the change which has come
over Savannah. Externally the city is the same; but the iron has entered its soul, its whole social organization has been subverted, and to all intents and purposes it is a new place. Its rich have become poor, and new aspirants for wealth and honor rise upon the ruins of its ancient inhabitants. Liberty has been suddenly thrust upon an ignorant and inferior race, and reveling in the exemption from labor, which they construe freedom to mean, they have thrown off their old habits of subordination and industry, and brought discord and trouble into every household. No tints of promise irradiate the sombre future: ruin, or at best a painful struggle up the heights of adversity, is the dark prospect that oppresses the hearts of our unhappy people.

I have not yet recovered from the stunning effect of mingled surprise and grief caused by the sudden prostration of our cause. The noble structure we had reared was leveled like a house of cards. Unfortunately the war was, in its origin, essentially a struggle for the rights of property, and for a species of property in which a large mass of our people were not practically interested. While the elevated by birth or education have contended against fearful odds with a constancy and heroism never surpassed, large numbers withdrew their support when privation and calamity kept even pace with the struggle. A nation of republican Anglo Saxons will not at this day perish for an abstract right. But impartial history will record that the starry cross of the South was never lowered until a hostile vessel barred every river and inlet on her coast, until her depots had been destroyed, her means of
communication broken up, her finances prostrated, her Brigades reduced to Regiments, her Regiments to Squads, while the wide world swelled the ranks of her enemies, and the slaves she nourished in her bosom were converted into her foes. Victory perched upon her banners as long as a semblance of equality presided over the struggle.

For myself, I should thank God that I have been spared to my wife and child, my true consolation is that during the long strife I endeavored faithfully to do my duty, and that no act of mine has helped to hasten the calamitous end. I can only summon all the fortitude I possess to sustain me in those trying hours, and await with calmness the issues of the future. I am chained by my present circumstances to the unhappy place where God has cast my lot. Enough for me to recognize the fact that our cause is overthrown, and that while I continue to live here I must obey the laws of the dominant power. At present I see no future for the South; all is dark, and Hope itself seems to have abandoned my unhappy section. That mighty section, whose immense development of power has prostrated us into the dust, exhibits no signs of returning generosity; while magna[ni]mity would so adorn it, it robes itself in the black garments of revenge, and is heard only in the thunders of its wrath. It has loaded our illustrious chief magistrate with chains and insults; it has subjected his helpless family to suffering and contumely; it has set a price upon the heads of our leaders, and hunted them down like wild beasts; ruin and humiliation are the terms it offers to our stricken people. Its proud Eagle, after completing its triumphal flight, whets its beak to lacerate a prostrate foe.
Should it please God to spare my life for twenty years, I believe that I shall behold great changes: either the tenets of the fanatical party that caused this dreadful struggle will have been pushed to their logical results, and the powerful government of the United States will be broken into jarring fragments, unless held together by a strong central despotism; or the theory of the Constitution and the rights of the States, which impelled the South to this dreadful contest, will be recognized as true, her conduct will be applauded as just, and her brave sons will be honored as patriots and not denounced as traitors.

For the unhappy negro, the innocent occasion of the quarrel, it appears to me the end is clear. Either under a change of name he will be constrained to his former subordination to the superior race; or brought into full competition and collision with it, he will rapidly perish, like the Indian, before its ruthless energy and superior endowments. Already vast numbers of this poor people have died: a large proportion of those who were once happy and contented laborers upon the plantations of my family are in their graves, but of three hundred upon one estate near Savannah, one hundred and seventy six have perished: and it is stated by those who know that the appalling number of five thousand have found their graves in Savannah since the United States took possession, a period of six months.

June 18th

For the first time in my life I feel the pressure of want. The
war has greatly curtailed our fortunes, and the little that is left furnishes no revenue at present. My Father's northern property, amounting to nearly one hundred thousand dollars, has been swept away by the cruel and unconstitutional confiscation acts of the United States. Bank and Rail Road stocks at the South have perished with our cause, and the rents of real estate the military power will not at present permit us to collect. I have now less than one hundred dollars of borrowed money, which, for the reason that it is not mine, I will not spend except under the pressure of absolute necessity: I see no prospect of early improvement in my means or hopes of remunerative business. I have announced the resumption of legal practice in the daily paper, but as yet it has brought no clients. The only field for practice is in the two Provost Courts established here by military authority, in which anyone can obtain permission to appear, though not as Attorneys at Law: this title is not recognized among those who have not taken the oath, and no paroled officer has yet been authorized to take it. Most of the business in the Provost Courts is monopolized by Yankee officers, and interlopers claiming to be extreme Unionists: the proceedings are arbitrary; each case is decided upon its own merits by the officer presiding as Judge, and there is no appeal from his decision. The practice is extremely distasteful to a lawyer trained in the liberty of the Common Law, and accustomed to learned Judges, established system and polite counsel: but in these trying times bread must be sought where it can be found. We have to make a virtue of necessity.
June 22nd

My present condition and future prospects often cause me much mental distress. I have no money and do not obtain any business. I have clung faithfully to a failing cause, and must tumble with it in its fall. When I see men who deserted their principles, who abandoned the weak side, and who court popularity among the victors, rising to success and wealth, I feel that fidelity and principle are not rewarded in this world with its so called honors. Peace of conscience, and perhaps "some bright reversion in the sky" are the triumphs of those who walk uprightly in this life.

I endeavor to occupy my mind in thought and study, and thus exclude the painful emotions our changed circumstances are calculated to produce. I once read of a man who said family affliction would have driven him mad had he not resolutely set to work to master the Chinese language. I study my law books assiduously, and endeavor to regain what I have lost during four years of military service. I set apart a portion of time every day to strengthen my mind by thought. In the morning I drop into the Provost Court, to show myself with a view to obtaining work, and to rub off in mixed crowds the paralyzing diffidence that has always obstructed my success. My mind at times is agitated with wild hopes and speculations: sometimes I think I will leave this country altogether when I can obtain the means, sometimes that I will settle at the North among the dominant party, I have even been so foolish as to think I might write a book. But usually I calm my meditations amidst
my legal studies. I remember that every great lawyer has had his
days of poverty and trial. I feel that the man of moderate abilities,
with great integrity and industry, who determines to persevere to
success, will in the end secure competence and peace of mind. I will
stick to my profession and try to master it; I may have to struggle
through dark and devious ways, but, with God's help, success will
reward me at last.

June 21st

I took President Andrew Johnston's amnesty oath this morning, a
painful but necessary procedure. By the terms of his Proclamation I
am restored to my rights of property as a Citizen of the United States
except the right of property in slaves: as I owned but one delicate
negro girl, a burden and not a benefit, I do not suffer in this respect.

The soldiers of the poor Confederacy, faithful to her to the
end, are now obliged, by the supreme force of circumstances, to swear
allegiance to her vanquishers. Their hearts cannot change; but they
are compelled to recognize the fact that they are overcome, and to
yield, as gracefully as possible, obedience to a Government sufficiently
powerful to enforce it.

July 9th

A Provisional Governor - James Johnson of Columbus - has been
appointed for Georgia, and it is thought Civil law will be restored to
the State by next March. In the mean time, we must live under the
military rule so odious to everyone accustomed to civil liberty, but whose alarming sway and progress throughout the whole country many of the people do not appear to appreciate. A leveling temper, rather than a spirit of genuine freedom, is the distinguishing feature of our people: and they would surrender their liberties, as old as Magna Charta, to a military Despot with a facility a superficial observer would never realize. A most alarming temper, it appears to me, prevails throughout the country: the public mind is in a state of ferment and chaos: the old landmarks of the Constitution have been lost sight of: the line of demarcation between military power and civil law has been obliterated, and the freedom of the people will be preserved rather from their circumstances and the want of a Caesar or Cromwell, than from the Constitution and temper of their own minds.

I have obtained some little legal business, and busy my thoughts with my professional duties and studies. I endeavor to exclude those distressing reflections and bitter memories which the circumstances that surround us are calculated to engender. I live now simply to live, and for my family. I have no country, no flag, no emblems, no public spirit. My profession and my books are my only pride and pleasure: my house my castle: my family my country. I have survived a cause as just as ever was espoused, and for which I would cheerfully have yielded my property and my life. I have seen it perish forever beyond the hope of resurrection, for I have seen too many of the people about for joy at the return of quiet purchased at the awful price of
shame and submission. I shall be content to live quietly, obey the laws, and support my family in comfort, eased by the reflection that my sword is free from stain. A sober spectator of the logic of events, I can wait in quiet for the solution of the problem which has outlived the test of war and witness the silent demonstration of theories for which I conscientiously drew my sword and periled my life.

There are certain subjects upon which I think much, and upon which I hope to write for my own amusement and the instruction of my son: they are chiefly the effect of Climate on Man, the Political significance of the Common Law, the Philosophy of Biography, and the Influence of Political Institutions. These ideas preoccupy my mind in all my reading and furnish a useful key to my studies: Gibbon tells us that he pursued subjects rather than read books, and that he followed his thoughts from work to work: the mere perusal of a book without a purpose is of little mental value: the attention not being earnestly enlisted, the obscure ideas formed float loosely about the mind, and the dim impressions made soon fade from the memory. But where certain great ideas already occupy the mind, every new book serves to illustrate and enlarge them: the master subject draws all others to itself as it advances; crescit condit.\[...\]

Cicero in his oration for the poet Archias notices the beautiful connexion existing between all the Arts: there is a no less mysterious association between ideas. One enlarges and illustrates another. The introduction of isolated facts into the mind is like pouring loose shot into a sieve; many will run through and be lost; but connect them
together by a thread ever so fine, and one supports the other, a
system, a beautiful association is formed, and all is preserved.

August 3rd

My Father, General Mercer, was this morning arrested by an order
from Washington, and sent to Fort Pulaski to be placed in close con­
finement; he was not informed of the cause of his arrest or the charges
against him. After the grant of a few moments to gather a few necessary
comforts, he was ruthlessly torn from the bosom of his family and
hurried on board the boat which was to consign him to a prison. His
parole, under the convention between Generals Johnston and Sherman,
guaranteed him a safe return to his home, and that he would not be
"molested by the military authorities." In defiance of this solemn
promise, for which the faith of the U. S. Gov'n't stands pledged, he
has been seized by military officers and buried in a dungeon. I cannot
trust, in these evil days which have come upon us, when spies infest
every quarter and arbitrary rule stalks at noon day, to confide even
to the pages of my private journal, the feelings that agitate my heart.
We can only look to Heaven and ask how long, oh Lord! how long.

August 8th

The arbitrary conduct of the U. S. Gov'n't seems to increase daily:
Capt. Howell, the brother in law of President Davis, was arrested a
few days since for an altercation with a U. S. officer, and was fined
$250: Cecil Berrien, the son of one of our most distinguished citizens,
was put into prison for a single expression of opinion about this case.

This morning an order was received from Gen'l Steedman at Augusta forbidding the Post office Agent to deliver any letter except to parties who had taken the oath: Gen'l Brannan, in command here, informed a citizen that he would put a ball and chain on any person who spoke in a derogatory manner of the U. S. Gov'n't or any of its officers or soldiers. This is the "free and paternal Government" under which it is our great privilege to live at present.

In two recent instances young ladies have been forbidden to sing songs to the tunes used during the days of Confederate success. A friend just from Baltimore informs me we are free as compared with the people of that unfortunate city. In fact the whole country groans under a military despotism. God only knows how long this intolerable state of affairs will last. Persons in Savannah who have taken the oath of amnesty, and are "loyal citizens" by the definition of the President, are brought for any offence or hasty expression of opinion, before the Provost Marshal or a Military Commission, a tribunal unknown to Civil or Military law. A Military Commission dispenses justice to citizens in Kentucky a "loyal state." Gen'l Thomas in Tennessee, which has a "loyal Governor" and Magistrates, deposes a Mayor and Justice of the Peace, because they offend against some military order. The military authorities in Henrico Co. Va., where a "loyal State Gov'n't" is in force, declare an election null and void because candidates of former "rebel proclivities" were chosen. These are only a few examples of what is occurring every day over the whole country. The U. S. Gov'n't
possesses a formidable military force to carry out its arbitrary schemes, even if the bulk of the people were deeply attached to their constitutional franchises: Mr. G. B. Lamar, who has just returned from a long imprisonment in Washington (the cause for which and the cause of his release he does not know) informs me that General Hancock of the U. S. Army told him they had Eleven hundred thousand Troops under pay when Gen'l Lee surrendered: they are said to have some half million now; officers here tell me they have more than one hundred thousand negro soldiers. This latter force they were augmenting rapidly, when the Confederate armies surrendered, garrisoning every new town and section they overran with the negroes there enlisted. This alone shows how hopeless the cause of the South had become.

August 17th

Weather.

We have heard nothing whatever of the cause of my Father's arrest; he is still at Fort Pulaski with the prominent Confederate officers incarcerated there. I paid him a visit on Saturday last.

The weather is warm and humid, the city quite healthy. The summer has been very hot, in July a long spell of intensely hot, but dry, weather prevailed. We had a terrible storm of wind and rain yesterday; the lightning was particularly vivid; many trees were blown down.

I amused myself yesterday composing the following verses on the unfortunate South:

Her head is bent downwards; so pensive her air,
As she looks on the ground, with her pale solemn face,
It were hard to decide whether faith or despair,
Whether anguish or trust, in her heart holds a place.
Her hair was all gold in the sun's joyous light,
And her brow was as smooth as the soft placid sea.
But the furrows of care came with shadows of night,
And the gold silvered pale when the light left the lea.

Her lips slightly parted; deep thoughts in her eye,
While sorrow cuts seams in her forehead so fair,
Her bosom heaves gently; she stifles a sigh,
And just moistens her lid with the dews of a tear.

Why droops she thus earthwards — why bends she? Oh see!
There are given on her limbs! see her manacled hand!
She is loaded with chains. But her spirit is free,
Free to love and to mourn for her desolate land.

No sound does she utter; all voiceless her pains;
The wounds of her spirit with pride she conceals.
She is dumb to her shearsers; the clank of her chains
And the throbs of her heart only tell what she feels.

She looks sadly around her. How sombre the scene:
How thick the deep shadows that darken her view:
The black embers of homes where the earth was so green,
And the smokes of her wreck where the Heavens shone blue.

Her daughters bereaved of all succor but God,
Her bravest sons perished — the light of her eyes.
But oppression's sharp heel does not cut neath the sod,
And she knows that the chains cannot bind in the skies.

Her jailer, though cunning, lacks wit to devise
How to fetter her thoughts as her limbs he has done.
The eagle though snatched from his flight to the skies
From the bars of his cage may still gaze at the sun.

She thinks of the vessel she aided to build,
Of all argosies richest that floated the seas,
Compacted so strong, framed by architects skilled,
Or to dare the wild storms or to sail to the breeze.

The balmiest winds blowing soft where she steers
The favor of Heaven illumining her path
She might sail as she pleased to the mild summer airs
And avoid the dread regions of tempest and wrath.

But the crew quarreled soon o'er the cargo she bore;
'Twas adjusted unfairly the cavillers said;
And the anger of men marred the peace that of yore
Spread a broad path of sunshine and glory ahead.
There were seams in her planks — there were spots on her flag;
So the fanatics said; and they seized on her helm,
And from soft summer seas turned her prow where the crag
And the wild breakers rose the good ship to overwhelm.

Then the South, though true love to the vessel she bore
Since she first laid its keel in the days that were gone,
Saw it plunge madly on to the wild billows roar
And rush to destruction and ruin forlorn.

So she passed from the decks; in the faith of her heart
That justice and God her protectors would be;
Not dashed like a frail, fragile spar, without chart,
In the fury and foam of the wild raging sea.

The life boat that hung by the stout vessel's side
She seized, and embarked on the wide trackless main
In the faith that she'd reach, making virtue her guide,
The haven the mother ship failed to attain.

But the crew filled with wrath; and they swore by their might
They would sink the brave boat that did buffet the sea,
For daring to seek, by her honor and right,
A new port from the storms, a new home to be free.

So they crushed the brave boat; all forbearance they lost;
They littered with ruins the ocean so wild,
Till the hulk of the parent ship, beaten and tossed,
Drifted prone on the flood by the wreck of the child.

And the bold rower loaded with fetters and chains
In the gloom of her heart sings the proud vessel's dirge
Half forgets in its wreck all the pangs of her pains
As she sees its stout parts floating loose in the surge.

August 31st

Since I re-commenced the practice of my profession, that is during
a period of three months, I have received in cash just sixty-five
dollars, though I am fairly entitled to at least two hundred more
which I may hereafter collect. I was never before so pressed for
money, and am unable to gratify my dear wife with a black silk dress,
which she is most anxious to obtain. Indeed I am compelled to deny
myself and my dear family all those little comforts to which we have been accustomed. While this condition of my affairs often plunges me into sadness and hangs a dark veil over the future, I endeavor not to succumb in heart or hope. Better days, I try to believe, will surely come. I endeavor to recall those numerous instances in which men, who subsequently achieved the greatest success, entered at first upon a weary and trying probation. Even among my familiar acquaintances here there are many examples to stimulate and encourage me, and I am taught to feel that I am only experiencing what all of my profession are at some time called upon to bear. Even moderate success is seldom secured without industry, energy and courage.

I remember poor John Owens used to tell me his books were blank for a long period, and that he scarcely made enough to pay for his office: Berrien Lovell the other day made a similar statement. Judge Chisholm told me yesterday he was often so overcome with emotion in his earlier forensic efforts that he was compelled to feign a fit of coughing and cover his confusion with his handkerchief; being compelled sometimes to take his seat until he recovered himself; and he too is suffering with a disease of the heart. Tom Lloyd mentioned to me, as an evidence of his industry, that during one summer here he read some twenty thousand (I think) pages of reports; and that at one time he could repeat all the cases in Smith's Leading Cases and give the principle decided in each. Dr. Schley, our family physician, told me when he adopted homeopathy he used to read half the night in his room, that
he studied and wrote intensely at first, and labored earnestly for success. The first year he made only five hundred dollars, but his salary increased rapidly afterwards. Doubtless every successful professional man in Savannah could relate a similar experience.

We have had quite a protracted spell of rainy, damp weather. The city continues healthy.

November 3rd

My professional business has greatly improved: during the month of October I collected over three hundred dollars in addition to the charges entered upon my books. I think my profession will insure me and my family comfort. I have enjoyed several flattering recognitions of whatever merit I may possess: I have been invited to become the editor of a new paper projected here; and, entirely without solicitation, upon my part, my name has been suggested as a candidate for the Legislature, and I have been assured of success if I will run. I think however I will decline all political honors, at least for the present, and devote my energies to my profession.

My former partner, Col. Geo. A. Gordon, has moved to Alabama and I am alone. My Uncle, Col. Anderson, a delegate to the Convention from this county, requested me before he left, to prepare a petition to the President for the pardon of our unfortunate chief, Jefferson Davis, and other political prisoners; I did so, and I feel quite honored that this paper should have been adopted, without change, by the Convention. It is a source of great satisfaction to me that I should be the author.
of a document, so presented, in behalf of a great and good man, to whose virtues posterity will do justice, and whose failure cannot mar the tribute history will pay to his renown.

December 17th

Our family are now in a state of harrowing anxiety and suspense caused by the unjust and cruel treatment of my Father by the U. S. Government. He was arrested on Aug. 3rd and has since been a prisoner at Fort Pulaski though kindly treated by the garrison. On Friday 15th he was brought to the City, confined in a room over the military guard room, with a sentinel at his door, which was kept open day and night by the petty tyrant from Maine in charge of the guard, and a most aggravating surveillance maintained over his intercourse with his family. Yesterday, the 16th, in obedience to order from Stanton, the vindictive Secretary of War, my Father was brought before a Military Commission for trial on the charge of murdering United States prisoners; he is as innocent of this unjust accusation as the child unborn; in December last, certain men were executed on the lines, when assailed by Sherman's forces, for open mutiny in the face of the enemy; these men were regularly enlisted Confederate soldiers, and known as such alone to my Father: they had been enlisted from the U. S. prisoners at Florence, S. C. at their own express desire, and in obedience to orders from the Confederate Gov't. Upon this necessary and legitimate act of discipline, fully approved by the Confederate Military authorities, these unjust and cruel charges have been preferred against my Father, and he has
been subjected to gross indignities and oppression. The prosecution was caused by the letter to the U. S. War Department of a Gen'l Carlen, who obtained his statement from deserters. He appeared and gave his testimony, which was entirely hearsay, and the prosecution found itself without any legal evidence whatever. In order, however, to gratify their malicious and devilish spirits, the Judge Advocate has telegraphed to Holt, the Judge Advocate General in Washington, and a second Fouquier Tinville, asking him to delay the trial until the prosecution can hunt up evidence, which, the Judge Advocate coolly told me, they hoped to obtain by advertising in the public papers. Holt's reply is not yet received; if he orders delay, my Father's confinement will be indefinitely prolonged, our anxiety will be continued, and the horrid moral spectacle will be presented of a public bid for testimony against an innocent but persecuted man. No more vindictive and depraved exhibition of malevolence can be discovered in the worst days of Jeffries than a public appeal to the passions and vengeance of the most depraved men, and an invitation to them in the public prints, to dip their hands in innocent blood. Good God, how the horrors of conquest are being brought home to us! How long can we bear this intolerable military oppression! When I saw my honored, gray-haired Father, whose own Grand Father fell on the field of Princeton in defense of American liberty, marched yesterday before a military tribunal, between two soldiers, my heart swelled with inexpressible emotions, and the bitterness of the vanquished filled my very soul. I cannot believe a just God will permit this
oppression to last: it will soon drive the wisest mad, and the once
boasted American liberty will perish amid the throes of new and more
awful revolutions than have already deluged this unhappy land in blood.

The southern people have in good faith given up their patriarchal
system of African slavery as the result of the war; they are in good
faith willing to maintain the Union under the Constitution; but they
have not consented to surrender their freedom and manhood: they are
enabled to bear the arbitrary system which has spread its baneful
shadow over this once free and happy land, by the hope that the clouds
will soon lift and the sun shine once more. But if this dreadful
oppression is to last, better exile or the halter than a continuance
of this disgraceful truce which will extinguish us body and soul.
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