GEORGE A. MERCER

DIARY:

Diary, 1862-1863

pp. 1—138
Skidaway Island, March 3rd 1862

General Mercer & Staff are now located at Capt. Fritchard's
house on Skidaway Island, General Mercer being in command of
the Troops from Skidaway Island & the adjacent main to Genisis
Point, Ogeechee River, inclusive. We left Brunswick Feb.
22nd, and came to Skidaway Feby. 27th. The following Posts
& command are in Skidaway District -- Beulah Col. Lamar's
Battalion -- Genisis Point De Kalb Riflemen -- Green Island
(10 guns) 2 companies Savh. Vol. Guards -- Col Bailey's
39th Ga. Regt. near Isle of Hope -- Isle of Hope, on which
are stationed the Chatham Artillery & two companies of
cavalry (Bullock & Screven Troops) under command of Lieut.
Col. Cumming; on Skidaway Island are stationed Col W. H.
Stiles' 4th Ga. Battalion, at Fort Bartow (10 guns three
companies under command of Capt Fritchard, Lt. Col. Lee's
command 38th Ga. Regt. (formerly Wright's Legion) -- Col
Philips 27th Ga. Regt -- the Georgia Huzzars Co. B. & the
4th Louisiana Battl. Major McHenry -- in all about 3000
effective men on Skidaway Island. On Saturday March 1st I
visited Green Island to muster in the Guards for the war;
91 were mustered in as skeletons of three companies; if
these are not filled in 30 days the muster to be void. I
do not know that this muster was entirely legal, but recent
laws -- of which no information has been officially furnished --
contemplate something of the kind, and the great object of the Government now is to obtain soldiers for the war. Tomorrow is the day for drafting sufficient men to complete twelve regiments, unless they are made up by volunteers; the people of Georgia regard the draft as disgraceful, and the enthusiasm for volunteering is very great. The twelve Regts called for from Georgia will doubtless be filled without a draft. Gen. Pillow's official report of the fighting at Fort Donelson is published -- we had only ten thousand effective men against from 40000 to 70000 of the enemy. These 10000 fought four days in the cold snow & sleet, without rest or regular food. By Sunday morning, when the surrender was made, they were thoroughly exhausted. The Gun Boats were badly beaten on Friday by our Batteries; the armament consisted of 8,32 pounders 3,32 pound cannonades 1 ten inch Columbiad & one rifled gun; only some five or six men in our batteries were killed & wounded by the Gun Boats. The attack by our men on Saturday, against the enemy's right, was a most brilliant and resolute onset. The enemy was driven a mile and a half beyond his camps. Genl. McClemand's head quarters, two batteries, & 300 prisoners were captured. The prisoners were sent to Memphis. Saturday night the enemy received large reinforcements; a council of officers was held; Genls. Floyd & Pillow were in favor of cutting through the enemy's lines. Genl. Buckner considered his troops too exhausted to make the attempt; so the command was passed over to him & on Sunday morning he surrendered with from eight to ten thousand troops. Nashville was evacuated by our forces and the enemy have taken
possession. Our men fought desperately in this protracted engagement; they succumbed only to large odds. The enemy by the control of the Tennessee & Cumberland Rivers, has abundant facilities for concentrating large masses of troops. Our forces in middle Tennessee are falling back towards the Alabama line. The Yankees, in their official reports of the raid up the Tennessee River, declare they found the union sentiment predominant in Tennessee & even in Mississippi & Alabama. The surrender of Roanoake Island was very humiliating to our arms; it was not relieved by the heroic courage displayed at Fort Donelson; on Friday, after a full days fight with the Gun Boats, our Batteries had the best of it, only some three men on our side being injured; on Saturday the Yankees landed a large force -- estimated at 15,000 -- in rear of the Batteries, when our men, after a feeble show of resistance, surrendered to the number of 2,000. The troops on the Island were from North Carolina and Virginia & were poorly armed. It is said that Col. Shaw of the N.C. Regt. in command was a Yankee, & he is accused of either treachery or gross cowardice. Few accounts of this unfortunate affair have been published & the whole is veiled in mystery.

March 4th. We heard yesterday of the arrival of the Nashville at Beaufort, S. C. with a cargo worth 3,000,000, including a large supply of arms; the Kate has also reached New Smyrna, Fla. with arms & powder; these are timely arrivals. One of our greatest wants is for good arms; several of the Regts. on this Island are miserably armed -- with shot guns, county
rifles, & old, dilapidated muskets. In Col. Phillips' Regt. 27th Ga. only two companies are provided with bayonets. The supply of ammunition is also very small; we fight at every disadvantage. This morning I visited, with the Ordnance officer, the Skidaway Batteries; they are armed with seven 32 pounders; one forty two, one eight inch, & one rifled gun, 24 pounder calibre. These batteries are beautifully built & the men well protected. Towards Warsaw four of the enemy's vessels were lying at anchor. Several could be seen behind Tybee Island. With a glass we could distinguish the flag flying from Fort Pulaski. Large columns of smoke arose from Wilmington Island, & it was supposed the enemy had gone up Wilmington River & set fire to the houses on the Island. We hear to day that Cumberland Island has been occupied by the enemy; if so we just left Brunswick too soon to meet the enemy.

March 7th. On Wednesday afternoon I walked to Waring's place, and ascended the look out erected by 23th Regt.; with a good glass I could distinctly see the Yankee sailors and marines on the deck of their nearest gun boat. This was the first view of the Yankees I had enjoyed. Subsequent accounts do not render us better pleased with our disaster at Roanoake Island. All one day the gun boats were kept off without any loss on our side; but the next the Yankees landed a very large force, avoided the narrow causeway (by which it was supposed they must approach) by wading through the marsh, and thus took our Batteries in rear. Even then a desperate
stand of the 2,000 odd men on the Island might have secured us a victory; but the North Carolina state troops appear to have behaved with gross cowardice, and the Virginians surrendered after very little resistance. 29 guns, chiefly 32 pounders, were captured by the evening. This is the gloomy period of our fortunes -- reverse has followed reverse; we are falling back everywhere, abandoning this post, and then that, and the spirit of our soldiers is temporarily depressed. We learn that some 20 odd guns were taken by the enemy at Fernandina, which place had just been evacuated when the Yankees appeared. It is now rumored that Columbus has been abandoned -- but we trust this is untrue.

March 9th. On Friday afternoon 7th I rode to town in the wagon. I returned this morning on horse back. Yesterday morning the men in the look out at F. Waring's place saw a boat leave one of the enemy's vessels and approach the marsh; she entered the creek leading to Waring's landing, and approached within five hundred yards of the tree in which some four or five men were posted. An officer was standing in the boat with a glass in his hand: the soldiers fired with their enfield rifles; the officer fell forward, and the boat rapidly retreated. The men are confident they killed the officer. Last night orders were received from Genl. Lawton to dismantle the Batteries on Skidaway & Green Islands, with a view to the evacuation of the Islands. This delicate operation, especially when several gun boats are almost within range, will be commenced
on the Skidaway Batteries to night. Genl. Mercer hopes the ten guns can be demounted and placed on floats during the night, and towed off before daylight. If the enemy discover the movement they can easily frustrate it and capture the guns. I trust our good luck at St. Simons & Jekyll may still attend us. It would be most unfortunate to be interrupted in the very act of removal, as our forces were at Fernandina. I learn from good authority that nearly all our guns and stores at that place fell into the hands of the enemy; the evacuation must have been conducted without either secrecy or dispatch. It is said the Yankees captured the steamers Darlington & Barossa, the latter filled with women & children trying to escape. Their gun boats passed between Amelia Island & the main & fired at the cars passing over the bridge; and rumor has it that one shell exploded in the cars and killed two passengers. The Gun Boats went to St Mary's Ga. but it is not known what they did. I heard this morning that Capt. T. S. Hopkins had killed 25 Yankees & taken 3 prisoners; also that the Gun Boats were approaching Brunswick. The news from every side is rather discouraging; we are contracting our defensive lines, and the consequence is that many important points -- fortified at great expense & labor -- have to be abandoned. Columbus has been abandoned; all the guns and stores were saved, and it is understood that our forces have taken up a position at Island no. 10. Pensacola is said to have been abandoned, and there are
even rumors that our forces have fallen back from Manassas. The only cheering news is a very doubtful report that Gen. Price has gained a victory, and a report that the iron clad Merrimac has sunk the federal frigate Cumberland & driven the Congress ashore. But the most cheering news of all is that our brave people bear their reverses manfully -- that they do not despond, but, on the contrary, are causing themselves to united, determined, desperate resistance.

Georgia has furnished twelve new regiments for the war without any necessity (or certainly with very slight necessity) for a draft. Gov. Harris has called out the whole militia force of Tennessee, and proposes to lead them in person. Our late serious reverses will, in the long run, do us no harm; they have caused the re-enlistment of the twelve months men -- they have caused a wise change of policy -- viz. the greater concentration of our troops at vital points -- and they have demonstrated the nature of this struggle, and brought the issue of slavery or success home to every man's heart. Our people are stirring themselves everywhere, and, if we only had arms, our whole fighting population would take the field. The accounts from Roanoake Island and Fort Donelson are neither clear nor satisfactory; it is difficult to learn the relatives numbers engaged, killed, wounded & prisoners. A recent letter to a Chicago paper says the number of prisoners taken at Fort Donelson has been much exaggerated and that the number does not exceed, Six thousand -- that the rebels though war worn and dirty are a "noble looking set of men." The
Yankee papers say our arms, as at Somerset, were of every kind & description. If then ten thousand southern troops, thus armed, could defeat and drive back an immense force of the enemy -- as was confessedly done on Saturday -- there is surely no cause for despondency. Our men have proved their ability to achieve the victory in anything like a fair fight. We must take heart and hope for better luck next time.

March 10th. We got to day the cheering news that the Merrimac -- now the Virginia -- attacked the Federal vessels on Saturday & Sunday, sunk the Cumberland, destroyed the Congress, ran the Minnesota ashore, blew up a tug boat, and crippled the Ericson iron Batting. This news appears to be reliable & is indeed cheering. Congress has passed a bill empow' the military authorities to destroy cotton, tobacco & military & naval stores to prevent them from falling into the hands of the enemy; this is a most important enactment and will have great influence. The Yankees are taking many little villages in southern Georgia & Florida; they have siezed Fernandina, St. Marys & Brunswick; they have entered the St. Johns River with three Gun Boats & will probably take Jacksonville. The Floridians are making no resistance.

Last night five of the guns at the Skidaway Battery were dismounted & four removed to Thunderbolt. The work will probably be completed to night. Wooden guns have been placed in the position of those removed & the work is stopped
by daylight; we hope therefore to save everything; the two or three gun boats, only three miles off, could easily pounce upon us and capture what remains of our Batteries.

March 11th. During last night five guns (including the rifled gun) were dismounted & removed to Thunderbolt, besides ammunition, chassis, carriages &c. Only one 32 pounder now remains with a few carriages, pintle blocks &c. This work was most expeditiously & successfully accomplished with the enemy's gun boats lying almost within range. Pickets were thrown out in boats, and on the opposite shore -- the labor was performed in the dark & without noise -- each gun was removed to the flats as dismounted the others remaining in position to repel an attack. Wooden dummies are mounted in place of the guns, and the tents remain & the sentinels pace the batteries as usual. The labor on Green Island was to have commenced last evening & we trust equal success may attend the movement. The disgraceful evacuation of Fernandina must not be repeated on the Georgia coast. Yesterday afternoon I rode down to the Batteries & it was feared the enemy had discovered our movements; three large steamers entered the sound, making six vessels near us, while a small messenger boat plied constantly from one to the other. All is quiet this morning. The telegraph confirms the glorious news from Norfolk; the Virginia destroyed the Cumberland & Congress, seriously injured the Minnesota & St Lawrence & sunk a tug & probably several gun boats. She also resisted the powerful guns of the Ericson floating (iron) battery, ran into her and
chased her off. This is glorious news, and our people are rousing to a pitch of mad enthusiasm.

March 14th. The dismantling of the Skidaway Batteries has been perfectly successful; every article of value has been removed. Dummies, covered with canvas, occupy the places of the guns; the sentinels pace the ramparts, all goes on as usual, and the gun boats in the sound seem perfectly unsuspicuous, and ignorant of their power to scatter the brave men camped beside the empty works. The guns at Green Island have also been removed, and everything will be saved. We hear firing now every day and night -- it has ceased to excite any interest. Every boat that passes from Savannah into Augustine Creek is a target for the guns of the Yankees; but they are far off and never hit their mark; over two hundred shots were fired yesterday.

The glorious success of the "Virginia" is fully confirmed; alone, with her ten guns, she sunk the Cumberland, destroyed the Congress, riddled the Minnesota, injured and ran off the Roanoke St Lawrence, and the Ericson Battery; destroyed and damaged several tugs and gun boats, and silenced the Battery at Newport News. One vessel has never accomplished half so much; the first practical step in the great revolution of naval warfare has been taken by the South; History will accord to the South -- deemed heretofore not a nautical people -- the great praise of first boldly running into and grappling her enemy, and literally cutting him in twain. The power of the Virginia is wonderful; she stood, without injury,
the concentrated fire of some of the heaviest guns ever fired. The north is greatly agitated. They declare they will at once construct an immense iron navy to capture and destroy our cities; the times are big with interest and peril. A half dozen Virginias could easily destroy any of our sea-port cities, in spite of the most formidable Batteries. We must at once build immense floating iron-clad batteries to defend our rivers, and must place formidable obstructions under their guns. Otherwise we are doomed.

We have news of a terrible three days fight in Arkansas, the result of which is not yet known. We have lost Genl. McCullough, McIntosh Robert and Slack; Genl. Price was wounded. From Florida we receive very unsatisfactory reports. The Yankees were foiled in an attempt to ascend the St. Mary's River by the gallant conduct of Capt. Clark's mounted company; his men stood on the river banks and drove the gun boat back with their rifles and shot guns. A most important bill has passed Congress; the military authorities are empowered to destroy all cotton tobacco &c. which may fall into the hands of the enemy; the papers are all urging the necessity of planting provisions instead of cotton. The Southern army must depend upon the cotton states for bread, and the planters hold the destiny of the nation in their hands.

March 15th. Capt. Wm. R. Fitchard, a most energetic man and excellent officer, has been at Head Quarters nearly all morning, and we have earnestly discussed the necessity of
building iron-clad, floating batteries, to defend our city against vessels like the Merrimac & Brooklyn, and to open the communication with our brave garrison in Fort Pulaski. The result was that Genl. Mercer directed Capt. Pitchard to proceed to Savannah, see the authorities, and offer to construct a floating battery. I do most devoutly trust his services will be accepted. Our authorities both civil & military, must act with zeal and promptness. Naval warfare is being revolutionized before our eyes and we must not be the last to behold and act upon the change.

March 19th. About 4½ P. M. on 17th Genl. Mercer & Staff left Head Quarters on Skidaway Island and came to the Isle of Hope where we now are. Skidaway Island is entirely abandoned except by the Pickets; 21 Pickets from the Cavalry Corps are kept on Skidaway Island; these act as scouts rather than as Pickets -- their duties are those of observation. Col. Phillips Regt. has been placed at Beauleieu, and Col. Lamar's Battali stationed near Bethesda.

This afternoon one of the mounted out posts from Skidaway, reported that the enemy had been seen from Delegal River landing on Green Island. This is rather an improbable story; the soldier who made the report had not seen the landing himself. We have not yet been able to ascertain the truth of the statement. The rain has been falling in torrents for some hours.

Our affairs at this period wear a gloomy aspect, and yet, in some respects, calculate to inspire confidence and
and hope. We are experiencing many disasters, and yet the spirit of our brave people rises with each; volunteering -- and for the war -- has received a new impulse, and had we arms our whole fighting population would take the field. Our people are comprehending the gigantic and desperate struggle before them, and are bracing themselves to suffer defeat, sorrow and even death, in the final achievement of their independence. Liberty they are determined to win, and they are counting their sorrows as joy in its holy pursuit. Perhaps the world has never witnessed -- not even in the French Revolution -- a people so thoroughly roused, where every man, woman & child -- young and old, rich and poor -- was doing so much for the common weal. The men are all volunteering for the war; the rich are giving their means; the planters are giving their plantation bells to would into cannon, they are preparing to bum their cotton & tobacco rather than let it fall into the hands of the enemy; the people are giving their horses, their private arms their money, their time energy and lives. The women are nursing the sick, clothing the army, subscribing money to build gun boats, and rousing and inspiring all around them. Our whole land palpitates with fervid patriotism, and exhibits a moral beauty the world has seldom witnessed.

We are contracting our lines everywhere abandoning position after position, and of course experiencing considerable loss in public stores; we are beset by immense armies pressing us on all sides. New Madrid has just been abandoned hastily
by our forces with the loss of all our artillery; Price's army is supposed to have suffered a defeat in the west, and the brave Geuls, McCullough, Herbert, McIntosh & Slack have fallen on the bloody field; our forces have just been defeated at Newbern, N. C., & that town is in possession of the enemy. Fort Bacon is thus isolated like Fort Pulaski. The enemy is confident; he declares we will be subdued in a few weeks and peace made in a month. We shall see.

20th March. We have fuller details of the capture of Newbern; it appears that our batteries, supported by some 5000 men, were attacked by about 50 gun boats and 20,000 men. Our Troops fought bravely at first but were soon overpowered. We lost our heavy batteries, two or three field batteries, and from 500 to 700 men. The loss of the enemy is put down as 1500, but this is doubtless conjecture. A mysterious silence prevails in the west. A telegram, it is said, has been received announcing that the Minnesota has sunk from the injuries received in her contest with the Virginia.

4 P. M. We have just received an order from Genl. Lawton directing the Troops here to be held in readiness for an immediate movement; the enemy is landing in large force near Blufton, and the Troops here may be ordered to the support of Genl. Drayton. The enemy reported yesterday as having landed on Green Island, turned out to be some of Col. Phillips' men from Beaulieu.

March 23rd. Orders were received at 2 o'clock to send Wright's Legion to Savannah; this fine looking body of men,
600 strong, took up the line of march for Savannah at 5½ P. M. The enemy is landing near Blufton, S. C. & Genl. Pemberton had ordered Georgia Troops to be sent to the aid of Genl. Drayton. The Legion marched off with enthusiastic cheers. Today a small boat, from the vessels in Warsaw Sound, advanced to the deserted Skidaway Batteries to reconnoitre; when half a mile distant some one in the boat examined the Batteries with a glass. The boat then came within two or three hundred yards of the Battery, when the Cavalry Pickets fired five or six pistol shots, and the Yankees at once returned to the vessels. They are doubtless fully aware that the guns have been removed from the Batteries. The last landing of Yankees in Carolina turned out to be a feint as they soon re-embarked.

March 27th. On Monday afternoon 24th I drove to the City & returned yesterday morning 26th. I found everything very quiet in Savannah; the presence of the ten or twelve thousand troops in the vicinity is scarcely felt; good order is preserved, there is no drunkenness, and all is as quiet as in profound peace. In fact with whiskey at $6 and $10 per gallon good order is easily preserved. No men can now be found idling; all the trades and professions are stripped, and every able bodied man is in service. It is impossible to get anything done; even boot makers can not be found. Carpenters & Mechanics to build gun boats are not to be procured; everybody is in service. The world never saw so large a representation in the army as the South now
now exhibits. Our people are giving up all luxuries and doing it willingly; butter can not be procured -- tea is $4 per pound -- tallow candles six cents a piece, and every other article of luxury, a even of necessity, has advanced in the same ratio. Boots cost from $20 to $30. My wife went everywhere to buy me some brass buttons for my coat but could not succeed; she could not procure a pair of shoes for herself & could find no one to make them. Still our people bear these privations gladly, and look forward cheerfully to far greater suffering in the future. Down here we never see milk, butter & other articles we used to think indispensable; but it is surprising how readily one learns to give up all these things; men indeed wants but little here below, nor wants that little long. This war is costing many of our people all their worldly goods -- their peace, comfort, friends and relatives; and yet no complaints are made. When the Yankee Gun Boats recently appeared near Darien and in St. Andrews Sound numbers of the planters on the St Illa & Altamaha Rivers destroyed their valuable rice crops to prevent them falling into the hands of the enemy. Mr. Nightengale burned 30000 odd bushels of rice; this gentleman, with his two most attractive daughters, is now living in a little log hut at Tebeauville; his winter plantation on the Altamaha is accessible to the Yankees & has been vacated; while his splendid summer place on Cumberland Island -- which he has spent a life-time in beautifying -- is now in the possession of the enemy. And yet this patriotic
planter is perfectly cheerful. Numbers of others have suffered as much, and even more than he. Wealthy planters in South Carolina have been reduced to beggary. In Fredericksburg, Va., my father in law may have to abandon his home; all is confusion and sadness in the old home of my ancestors -- the enemy is pressing on and our army falling back. But for a brave, heroic people these sacrifices have no terrors; it is beautiful to behold how cheerfully they are made.

On Tuesday the Yankee Gun Boats approached the abandoned Batteries on Skidaway, threw some shells in the neighborhood, and then landed about 200 men. Our Cavalry Pickets kept their eyes upon them. The Yankees set fire to the wood work of the Batteries, then went to Miller's old house near by (the scene of my first 4th July parade in the Blues) and placed a United States flag on the roof. They soon returned to their gun boats when Capt. E. I. Dawson (volunteer Aid on Genl. Mercer's staff) took the flag down, and burned the house. The flag is a soiled specimen of the "Stars & stripes," thirteen stars are on it. Tuesday night Genl. Mercer sent about 300 picked men to welcome the Yankees; they however have not since left their gun boats and our eager troops returned without a fight.

We learn that after the Yankees entered Brunswick harbor they proceeded to near Darien by the inland passage. The piling driven there did not detain them one afternoon. This proves the wisdom of abandoning St. Simons & Jekyll; we
had no guns to defend these inland passages & without them
the islands were simply traps for our men to be caught in.

March 31st. Last night one of the mounted pickets on Skidaway
saw the enemy -- in what number he could not say -- land
near the Battery. They made a fire, looked around, kicked
over the jugs of water left by the other pickets, and then
returned to their boats. This picket was supposed to have
been captured, and was so reported by the other pickets, who
left on the approach of the enemy; but he bravely remained
at his post, watched the Yankees, and was found at his post
this morning.

April 6th. Nothing of interest has occurred in Skidaway
Military District. With the exception of several false
reports of the enemy's landing on Skidaway Island -- originated
by some raw cavalry -- not a ripple of excitement has stirred
our quiet surface. Some days since pickets from the 13th
Georgia Regt. at Causten's Bluff, crossed over to Wilmington
Island killed two and captured thirteen soldiers of a New
York German Regt. on Tybee. One of our men was badly wounded,
but the Germans made little resistance & seem perfectly well
satisfied to be captives. They said they were poorly fed
and harshly treated by their officers. A few days previously
pickets from the 13th Regt captured two German soldiers who
were carrying off a German gardener from his place on
Wilmington Island. The Yankees were in a boat 700 yards
distant; our men fired seven shots with enfield rifles;
three passed through the boat, and two struck the unfortunate
men the enemy were taking off. This was good shooting.

These Georgians of the 13th are rough fellows, but full of fight and reckless of life; after the taking of the fifteen Yankees volunteers were called for for Picket duty; the whole regiment volunteered. There is no disposition to avoid a fight among our troops; they covet one only too anxiously -- sick and all turn out for it. Our forces still hold out bravely at Island no. 10 after two weeks bombardment from motor boats throwing 13 inch shell, and iron clad gun boats. Only one man on our side has been killed, and our batteries are uninjured. Near Winchester Genl. Jackson with only about 3000 men attacked from 12000 to 20000 Yankees. Both parties retired from the field after the fight, but the Yankees advanced next day. Their loss largely exceeds ours, and, taking everything into consideration, the victory was with us. The Yankee accounts of the great Battle in Arkansas differ materially from our own; they claim a victory of course; one account says they captured thirteen pieces of cannon. All the southern accounts deny the capture of more than two pieces of cannon; and they declare that six guns were taken from the Federals in place of the two last. The facts seem to be that our forces, under Genls. Price and Van Dom, attacked a largely superior force of the enemy, drove them from their positions, and slept on the Battle field. In the fight however the gallant McCullough and McIntosh fell; their forces being more or less demoralized it was not deemed prudent to attack the enemy again in a still stronger position.
which they had assumed; it was determined to fall back; a
false attack was made & under cover of this our troops re-
tired in perfect order. The Yankees discovering our pur-
pose sent a few cavalry to harass the rear guard, and this
they call their victory and pursuit. Their loss was very
heavy, their force badly crippled, and they have since made no
attempt to advance.

April 7th. I rode to town yesterday afternoon, and returned
this afternoon; at ten o'clock the glorious news was published
that we had defeated the enemy in a decisive battle near
Corinth. The latest despatch was sent at 6 P. M. yesterday,
Sunday, April 6th, the day of the battle; it came from Mr.
Alexander to the Republican, and he wrote from the Federal
Camp and on Federal paper. But alas, alas, the brave Albert
Sidney Johnson -- the leader of our western army -- fell on
the field of victory. His fall has produced the profoundest
sorrow, has caused many a heart to melt and many an eye to
glisten with tears. The news was published in an extra --
the office was crowded with soldiers -- and high excitement,
enthusiasm, and joy filled every bosom. Up to six o'clock
last evening we had gained a great and decisive victory. Buell,
with a large army, was on the other side of the Tennessee River,
but it was not thought he could arrive in time to alter the
result. God grant our victory may be complete. I am sitting
up now in hopes that some one may bring later intelligence
from the city.
April 9th. Up to this time (noon) we have no further news from Corinth. A great battle has been fought there, with severe loss on both sides, and up to six o'clock Sunday evening we were completely victorious; this is certain. The telegraph lines are said to be down, and this probably accounts for the absence of further information. We can only trust that this silence indicates no change in the result of the engagement.

April 11th. The earth shakes with a tremendous cannonade. The bombardment of Fort Pulaski commenced early yesterday morning, and still continues with unabated fury. At half past nine o'clock yesterday morning I rode over to Skidaway to witness the grand but terrible scene; I remained until after twelve; again in the afternoon I rode over and returned some time after dark. We were six miles off, but we could distinctly see the heavy columns of white smoke shooting up from the mortars on Tybee, and then see the immense shells bursting over the Fort. The enemy fired four and five times every minute, while the Fort replied slowly and coolly. The flag staff was shot away about noon. At night the sight was grand. The tongue of flame was seen to leap from the mortars and then the flash of the bursting shell appeared just above the Fort. God grant that our brave garrison may be enabled to hold out; their case is desperate, and their fall can excite little surprise. They are entirely cut off from all aid and succor -- they have only a limited supply of food and ammunition, and in time the
Fort must fall. The people of Savannah, with funds collected by our noble women, are now building a great floating battery to carry aid to the beleaguered fortress; but this cannot be finished for some weeks. We must hope for the best; we are very sure our brave Georgians will make a stout and resolute resistance, and that the enemy, if he win, will enjoy but a barren triumph.

Our news from the great battle field near Corinth is satisfactory, but less favorable than at first. We whipped the enemy thoroughly on Sunday 6th, but his gun boats in the Tennessee River afforded cover and protection to the flying army, and beside them it rallied. Reinforcements crossed the River (which is full of Yankee transports) and on Monday the battle was renewed; again we drove the enemy back, but with severe loss on our side. Each army is now exhausted for the present.

We are in position near Corinth on our old lines, and a renewal of the fight is looked for at any moment. Much hangs upon the result of this great battle. A dispatch this morning says three of the enemy’s gun boats have passed Island no. 10.

April 14th. It is with a sad heart that I chronicle (I could not do it before) the unconditional surrender of Fort Pulaski. It fell about two o’clock on April 11th, after some thirty hours bombardment. This result has stunned and surprised us all. We felt that the Fort was doomed, but, did not dream that it could be reduced in thirty hours. The information was brought to the city by Private Law, of the Phoenix
Riflemen, who reached the Fort at five o'clock Friday morning and left at two, just after our flag had been lowered. He says the officers concluded that they had done all that men could do, and that they were uselessly exposing the lives of the garrison; the Parrot guns of the enemy, firing conical steel—pointed shot, had made seven large breaches in the southeast wall; one of these breaches was very large, and each shot was passing through directly to the north magazine; three shot had already penetrated the magazine, and an explosion would have been the result of further resistance. The enormous shell burst over the Fort rained their fragments in a terrible shower, and compelled every man to keep under cover. The officers quarters were untenable; the hot shot furnace in the yard was knocked to pieces. Every barbetts gun was dismounted & useless; every casemate gun, except one, bearing on the enemy's batteries, was also dismounted by their tremendous fire. Under these circumstances, expecting every moment an explosion of the magazine, Col. Olmstead lowered his flag and surrendered unconditionally. The enemy took nearly 400 men prisoners (our whole garrison) some 45 cannon, 5 mortars, and some 50000 pounds of powder, besides large supplies of shot, shell, commissary stores &c. This is a mortifying and stunning blow to us; the early surrender -- with only four men wounded & not one killed -- will doubtless be used by others to taunt us with a want of firmness; the naked fact
of an early and unconditional surrender will alone be seen, and abroad our reputation must suffer. But the power of the enemy must be kept steadily in view; the whole shore of Tybee Island was filled with powerful batteries, and the Parrot guns they used possessed a power unknown before. Their steel pointed shot bored through the brick walls as if they were so much paper. Nothing could withstand their tremendous force; the heavy timber placed against the casemate doors offered no resistance at all. The whole system of warfare is revolutionized; brick is no longer of any avail; we must have iron forts and iron-clad ships. Fort Pulaski has been the victim of a new mode of laying siege. Its gallant garrison were the sport of guns heretofore unknown in warfare; and they must be judged by the new lights of warfare, not by the rules of the books in the past. Our people have been sadly deceived by this great misfortune, but not disheartened. We must fight the harder; this is the spirit that animates all. The Yankees possess powerful guns and ingenious contrivances that place us under serious disadvantages; war with them is a system of cunning machines. But native courage and love of liberty are unconquerable. We will prevail in the end. All of us -- all our best officers have been sadly deceived. I heard Genl. Wayne -- Adjt. Genl of the State -- say that Fort Pulaski could not be injured from Tybee. Major Genl. Pemberton came to Savannah during the first days bombardment, said Col. Olmstead was only wasting his ammunition, and returned to his Head Quarters at Poocotaligo;
and yet he is an experienced Artillerist. Genl Lawton gave up Tybee as of no value; the state Generals offered to take the Island and drive the Yankees from the Batteries they were building; but every one in authority (except Genl. Mercer and a few others) hooted at the idea of danger to the Fort from Tybee. The Yankees quietly built their batteries right under the nose of the Fort, and no gun was fired to disturb or annoy them. All were confident the Fort could silence their Batteries without receiving injury in return. All have been sadly deceived. The science of war has leaped a century forward and all are behind the age.

April 23rd. We moved over yesterday to this place -- Judge De Lyon's house on the main land. Genl. Mercer had been contemplating a change of Head quarters for some time, as the Troops were removed from the Isle of Hope, and the Island exposed to the enemy. We moved rather suddenly in consequence of a visit the Yankees paid night before last to Mr. Waits' place, on the Isle of Hope, only a short distance from Head quarters. The Louisiana Battlemates had kept Fickets at this point, but the Battlemates was removed from the Island several days before the occurrence. About 30 Yankees -- marines seemingly -- in a large eight-oared boat, with a howitzer in the bow, came to Mr. Wait's place at two o'clock in the morning, waked him up, and attempted to gain information about the locality, troops &c. They were only about
a quarter of a mile from Head Quarters, and there were no troops between us and them. Under these circumstances the Genl. deemed it proper to remove from so exposed a position, and we came over to Harrack. Our present position is still very exposed — being only a quarter of a mile from Waits, and on the same creek that runs by his house — and tomorrow we will probably move to a better and more central position, where all the Troops in the Brigade will be more accessible. Since the capture of Fort Pulaski the enemy have remained pretty quiet, not advancing at once against the city, as all supposed he would. There has been some skirmishing on Whitemarsh Island, and the 13th Ga. Regt. has had some five men killed and fifteen wounded.
No heavy fighting has as yet occurred on the Peninsular of Va. The Yankees have not yet recovered from their severe defeat near Corinth. They have captured Island No. 10, in the Mississippi by digging a canal behind our position, through the swamps, and thus turning our Batteries. This is one of the most remarkable instances of their wonderful industry; if they would only fight as they work they would make splendid soldiers. They far exceed our men in industry, but they have not yet stood our enthusiastic, desperate assaults. We always beat them in the first onset, but they bring up re-inforcements and come again to the attack. Discipline and drill have worked wonders in the Yankee army and they now fight as no one a year ago, supposed they could fight. But our brave, but often undisciplined men, meet and attack them with a reckless, desperate courage they have not yet
been able to withstand.

April 26th. We are moving Head Quarters today over to Mr. Cole's place on Vernon River; the position is in the centre of the Brigade, equi-distant from the Vernon & Skidaway Shell roads, and about eight miles from the city by either route; the nearest troops will be some two and a half miles distant, with the exception of Co. B, Georgia Hussars who are detached from the "2nd Battl. Ga. Cavly," & placed near Head Quarters. Wright's Legion, the best armed drilled and disciplined body of men in the Brigade, have been ordered to Savannah -- temporarily says the order. If this Legion is detached Genl. Mercer will have left two Regiments, 31st & 39th, that cannot muster together 500 decently armed men; the rest are provided with lockless shot guns, old, broken flint lock rifles, and musketoons that could not kill at a hundred yards. The three Battalions in the Brigade will be our sole dependence in an infantry fight. And yet this Brigade is a specimen of our army; what enormous disadvantages the defence of our good cause labors under: we are contending against a very large, well drilled & splendidly equipped army, provided with all the appliances of modern science -- against troops who are better fed, clothed, housed and cared for than any army that ever took the field; and what is our condition? with vastly inferior numbers, with troops poorly fed and provided, miserably clad, abominably armed, only tolerably well drilled and disciplined, we are repelling this tremendous invading body. Is it not wonderful we have suffered so few
defeats! Our men possess a reckless, desperate courage — a fiery impetuosity in attack — that completely disconcerts our adversaries. Our first onsets are always successful but the northern leaders bring up fresh troops and wear us out. The charge of our "ten thousand" effective men (according to the reports of Genls. Pillow & Floyd) against the fifty odd thousand Yankees at Fort Donelson is unparalleled in the history of the world. These ten thousand beat back the immense numbers of the enemy, and would have gained a complete victory but for the arrival of immense re-inforcements. Then 5000 of our wet and weary troops — exhausted with four days fighting were surrendered by their Generals. Our recent fierce onset at Corinth appears to have carried everything before it; we swept the northern troops back like a deluge, rushed upon their guns, and captured about eighteen batteries; but then mark the sequel; on Sunday night the company officers maintained no discipline; the men were allowed to scatter thousands wandered off with their trophies and spoil and on Monday, when Buell attacked us with his fresh troops from 5000 to 6000 of our troops had left the battle field. Even then our brave but undisciplined men beat back the invaders, and night left us still in possession of the field. Nothing but our want of discipline, and the enemy's gun boats in the Tennessee River, deprived us of a thorough and complete victory. Most of our troops in this fierce battle appear to have been undisciplined recruits; Dr Frank Lovel who was present says our army was a "great mob," and yet see what
we accomplished. We beat the very flower of the northern army. Would to God that our people united to their fierce valor more method patience and industry. What soldiers we would make. But notwithstanding our splendid victories on land the Yankee Navy is gaining many successes, and seriously injuring our cause. The fall of Fort Pulaski is followed by that of Island no. 10, where 70 guns and 2000 odd prisoners have been captured. Even now the enemy is fiercely bombarding Fort Pillow above Memphis, and Fort Jackson below New Orleans. Both these forts will probably fall, and with them Memphis and New Orleans; these will be terrible, but neither fatal nor unexpected reverses. The more the Yankees penetrate our country the greater their difficulties will become. They must subdue our spirit as well as overrun our land. The end is not yet!

May 1st. Fort Jackson on the Mississippi having failed to yield to a most terrific and protracted bombardment from Gun boats and Mortar Boats, some thirteen gun boats, by a bold dash, passed the Fort & appeared opposite New Orleans. I have never doubted the power of steamers to pass Fort & this illustrates the fact. As soon as it became known that Fort Jackson was passed, all the cotton, public stores steam boat &c. in or near the city were destroyed. The great iron clad ram or battery, the Mississippi, being unfinished was burned. The Confederate Troops under Genl. Lovell evacuated the city. The Commanding officer of the Gun Boats demanded a surrender of the city, but, up to the last accounts, this
had been refused by the Civil Authorities. The enemy are before the city but without any force to occupy it. The occupation is however only a question of time; the Yankee troops will come up the river after the Forts have been taken (we hear to night that the Fall of Fort Jackson is reported) or they will advance by some other route. A terrible panic must have prevailed after the Forts were passed, for all our Gun Boats on Lake Ponchartrain were destroyed, and the Forts dismantled. All of us expected some resistance to be made at New Orleans by the iron clad rams which were supposed to be ready & which were declared to be more powerful than the Virginia. But alas! with our usual laggard style of doing work, the great city they were intended to defend fell before they were ready. The Louisiana -- the consort of the Mississippi -- it is supposed has been saved. The fall of New Orleans is a sudden and very severe blow; it involves the fall of Memphis, and the control of the Mississippi & its tributaries. The control of this great river gives the enemy access to the vitals of several great states, cuts us off from Texas and other sources of supplies which we can hardly afford to lose. We must suffer much before our independence is achieved and we would not prize it were it too cheaply bought. Probably every city we have, which is accessible to the enemy's vessels, will fall; we have no navy, and but few guns of modern style and power; the enemy have a most powerful and formidable
navy; immense supplies of ammunition & guns of a size and
power never known before. It is natural therefore that we
should fail in these unequal fights. Our tide water cities
& forts are doomed. I look now for nothing but reverses;
the enemy is taking many cities and strongholds on the water,
but after that his successes will stop. This is his day;
ours will come before the war ends. Our army is now dis-
integrated; the old twelve months regiments are being
mustered out, and are re-organizing; new levies are called
out; all is in a transition state. But when the summer has
well set in -- when the 600000 young men, called out under
the Conscript Act, are organized & drilled -- when the enemy
has taken our vulnerable cities & his forces are scattered
& the diseases of our climate begin to thin his ranks --
then our day will dawn. With his lust for conquest he will
be loath to leave the places he has siezed; but disease
will assail him; partizans & guerrillas will follow his
path & hem him in -- and a great army of hundreds of thousands
of fiery southern spirits, with the cry of God & vengeance,
may march towards his own borders and carry war with its
horrors there. In the mean time the great heart of the
South is sound to the core -- full of true fire and
patiotic fervor -- full of unselfish devotion. Our people
are getting used to reverses and are willing to lose all
they have in this cause. Our prospects are brighter today
than ever before -- our patriotism is more unselfish, our
resolve firmer. When a whole people can bring themselves to the state of mind we are now in, they are indeed unconquerable.

May End. The fall of Forts Jackson & St Philip is confirmed to-day; they have yielded, after a heroic defence, to the overpowering armament of the foe. Only the Forts at Charleston & Mobile, & some minor forts, remain to us now; and these will doubtless fall before the war ends; old Abe has nearly redeemed his pledge to repose himself of all the forts "seized by the rebels." The ingenuity & energy of the Yankees have used to great advantage their immense foundries work-shops, supplies of ore &c. They have cast guns & constructed boats such as were never before known. Their thirteen inch mortars, eleven inch Belghren, and immense Parrot guns firing steel-pointed conical shot, are far too powerful for our means of resistance. Where they can bring these to bear we must succumb in time. We have not sufficient ammunition to stand a long siege, while the Yankees can keep it up forever. Their mortar boats (which they used at Island no. 10, & Forts Jackson & St Philip) are really terrible affairs; they can place these boats beyond the range of our best guns, and fire their thirteen inch shell with great precision; while these boats are so low and flat they can anchor them behind woods or banks where their hulls are completely protected. We are now the victims of their superior mechanical means & must suffer accordingly. They are now constructing numerous light
drought iron-clad boats, to be armed with fifteen inch guns, and they will probably obtain possession of all our navigable rivers & the towns upon them. But what matters this; our people do not live in cities or on rivers; they must march into the heart of the country to conquer us and there we fear them not. While the war now looks interminable, and there is a prospect of great suffering ahead, our people are more determined than ever to continue the struggle until our independence is won. Our Gov'r has suffered great misfortunes, and is destined to suffer many more, owing chiefly to its poverty in warlike resources as compared with the north, but also partially to the unfortunate steps taken in the beginning of the contest. Many of our people committed the grievous error of thinking that Foreign Powers would be compelled to intervene in order to procure cotton, and that the war would be short; and that we would have no use for a navy. Hence the Govern' contested its troops for twelve months only, and adopted no steps to secure the integrity of our tide waters; our army is therefore disorganized at the most critical period of our history, and the enemy with his light draught, but heavily armed gun boats is securing possession of all our navigable rivers, thus embarrassing communication sadly, and destroying our facilities for rapid concentration at exposed points. If we had only enlisted our Troops for the war, and adopted some means to rid the service of inefficient officers; if we had only obstructed our rivers, and built powerful floating Batteries, how very
different our affairs would be to-day. But alas it is now too late & we must profit by our sad experience when we again have an opportunity. With all the reverses however that are occurring each — with the certain prospect of so many more — our people do not lose heart; on the contrary they grow each day more resolute — more willing to sacrifice all personal comfort and worldly goods for the sake of dear liberty and honor — more determined to make the South the grave of freemen, or the home of an independent people. Our too great mistakes were short enlistments and no effort to provide a navy; but it is now too late to repine; the future, with its terrible responsibilities is before us, and it will find us a united, determined, heroic people. Our good old city of Savannah has determined to resist to the last extremity; Genl. Lawton formally communicated this intention to the City Council, and a resolution was unanimously passed to extend every aid to the Military Authorities. This resolve is the more honorable as it followed the news of the capture of New Orleans. God grant that our people may seal the covenant with their blood! Our twelve-months troops (constituting the larger portion of our army) are now completely disorganized, may demoralized, by the provisions of the Conscript Act which allow them to re-elect all their officers before the 17th May. The Regiments are converted into bodies of wire-pullers and log rollers; no officer exercises any authority; the desire, to curry favor paralyzes their independence; and we see commanders without power & men without
obedience. This shameful state of affairs must end in two weeks, and then everything will become quiet. Then the position of officers is settled for the war; they go up by promotion unless incompetent, when the President may select a competent officer or private from the company; this is an excellent provision. If we desire a decent army we must make our officers independent, and hold out a promise of reward to merit. This provision, and the prospect of thereby securing an army of five or six hundred thousand men between 18 & 35 years of age, are the only good features in the Conscript Law. It is badly worded & moulded; probably a good law as proposed by the President, but eviscerated by demagogues in Congress.

Cole's place May 20th. Nothing of interest occurs in our present position; each day is succeeded by the same monotony of writing, reading the papers, and riding in the afternoon. Affairs around Savannah are profoundly quiet; the word of defence goes vigorously on; old batteries are being strengthened and new ones made; the river is now quite effectually obstructed, and soon will be thoroughly so; the work is, however, necessarily slow and difficult. The floating Battery was launched yesterday with perfect success; the iron is yet to placed on the roof and the guns to be mounted. The Naval officers pronounce this Battery a great success; it is the product of private enterprise stimulated by our brave women. Oh that our Government could have taken a broader view in the beginning of our naval defences; New Orleans
might have been defended with a dozen such batteries.
Many reverses have lately shrouded our good cause in gloom;
New Orleans fell, then Yorktown was evacuated, then Norfolk
was abandoned to the enemy and the Virginia blown up. But we
are now pursuing the right course; we are abandoning minor
points and concentrating our forces on vital ones; we are
leaving the extremities to preserve the heart of our country.
Already this policy is producing good fruit; in the retreat
from Yorktown our army suddenly turned and assailed the
enemy near Williamsburg; we drove him back, captured some
hundred prisoners, and some ten guns, and occupied the
field for a time, then continued the retreat; the enemy claim
a victory here, as they have done on every other occasion.
Our army is now near Richmond; and attempt of the Yankee
Gun Boats to ascend the James River has been for the present
repelled.

Genl. Jackson (Stone Wall) has gained a complete victory
over Milroy in the valley of Virginia; nearly the whole
Confederate loss (as far as yet known) fell upon the gallant
12th Georgia Regt. The Yankees have ascended the Mississippi
to Vicksburg & demanded its surrender; this has been refused,
and the fleet will be resisted. The Yankees have not yet passed
Fort Pillow above Memphis. Our cause is bright and cheering;
our people are full of hope and confidence, and abound in
the unselfish patriotism; the summer is coming on and the
heat telling upon our foe; the western rivers are falling,
and impeding the progress of his Gun Boats and transportation;
our Conscripts are flocking to the field and our army rapidly increasing in numbers and efficiency. Our greatest defect at the South is a want of method and system and an indifference to details; we go into battle without even knowing whether our ammunition will fit our guns; this actually occurred at Port Royal & New Orleans. We certainly lack the systematic organization of the Yankees; our Quarter Master, Commissary and Medical Departments are very inferior to theirs; they possess a splendidly organized system of transportation, organized medical & infirmary corps, corps of sharp shooters with telescopic rifles, engineer corps, corps of sappers & miners &c. &c. In fact the Yankees are eminently a business people, and pay great attention to details.

Savannah. June 10th 1862.

On the 27th day of May we proceeded to Charleston in obedience to sudden orders from Genl. Pemberton. On Saturday June 7th we returned as suddenly to Savannah, Genl. Mercer relieving Genl. Lawton in the command of the District of Georgia. My whole time is now occupied in the duties of the office.

June 15th. I regret very much that I have no time to note the great events of each day in this book. I spend the whole day in the office, and write so constantly that when I return home after ten at night I am thoroughly tired of my pen. The most important of recent occurrences is the brilliant campaign of Genl. Jackson in the Valley of Virginia; he defeated Milroy at McDowell, then drove the Federals from
Strasburg, then defeated Banks at Front Royal, pressed after his retreating army and again defeated him at Winchester, and then chased him into Maryland; the rapid advance of Jackson stirred the whole north with excitement and alarm; again the cry was raised "Washington is in danger" and the northern governors were called upon for Troops to defend the national capital; Regiments were hurried from New York and elsewhere. In the mean time McDowell with a large force left Fredericksburg, and Fremont western Virginia to intercept Jackson and cut off his retreat; but, with the same astonishing rapidity of movement that marked his advance, he marched down the valley, passed between Fremont and McDowell, turned upon and thoroughly defeated Fremont, and then as suddenly defeated Shields, with a loss of all his artillery and many prisoners. At last accounts the gallant "Stonewall" was pursuing Shields' routed army. Before the two last battles Jackson had captured some $2000000 worth of stores (including from 8 to 10 000 arms) and from 4 to 5000 prisoners.

On May 31st & June 1st our troops defeated the Yankees on the Chickahominy; drove them from their camps and entrenchments, and into the swamp where our Troops could pursue no further. Our men stormed the enemy's breastworks and abatis in the most gallant style, took some 500 prisoners and from 20 to 30 pieces of cannon. Our brave troops have never yet displayed more desperate courage than in this action. The Yankees, with unparalleled mendacity, claim a glorious victory, and yet their chief liar, the New York Herald,
concludes its account by saying that the Yankees will require at least 50000 more troops to take Richmond. Lincoln has accordingly called for 50000 volunteers. Our army has retreated some thirty miles south of Corinth, and Fort Pillow and Memphis have been abandoned; our retreat from Corinth was splendidly conducted. Near Savannah everything is profoundly quiet; six of our best Regiments have been ordered to Virginia and one other is near Charleston. We have now a very small force of effective men; a large number are miserably armed, and some without arms of any description. The removal of some of the old Regiments produces sad confusion here; men have been taken from Batteries after being familiarized with the use of the guns, and others placed there who are entirely ignorant; the whole dull routine of explanation and drill had to be reiterated. Our Army has unfortunately been organized with little system; we should have enlisted several Regiments of heavy artillerists, and details could then have been placed in Batteries as they were needed; under the present arrangement there is no certainty that the men who man the guns to-day will do so to-morrow. We should also have organized corps of sappers and miners; now the whole command is broken up into details and fatigue parties, and little time is left for drill. With the finest material that ever composed an army -- the bravest most cheerful and simple hearted soldiery -- our army is perhaps as ragged
and soiled as any in existence. Poor soldiers, I see them every day marching from their camp for miles to labor there all day under the broiling sun, and then returning late in the evening soiled wet and weary; their is no holiday task; little of the poetry and romance of war do they ever experience. Poorly armed, fed and clothed, and hard worked, they are still cheerful and patriotic, exhibiting beneath their rough garb, and uncouth appearance and manners, a genuine patriotism, and a simple child-like confidence and spirit that is worthy of all praise. No Spartan could have borne his wounds with greater equanimity, or died with more calm courage than is exhibited by our soldiers every day! Col. Styles who visited the Richmond Hospitals, after the recent battles, told me he saw numbers of men desperately wounded -- numbers die -- and each and every one suffered or died with a smile upon his face, and a cheerful patriotic word upon his lips. I met in the cars five wounded Georgians of the 29th Regt, and all seemed as calm and cheerful and contented as though they were upon some holiday trip. Indeed the poor fellows were returning to their homes, and no one could detect on their honest faces the symptom of a doubt or fear.

June 23rd. I went to Fort Jackson yesterday (Sunday) morning and returned to the City this morning. It was delightful to be free for a day from the harassing business of the office; to associate again with my brother officers of the preceding summer, and to listen once more to the spirit stirring
tattoo and reveille. Sunday was intensely hot, and I could
not but feel how much our brave soldiers were enduring in
their present position. Fort Jackson, and the adjacent
batteries, are located in low swampy fields, where the
insects are terrible the air close and fetid and full of
miasma and death. Capt. Blain's men, on Smith's Island,
are particularly uncomfortable; their tents are pitched on
the muddy ground, beneath the blazing sky; not a dry spot
of earth, not a shade tree is near; the tide frequently
rises above the platforms of their tents, soaks their
bedding and washes away all they have; they have positively
been obliged to anchor their cooking utensils to prevent
their being carried away. And yet these brave fellows must
stay -- and do stay cheerfully in this dreadful spot, where
every comfort is denied them, and sickness and death must
add their horrors to the scene. I spent a miserable night
last night; I lay down at the Fort but not to sleep; hundreds
of fleas ran over me stinging me into a fever; I did not
secure one moment's sleep, but lay tossing in misery,
counting the weary hours till morning; had I left the bed
and gone out side the net the mosquitoes would have been
as bad as the fleas. Indeed a sad necessity is imposed
upon our troops; they must garrison spots where a white
man can hardly live.

June 24th. Remarkable quiet reigns throughout the land, or
perhaps we have become so accustomed to "grim visaged war"
that none but the most terrible butcheries now excite our
feelings. McClellan's immense army, laying siege to Richmond, increases in numbers every day; our men are digging and spading, acting strictly on the defensive. Jackson is not far from Staunton receiving re-inforcements. Beauregard's army rests quietly in Mississippi, while Halleck is said to be moving his forces east -- either to east Tennessee or to Virginia. In the meantime our people repose unlimited confidence in our large, ragged, soiled and uncouth, but, as experience has amply proved, most gallant and patriotic army. We have no reason to dread the Yankees in fair open fight; they worst us only with their gun boats superior guns better and more abundant ammunition aided, I must confess, by a more systematized and industrious army, I do not believe any people ever existed with more physical courage and nerve than our people possess; I have heard of instances that would almost shame the Spartans. Wounds and pain and suffering our brave lads care little for; I saw two men of the 28th Ga. Regt wounded at Chickahominy; one had his cheek, the other his elbow shot away; these simple hearted, cheerful country lads had traveled all the way from Richmond to Savannah with nothing but their transportation tickets; and yet when they arrived, they at once started out for Causton's bluff, in a dreadful storm, to see some friends there. I heard of one Georgian who had his leg shattered by a shell until it only hung by a part of the bone; after he fell to the ground he coolly drew his bowie knife
and actually succeeded in sawing through the bone and flesh and thus removing his own wounded limb; when condoled with his simple reply was that he would return home and become a shoe-maker. Surely such examples of cheerful courage were never exceeded anywhere. It is said by persons who have visited the battle fields that a remarkable difference between the enemy and our own men is always exhibited; the former always moan and lament piteously; our men never do; not a moan escapes their lips. The wounded Carolinians who were brought from James Island after the fight at Legare's, though they seemed to be suffering greatly uttered not a moan or complaint. Their pale faces and perfect silence spoke a mute eloquence to those who looked on. In the style, manners and appearance of soldiers the enemy certainly exceed us; the Yankee prisoners I saw in Charleston were good looking men, clean, well dressed, and with thorough military manners, rendering all the salutes and salutations prescribed. Our men, on the contrary, are very badly dressed often ragged -- are dirty, and uncouth, seldom saluting or recognizing their superiors; but in the great essentials of soldiers -- in capacity to endure fatigue, in patriotism, in cheerful courage, in contented spirits, in steadiness in action, and in devoted gallantry-- they are far superior to their opponents. No army was ever more unselfish and gallant than our own: success will crown their arms in every fair field.

Monday June 30th. The great battle near Richmond which
commenced on the afternoon of Wednesday 25th inst. is not yet over. We know that on Friday we gained a great victory driving the enemy from his positions and capturing his Batteries; the latest news, up to six o'clock this afternoon was carried to Petersburg by Courier; he states that the enemy have been driven to the James River, where our men are pressing them furiously. All the accounts thus far indicate that McClellan's "Grand Army" is utterly routed. God grant this news may be true and that our bleeding country may have rest! Our people are wonderfully calm and confident. We await, with intense interest, further news of this terrible battle.

Aug. 9th. The result of the seven days fighting is now before the world. All the foreign papers pronounce McClellan's grand army as thoroughly defeated; but for the protection of his Gun Boats in James River, he would have been driven into the water in utter rout and confusion. Since then Forest's splendid dash into Tennessee, and his capture of Murfreesboro, and Morgan's expedition to Kentucky, have added new laurels to our arms. Great battles are now impending near Gordonsville Va. & Chattanooga- Tenn. About Savannah all is quiet; a large force of negroes from the middle counties, collected by Genl. Mercer, are busy on works around the City. The weather is intensely hot; the 7th, 8th, & 9th (to-day) literally roasting. On July 7th I proceeded to the up country and spent a week at Madison Springs with my wife; the weather was intensely warm, but my visit was exceedingly pleasant, and an agreeable
change of my sedentary life. I now opened the whole day in
the office writing from morning to night. Genl. Mercer
now commands the District of Georgia & some 13,000 troops;
ot a general officer is under him, and our labors are greater
than those of the Secretary of war in the old service. Great
sickness prevails among the Troops; some companies report only
five or six for duty; the troops in the Batteries near Fort
Jackson and at Deptford, and those on picket duty at Screven's
Ferry suffer particularly. The life they have to lead is
awful --- in the rain & dew, bad water to drink, amidst
poisonous airs & rank weeds, and without a shade tree to
screen them from the scorching sun. Yet they are cheerful
and patriotic.

Tuesday, Aug. 12th. The weather still continues intensely
hot, yesterday having been the hottest day of the Season; the
thermometer reached very nearly, if not quite one hundred
degrees in some places. For three days I have been confined
to the house with something like dysentery; on Sunday I had
quite a fever. Dr. King has attended me, and I hope to resume
my work tomorrow, though I am still weak. The great heat is
producing much sickness, especially among the soldiers; even
the Chatham Artillery, a city company, report 54 sick. The
county troops are so reckless and imprudent that their
sickness does not excite surprise; though unacclimated, they
walk all day in their shirt sleeves, under the broiling sun,
or soaking rain; they sleep at night on the wet ground, exposed to dew and miasma; they seldom wash their bodies or change their clothes; and they gorge themselves with green peaches, and watermelons, raw bread and badly cooked food. Indeed the careless cooking in the country Regiments deprives the service of many a brave soldier; these country lads, too, can be seen at all hours buying ginger cakes, tarts, and raw pies from the old negro hucksters; many of them spend all their pay in this manner. As their officers are usually as careless as the men, ignorant of all rules of health, and not anxious to trouble themselves, these faults and excesses go unchecked, and the poor country lads sicken and die. No wonder the 54th Regt on Aug. 1st reported only 125 privates present for duty. There is no means of rectifying these evils, as the General can not secure the co-operation of the Regimental and company officers; the strictest orders are issued to enforce police regulations but they are imperfectly executed. Some few commanders who require their men to bathe and help clean, to ventilate their tents and sun their bedding; & to have their food properly cooked, are repaid by the good appearance and healthy condition of their Troops. Every day demonstrates more and more clearly that ignorant and inefficient officers are the curse of our service; there are some company officers among the troops near this city who would disgrace any service; they are coarse, ignorant, and filthy in person and manners; I know of several who can not spell two words correctly, and whom their own men must
One captain cannot write his name. Of course the Examining Board, organized here weeks ago by Genl. Mercer, and composed of excellent officers, will report all such as incompetent, and Congress, under the law, must refuse to appoint them; but the men will then elect others just as bad, unless the President fills all such vacancies himself.

Election in the army is a complete humbug, a most pernicious and demoralizing system. The men themselves are splendid fellows, because so patriotic, so simple-hearted, so tractable; but many of the officers are terrible impediments to all progress in drill, discipline or efficiency.

Aug. 14th. Yesterday afternoon we had a thunder storm and since then the weather has been much more pleasant with a delightful breeze from the east. We are now a good deal troubled by application for discharge from service by men who are under 18 or over 35 and whose original term of enlistment has expired; the Conscription Law said such men were to be discharged in ninety days, and the Sec. of War interpreted this as 90 days from the passage of the Act, May 16th. Unfortunately the Sec. of War has since changed his first order, and he now declares the 90 days are 90 days after the expiration of the original term of enlistment. This unfortunate mistake at Head Quarters has produced much dissatisfaction. Many men are also claiming that they are foreigners and never acquired domicil in the Confederate States. Most of these dissatisfied soldiers appear, however,
anxious merely to change their corps, and not to avoid service. Genl. Mercer recently called for 2000 negroes from middle Georgia to work on the defences near Savannah, the negroes to be impressed if not willingly furnished; over 1500 have already been supplied, but some close, narrow-minded planters have evinced great opposition to this necessary order, denouncing it as tyrannical &c, they would rather subject our white Georgians to hard work in this terrible weather than spare a few of their slaves.

On Aug. 10th Genl. Mercer sent a flag of truce, per steamer Genl. Lee, to deliver a northern lady to the Federals at Fort Pulaski; Capt. Stewart A. Q. M. and Lt. Stiles took charge of the flag with written orders. When two miles from Fort Pulaski a shot was fired & they stopped. The Adjutant came from the Fort, received their orders and the lady, and told them to remain where they were until a gun was fired as the signal that all was right. Before the Adjt. reached the Fort a gun was fired & the Genl. Lee started towards Savannah. Instantly shot after shot, to the number of twenty, was sent from the Fort, with the intention of sinking the boat; they fell all around her, but she was proceeding to the City when an armed vessel sent in pursuit overhauled her, and a Federal Guard was put aboard, and Capt. Stewart, Lt. Stiles and Capt. Dent (who went down out of curiosity) were arrested as spies. The Yankees attempted to excuse this great outrage by saying that the boat was leaving without permission, and her movements were suspicious. The officers
were sent to Hilton Head for Genl. Hunter (the negro thief) to decide their case. After hearing all the circumstances, he returned the officers and the Boat with rather a saucy letter to Genl. Mercer, directing him in future to send only one officer with a flag (He himself during the spring set the example of sending three) Captain S tells me that Capt Truxton of the Yankee navy, who took them to Hilton Head, denounced the firing as a great outrage and said it all came of "putting these d --- d volunteers in positions they could not fill." This officer in speaking of public affairs also significantly said - "Oh we are all going to the Devil, Sir!" He was polite and communicative. At Hilton Head the Yankees have quite a town, many fine houses, hotels, a long wharf, plenty of shipping &c. They were met by Col. Kinzie Comdg. one of Major Genl. Hunter's Regiments of fugitive slaves; this Colonel mentioned that he had been north and during his absence his negro soldiers got over the Island, took off their red breeches, and mingled with the other negroes, so that he could not find them and his Regiment was practically destroyed. The Yankee guard placed on the Genl. Lee stole everything belonging to the Captain and crew -- knives, forks, spoons, crockery, clothes & everything they could find; they stole a revolver left on board by Capt. Dent, but one of the Yankee officers hearing this furnished him another. The officers at the Fort were polite; they supplied our officers with food, and with all champagne and other luxuries. The officers
all appeared to be New York Dry Goods men, and spoke of several friends among the same class (Yankees) in Savannah.

Aug. 19th. On 16th we had heavy rain and a sudden change of atmosphere; since then the weather has been cool and pleasant, and every one finds a thick coat and vest agreeable.

Some 1200 negroes are now laboring on the works around this city, in addition to the free negroes of Savannah impressed into service by Genl. Mercer. These negroes have been, in most cases, cheerfully furnished by the planters of the middle counties. Some selfish individuals have made all sorts of frivolous objections, and others have flatly refused to furnish any of their negroes. No impressment has been used, though it has been held out as an inducement to stimulate those planters who responded unwillingly. A great deal of work is being done, and more contemplated; unfortunately just at this juncture, the measles have appeared among the negroes. The Conscription Law is now being rigidly enforced in this and other states, and very many young men are being added to the army. The Conscription is borne with the utmost cheerfulness and patriotism by all classes; but few of those harsh revolting scenes, associated with this policy, are exhibited. The Conscripts cheerfully go to Camp, where they are examined, and, if unable to perform military duty, are restored to their homes. The law has not been as thoroughly enforced in Georgia, as it should be; one officer was selected for each Congressional District as Enrolling Officer, with
one enlisted man as an assistant; these two have been obliged to enroll, and send to the Camp at Calhoun, all the Conspects (between 18 & 35) in the District; while no forcible opposition has been made much evasion has been practiced; the Conspects hide themselves, or fly from one County to another, and thus many cannot be discovered. In only one or two cases have the enrolling officers applied for military force to aid them; some few individuals have set the law and the officer at defiance. In Savannah I have seen several refractory Conspects brought to the Barracks under military guard. The most painful cases are where delicate young men are brought to Savannah for examination by the Surgeon appointed for this City; their parents often come with them, and are full of alarm and sorrow, fearing their sickly feeble boys will be ruthlessly torn away. Last night some seventy from the Southern Counties reached the City; among them are several delicate lads, and their fathers appear very unhappy about them. The Surgeons however will reject all evidently weak & sickly. The harsh features of the Conscription scarcely exist; parents are anxious for their sons to serve; maidsens drive their lovers to the field; and every one despises and condemns the healthy young men who refuses now to defend his country. Our noble old State has sent so many volunteers to the field that few are left for the Conscription. Georgia thus far has supplied less than 2000 Conscripts. As the Yankees have just called out 600000 more
men our Congress will doubtless extend the age for Conscription to 45.

The Convalescent Camp, established at Springfield Central R. R. by Genl. Mercer, is a great blessing, and it will save many soldiers to the service.

Major Anderson's Battalion of Sharp Shooters is now fully organized and armed; Genl. Mercer experienced great opposition in forming this Battalion in obedience to Genl. Pemberton's orders. As it was composed of men detached from the several commands, the officers of these commands resisted it in every way, and encouraged disobedience and insubordination among their men. In the 54th Regiment two companies openly and mutinously disobeyed Genl. Mercer's orders, and were not paraded for the selection of Sharp Shooters until all their officers had been arrested and placed in close confinement with a guard over them, and the men disarmed, and the camp surrounded by a battery of loaded guns. Then the mutineers came to terms and no other trouble was experienced. The officers are all being tried by Court Martial, and one has already been cashiered.

Our Government is now greatly in need of iron, leather and coal. Public Agents are collecting hides everywhere. The whole rail road from Brunswick to Tebeenville is to be taken up that the iron may be used for gun boats. Genl. Mercer has sent Agents to Tennessee to collect all the coal it is possible to obtain.
Aug. 23rd. Yesterday was a hot, humid, debilitating August day; to-day is clear with a pleasant sea breeze. I went to procure a pair of common, low, leather shoes this afternoon; I have to wait three weeks, and then pay $15 for them. A large number of negroes came down last evening to work on the fortifications; the requisite number (2000) is nearly obtained; and this in spite of the opposition of some of the wealthiest (and most selfish) planters in the state, and the singular conduct of the Secretary of War in telegraphing these planters, without consulting Genl. Mercer, that he had no authority to demand these negroes. No impressment has been used, though it has been threatened; the negroes are well fed, cared and paid for.

Four of Millen's Battl. are supposed to have deserted to the enemys Gun Boats; they were sent to Skidaway on a scout, and have not been heard from; they were all northern men and suspected. Nearly all the deserters from our army have been northern born.

Aug. 25th. Yesterday I drove to Montgomery with Dabney Herndon to see Park. The day was clear, with a strong delightful breeze from the north. Today is cloudy with a chilly north east wind; fires would not be uncomfortable.

Aug. 27th. All yesterday was rainy and raw; to-day the north east weather still prevails & the atmosphere is chilly; everybody is wearing thick clothes. Last year we had just such
The last few days of August were hot and humid; yesterday and to-day have been very pleasant, with a cloudy sky and cool breeze. All around Savannah is quiet. I am busy with the monthly reports, and expect to pay a visit to my wife at Athens when they are finished. Genl. Lee telegraphs the President that Longstreet and Jackson each repelled an attack on Friday and Thursday, and that on Saturday our combined army gained a "signal victory" over the combined forces of Pope & McClellan. God be praised for His Goodness!

Sept. 27th. I kept the following record of the weather:
Sept. 3rd cool pleasant & clear; 4th clear and delightful; 5th ditto; 6th clear and pleasant; 7th clear and pleasant; 8th clear and warm; 9th hot & clear; 10th ditto; 11th cloudy & warm, night hot.

On Friday 12th at 10 P. M. I left for Athens, where I arrived Saturday afternoon. I remained with my wife until Monday morning 23rd; the weather at Athens was warm, I reached Savannah at 7 P. M. on 23rd.

24th pleasant; cloudy and warm at night, cooler towards morning 25th pleasant, breezy and clear; evening cool; 26th clear and delightfully cool; 27th cloudy and raw with north east wind. The City continues remarkably healthy. There is still much sickness among the soldiers.
Oct. 1st. This afternoon a Yankee Gun Boat came up the north channel within two or two and a half miles of the obstructions; she shelled the Causton's Bluff Battery for some time. She drove the boats and laborers from the obstructions. At 3 P. M. the General, myself, and several others, went down in the Ida to discover the position and intentions of the enemy. As we neared the obstructions the Yankee steamed off towards Dawfuskie. Six of her shell fell near the works at Causton's Bluff; one burst just outside the parapet of Battery Lee; several passed over Fort Jackson, and fragments fell in the Fort. Some of these missiles came three miles. Genl. Mitchell has just assumed command at Hilton Head, and is doubtless locating our Batteries. Causton's Bluff fired three shots in reply; no one hurt.

The weather today has been very pleasant, with a cool strong sea breeze. The 30th was delightful, the 28th & 29th pleasant.

The fact was exhibited today how excellent a tonic a little excitement is for the sick; the two companies of Jasper Greens have been reporting ten and fifteen men for duty; yet as soon as it was supposed the River Batteries would have to be fought, and they were ordered down to man them, each company turned out with a full complement. The River Batteries have for two months been guarded only by small detachments of ten or twelve men each; the deadly miasma in the
vicinity has rendered them uninhabitable; the two companies recently in Fort Jackson, whose systems there became filled with the seeds of disease, have been completely prostrated since their removal to Genisis Point, though the latter is comparatively healthy.— The new lines, commenced on the 25th of July, begin to look very formidable.

Oct, 2nd. Last night a boat approached Proctor’s Point and was fired upon by our Pickets. It being feared that the Gun Boat yesterday had left materials for a Battery in the marsh, a reconnoissance was made at daylight this morning by Major Lamb of the 29th Ca. in charge of the Pickets; nothing was discovered. A letter from Capt. McAllister reports an examination of Buzzard’s Island, two miles from Genisis Point Battery; it had been reported that the enemy was erecting Batteries there; nothing was seen.

A dispatch from Genl Finegan tonight reports that his Battery on the St. John’s River has, for the third time, defeated the Yankee Gun Boats; he reports 3000 men have landed to take the Battery & asks for a Regiment. Genl. Beauregard dispatches that it is not advisable to remove any part of our force to Florida.

Oct. 5th. In obedience to orders from the War Department the 26th & 30th Regiments were sent yesterday morning to the aid of Genl. Finnegan; so reduced were these Regiments by sickness that together they carried only some 600 men, a larger number than they reported fit for duty. They will hardly be of any service, as a large force of Yankees landed in the rear of our
battery on the south side of the St. John's and Genl. Finnegan was compelled to evacuate it and cross the river; he probably lost his guns. At last accounts the Yankees were in Jacksonville.

Capt. Joe. Mannigault came over from Charleston yesterday to establish a Signal Corps in this District. The Sec. of War has authorized the formation of two Battalions of heavy artillerists for the defence of the lines and Batteries here; this corps has been long needed. The weather on Oct. 2nd was clear and pleasant; on the 3rd rather close and warm, with some rain. The 4th was a clear, hot July day, and today is no better.

Oct. 12th. The weather so far has been unseasonable and unusual; October is almost invariably a dry month; thus far it has been exceedingly wet. On the 6th a pleasant east breeze prevailed; so also on the 7th. The 8th was clear and pleasant, with a very heavy rain at night. The 9th was rainy and warm with a perfect deluge at noon. The 10th was foggy humid and warm. The 11th cloudy and warm, with tremendous rain at 3 P. M. Today has been cloudy and close; for two hours since dinner the rain has descended in torrents. The City continues very healthy; the country sickly; it has always been said that plenty of rain makes a healthy City and sickly country. The rain interferes sadly with the work in progress around this City; we have a great deal to do. Many of the negroes laboring on the lines are sick, others have
run away and gone home. Yesterday only eight hundred were one the works. The iron-plate Fingal is nearly completed, and ought to be in fighting condition in two weeks.

OCT. 15TH. Last night we had very heavy rain, and today is dark raw and chilly — the first decidedly cool day of October. I have proposed to the General to endeavor to initiate an experiment, which I believe would lead to great benefit to our cause; many months ago the idea struck me, and I mentioned it to several, but of late I have become more than ever convinced of the practicability and advantage of the matter proposed; it is to attach a concussion shell to arms running out from the ram of a gun boat, and thus destroy the enemy’s vessels by striking them below their iron plates. Last winter A. N. Miller and Co. produced a shell of the kind needed; it is a large shell within a shell, and the powder between the two is ignited by concussion. The lower shell is solid and mortar shaped, like the cup of an acorn, and the point of the upper shell being struck it is thrown violently from the lower. It was intended to drive piles into the river and cap them with these shells; any vessel striking one would certainly be destroyed. The idea is admirable; the shell will explode if struck, the whole force is exerted upon the upper shell which is thrown forward, and actual experiment has proved that the shell can continue two months under the water without being damaged; the great defect is that not one vessel in a hundred will run foul of the shell. Now
my idea is to put such a shell upon a projecting arm, beneath the water line, and run into a hostile vessel with it; the shell, upon contact, would explode and inevitably sink, or damage beyond repair, the hostile vessel. The great advantage of this arrangement would be that a Yankee iron clad would be struck in her only vulnerable parts, that contact could always be obtained and explosion insured, and that the violent blow required for an ordinary ram, and which almost always injures the attacking vessel (as in the case of the Manassas, Virginia & Arkansas) would not be necessary; an ordinary collision would ensure the desired result. The only possible objection is that the explosion might injure the vessel that bore the shell; this, however, could easily be prevented; the whole force of the shell is directed forward, and the recoil, if it did any harm, would injure the arm projecting from the ram only. If this idea proved good, a vessel with plenty of sea room could protect herself on all sides with arms capped with terrible weapons; she could not be butted with impunity. I am so convinced of the practicability of this arrangement that I will use all my influence to have the experiment tried; I feel sure it will be adopted at some future time. The following sketch is a simple arrangement for the use of concussion shells and illustrates my idea.
The arm could be of iron and firmly attached to the ram; any recoil could not affect the vessel itself; from A. to C. a strong chain might run under the water; at B. there is a hinge, when the shell had exploded, the arm might be doubled upon the hinge by the chain (which might be pulled by a Captain or by the engine) until the end was near the point of the vessel A. where another shell could be fitted on. A rod or piston, worked by the engine, could then push the arm back into its horizontal position -- thus.

I never heard any one suggest the above idea, but I have mentioned it to several, and all agree with me that it is perfectly practicable and worth at least an experiment.

Oct. 22nd. On Saturday 16th I went to Augusta, and returned with Nannie & the children on 20th. The 14th & 15th were dark & chilly and fires were comfortable. The 16th was clear & cool; the 17th cloudy & chilly. Since the 16th the weather has been clear bracing and delightful.

On 16th a report was brought to the office from old Stockwell of Cumberland Island that the enemy were preparing to attack Genisis Point Battery with forty gun boats including one iron clad. On the 17th Capt. Read reported a gun boat apparently sounding in the Ogeesha, and another quite close to his position at Coffee bluff; he got a rifled siege gun from the City to be better prepared for her. One
of our pickets at Coffee Bluff fired into a small vessel that ran the blockade, and gave no friendly signs; the Captain was badly wounded, and one of the crew hit. On the 29th three men of the 47th Ga. Regt., on picket duty at Freelon's Point deserted to the enemy; one was a Yankee Schoolmaster recently from Screven County; the other two were ignorant men under his influence. On the 15th Genl. Breastwood and Staff reached Savannah. A review of all the troops was ordered for Friday, but recent events will probably prevent it. This morning Col. Walker telegraphed from Pocotaligo that the enemy were landing at two points and threatening the rail road; the 33rd and 47th Regiments were at once ordered to his support; they got off about 3 P.M. At 4 P.M. we received dispatches that the Rail Road had been captured at Coosawhatchie. To night we heard that the train with our troops had been captured; but later dispatches announce that the enemy are being driven back, and have done no damage to the road. At midnight the 26th & 30th Ga. Regts., and the Terrell Light Artillery will start for the scene of action. These Regiments embrace most of our effective movable force.

A letter from Col. Clinch received to day announces that Capt. Roaddick with his cavalry Co. had made a descent upon Cumberland Island and captured some dozen negroes this is one of many bold descents on the Islands by our brave coast guard. Col. Clinch also reports that a water picket on the Altamaha River, composed of four men from Capt. Hazzard's Co.
was fired upon a few nights since, either by a barge of Yankees or runaway negroes, and two were killed and one wounded.

Oct. 23th. On 22nd inst. Col. Walker Comdg. 3rd Mil. Dist. S. C. defeated the Yankees badly at Pocotaligo; he had two Regiments, one light battery, and a few cavalry under his command; the enemy, according to the statements of prisoners, had six regiments and one battery. Both parties were in thick woods, about four hundred yards apart, with a marsh between them. The enemy retreated in confusion, leaving some forty or fifty dead, and nearly one hundred arms on the ground. We lost 15 killed and 40 wounded. The enemy succeeded in reaching the rail road near Coosawatchchie and tore up four rails of the track & cut down one telegraph pole. Just as they reached the road the 11th S. C. Regt. from Hardee ville passed on to Pocotaligo; the men were crowded together in open dirt cars. The Yankees from their ambush not twenty yards off, fired into this train, and killed the Major & one man, & wounded another. Was such shooting ever heard of? Col. Harrison of the 32nd Ga. remarked that few would have been left if the volley had proceeded from his Regt. The excellent marksman ship of the Southern troops is one great cause of their superiority. Col. Harrison with the 32nd & 47th Georgia Regts came near falling into the hands of the enemy, but his great prudence and forethought saved him. At Grahamville Col. Colcock informed him that he suspected the Yankees had reached the track near Coosawatchchie,
but that a train, with the 11th S.C. was ahead and he must follow that. In the mean time this train had run the gauntlet and reached Pocotaligo. When Col. Harrison approached Coosawatchie he could not see the other train, but still deemed it prudent to stop and send scouts ahead. These soon saw the enemy & returned; the two Regiments were then formed; two companies were thrown out on each side of the road, and the rest marched along the track. When the Yankees saw them coming they retreated hastily to their gun boats only two miles off; these had been throwing shell along and beyond the road. The Yankees left five rifles, a crowbar and other articles which Col. H. secured. He found that they had torn up four rails & relaid them so as to precipitate the train down an embankment, where the whole Yankee force had been in ambush. Col. Harrison’s forthought saved him. The track was soon relaid & the train passed on to Pocotaligo. Thursday the Yankees disappeared, and last evening all our troops returned to the City. Yesterday 24th was quite a day of excitement. Soon after breakfast a Cousin from Gauston’s Bluff reported that the Yankees had attacked our Pickets on Whitemarsh Island. The 29th Regt. was at once ordered there, but the whole alarm proved false. Next Col. Way reported that the bombardment of Beaulieu Battery had commenced; only one gun boat approached, however, and she threw but six (harmless) shell. Then a Courier from Capt. Read at Coffee Bluff reported an attempt at landing there, and called for reinforcements; in the General’s absence I at once ordered the 4th
Louisiana Battl. & the Battl. of Guards to that point. The enemy however made no hostile demonstration. These excitements improve the health, discipline and efficiency of the troops.

This morning a Courier from Capt. Brailsford brought five muskets taken from the negroes on St. Catherine's. Capt. B. reported that he had made a descent on St. Catherine's with thirty men; he evaded the Yankee Gun Boats and landed safely; he then proceeded to & surrounded the settlement, but found no Yankees and only six negro men there; these had been armed by the abolitionists, and attempted to fire upon our men; two were killed & four captured, who, with the five muskets, were brought safely to the main land.

Oct. 26th. Yesterday was rather warm; last night it rained & today it is very chilly. Genl. Beauregard expects to review all the troops tomorrow morning.

Oct. 30th. The night of the 26th was very cold; but for the high wind we should have had heavy frost. Several persons assured me that there was frost and even ice in certain places. Since the 26th the weather has been charming. On the 27th the Troops were reviewed by Genl. Beauregard; about 3500 men were out, and made a very handsome appearance. Genl. Beauregard was much pleased and pronounced our little army in fine order. Major Anderson's Battalion of Sharp Shooters attracted particular attention; their superiority is easily explained -- their officers were appointed and not elected.
Yesterday 29th. Uncle Ned and I went over to S. C. on a tour of exploration. We left about 9 A.M. in a special train with Genl. Beauregard & Staff, and soon reached Hardeeville. Here we met Capt. Mickler of the 11th S. C. Regt. an old friend of Uncle Ned's; he introduced us to Col. Ellis the Comdg. officer, who procured horses for us, and, in company with Capt. M. we rode along the Screven's Ferry Road. About 1½ we reached Jones', eight miles from Hardeeville, and the station of the most advanced Company Capt. Smart's Cavalry. From him we learned the different roads and approaches to the rear of our river works and the positions of his pickets. We found that he had pickets posted at Red Bluff on New River, at Tunbridge landing and Mongin's near Wright's River; these pickets cover pretty thoroughly all the approaches to the rear of our Batteries. On Monday Col. Anderson will send out his pickets to meet those of Capt. Smart, and a mutual system of countersigns and signals will be established. On the route Capt. Mickler entertained us with an account of some of his bold descents upon the Islands. He has a fine reputation for enterprise and courage, and had just recovered from a severe wound received on Pickney Island.

This morning, in company with the General, and the Engineers, I visited the obstructions, Lawton Battery, and Screven's Ferry.

Nov. 4th. On the 2nd a Yankee Gun Boat approached within
a mile and three quarters of the Genesis Point Battery, dropped her anchor and took a complete survey of the work. Capt. Bonaud unwisely fired some six shots at her, most of which fell short. She fired in return one shell which passed a few feet above the parapet, and exploded just behind the gunners fortunately doing no injury. This shell had the ordinary fuse, and was percussion also. Since the defeat of the Yankees at Posotaligo they have been very quiet. A solemn lull overspreads the whole land. Perfect quiet has succeeded the intense excitement that prevailed a month ago.

While the great mass of the people exhibit the most sublime virtue and patriotism, there are some men who disgrace their species; these are the greedy speculators and extortioners, the vile product of these times that try men's souls. Owing to their malign influence every article of necessity is held at an outrageous price; these men monopolize everything and resell at enormous profit. I do not see how the poor live. A planter told me he was anxious to remove his negroes from an exposed point on the coast; he went to Thomas County to try and purchase land; he found the land owners there unwilling to leave as they knew the Planters necessities would compel them to purchase; for the most ordinary land they asked a large price, realizing several hundred per cent. This is the spirit that characterized many out of the army. A greedy desire to get rich seems to pervade all. One of the most aggrieved cases I have heard of
consists in the charge of $3.50 per day for the use of old
Flat not worth $300; this Flat is used by the picket at
Causton's Bluff as a means of crossing the river, and belongs
to Dickerson.

The resources of the Confederacy are limited and taxed
to the utmost. We have plenty of salt in the water, leather,
cotton and wool in the country and ore in the earth, but
we are not now prepared to render them available. All the
old lead is being collected by the Ordnance Department; it
is furnished in small bits by patriotic donors, and consists
of lead roofs, weights, water pipes &c. &c. The same is
true of the old brass and iron. Iron is particularly needed;
agents have been sent over the whole country to purchase or
collect it in any form. The iron railing of our parade
ground has been taken for bolts for the obstructions; the
large cylinders intended for the Charleston & Savannah
Rail Road Bridge have been melted into shot and shell. All
the old coverlets, blankets and even carpets (for blankets)
are being sent to the army. Whole rail roads are being
torn up that the iron may be used for gun boats. A recent
letter from my sister in law in Virginia mentioned that for
two weeks she had cooked for the family; the negro servants
were all stolen from their happy home by the Yankees. These
facts are quoted by the Yankees as evidences of our weakness;
do they not rather indicate the most unconquerable strength,
do they not exhibit a spirit of patriotism and self-sacrifice,
a moral power, that is impregnable? Some of the more sensible
northern papers are beginning to acknowledge that men who will cheerfully suffer as our soldiers must be terribly in earnest; think of it, in the recent advance into Maryland our brave men passed days without any other food except green corn; the march of the army could be traced by the blood passed in consequence of the use of such food; and the very stones were red with the gore that trickled from their bare, bleeding feet.

Nov. 9th. We had heavy frost on the nights of the 7th & 8th; today is very cold.

Yesterday I rode out to Coffee Bluff to make an exploration for the General. On the preceding day two gunboats entered the Little Ogeeche River to capture a small schooner lying near the Bluff. They fired at her repeatedly without success, and then began to shell the camp of Capt. Jacob Read's Light Battery; several shell falling near his horses, he moved the Battery from the Bluff to the Church on White Bluff Road. The schooner was then burned by his order. I rode out to give orders as to the future position of the Battery. At Coffee Bluff I saw where two of the immense shell had ploughed the ground. I then went on Rose dew Island to see the position marked out for a Battery there which will command both branches of the Little Ogeeche River; one shot fired at the point on this island where the pickets are placed, passed through a large oak tree, cut down a palmetto; then ploughed the earth for several feet, then
ricochetted, barked two more trees, and bounded far off into the island. I then rode to Johnson's Landing; this and Cotton Hammock are the best places on the Little Ogeeche for sharp shooters or a field battery; the two branches have united, the river is narrow and already partially obstructed. The landing is about two miles from the railroad bridge. I rode to town by Jones's place, plum hill, the black cypress swamp, and Barclay's place. I reached the Ogeeche Road about five and a half and town before seven, having ridden some forty miles. Along the edge of the marsh between Herter's place and Johnson's numerous salt works are established.

Recent official letters state that the Yankees have brought a Regiment of negroes, officered by white men, and placed it at Fernandina; these negroes visited St. Marys, stole the few negroes remaining there, alarmed and mal-treated several old ladies still in the place, destroyed property and broke up the salt works near by. Just Heaven must such things go on! Capt. Brown's Company of Lt. Col. Clinch's Cavalry Battalion, encamped some four miles off, arrived just as these thieves were leaving and poured several volleys into their boats; the Gun Boats returned the fire without injury to our men. On the 6th the Abolitionists (as the enemy must be styled by Genl. Beauregard's order) visited Barren and committed various depredations there. On the 7th several gun boats ascended the Sapelo River, took Mr. McDonald and some of his negroes, after burning his house, destroyed the plantation of Mr. Charles Hopkins; destroyed the plantation
of Capt Brailsford (probably in revenge for his recent raid upon St Catherines & capture of four negroes) and took sixty three negroes from old Mr. King who is ninety years of age. They would have taken him but for the entreaties of his daughter; they gave his wife, a very old and feeble lady, twelve hours to leave the house and threatened to burn it then. Capt. Hopkins Hughes and Brailsford made such resistance as their limited means would permit; the result we have not yet ascertained. These Puritan robbers will doubtless vex our coast with many such cowardly raids.

Nov. 12th. A position on the Staff is no sinecure; for the past week I have worked as hard as I ever did in my life. Besides the voluminous correspondence of the office, and the preparation of the monthly and weekly District Reports, embracing nearly forty different commands, I have been examining monthly returns, and arranging muster rolls and inspection reports to be forwarded, and preparing a statement of the organization of the District, a roster of officers &c. Lieut. Hartridge has been absent, the two volunteer aides are negative, and the whole labor has devolved upon me. Indeed I am sure no Brig. Genl's office in the Confederate States is subject to a greater influx of business. In Carolina Genl. Beauregard has four Brigadiers under him and a large number of officers on his Staff; the number of troops in S. C. amounts to 11 000 and several hundred; in Georgia
we have (by the last report) 11098, scattered over the whole State; and yet Genl. Mercer, with two Staff officers, governs these unaided. The whole administration of this body is regulated in the office here; every furlough, transfer, board of survey, and every other matter of detail goes there for action.

One of the chief elements of the Southern soldier's success, and superiority over his adversary, is the excellence of his marksmanship. Being accustomed from his boyhood to shoot game of all kinds, he acquires coolness and confidence in his own ability, and a sure and deadly aim becomes with him a sort of instinct. No excitement can derange the steadiness of his nerves. A man who is accustomed to shoot ducks, turkeys and deer will strike the object without knowing how he does it; like the skilful performer who touches the key without perceiving the mental operation. This power over his weapon can never be acquired by the Yankee target shooter. In the recent attack on the Charleston and Savannah Rail Road, the Abolition Regiments making it were among the oldest in their army; and yet their marksmanship was disgraceful; one of the soldiers of the 11th S. C. Regt., who was upon the train fired into, told me at Hardeeville that the Yankees were in the bushes and behind trees only thirty yards off; the Engineer had his hand upon that part of the machinery, a sudden jerk upon which would stop the whole train; this was actually done in consequence of a shot striking his wrist and causing his hand to contract, and
yet with the train completely at their mercy the Yankees only killed two soldiers. My informant said they would raise their guns perpendicularly and bring them down to a level, and would fire in the act of lowering and send their bullets into the tops of the neighboring trees. Had the men on the cars carried loaded weapons he said they could have killed many of the scurrying cowards.

A gentleman who saw the second battle field of Manassas told me that where we stood the trees were bullet marked from top to bottom, but that where the Yankees stood scarcely a shot struck above the height of a man.

Nov. 17th. Nothing has occurred recently except the wanton destruction of St. Marys by the Abolition Gun Boats; these plunderers landed and commenced their usual depredations, when they were fired upon by Capt. Brown's men, and one of them killed; they retreated hastily to their boats, and withdrawing beyond the range of our rifles satiated their cowardly malice by bombarding the deserted town until all its houses were burned or demolished. These are the people who are to coerce us into friendship and communion! Armed and uniformed Negroes have taken a prominent part in all these outrages on our coast.

Nov. 21st. On the 19th two Yankee Gun Boats and one Mortar Boat made the third attack upon Genisis Point Battery. They commenced shelling at eight in the morning and kept it up until three in the afternoon, throwing several hundred shell.
The Garrison, under the command of Lieut. Geo. W. Anderson of the Republican Blues (my old company) fired only twelve shots in return, as the Yankee vessels were most of the time beyond the range of our guns. They finally ventured about a mile and a half from the Battery, when fire was opened upon them and the foremost vessel was stuck; they instantly returned to their old position. This cowardly mode of conducting an attack — this keeping studiously beyond the range of your opponents guns — this beating of a man whose hands are tied — is characteristic of the Yankee. Can we imagine a Roman or an English sailor pursuing such a course? Our officers and men displayed perfect coolness and self-possession under a terrible fire they could not return. Many of the enemy's shells fell in the Battery — which is open without casemate or bomb-proof — but did no serious damage; two men were bruised on the arm with fragments. The second shell fired struck the ground in front of a Blue, passed under and lifted him from his feet and exploded as he fell to the ground; though there was not a scratch upon his person he was rendered black and blue by the concussion, has to be lifted about, and will not be fit for duty under several months. One shell struck the old magazine, partially destroyed it, and blocked up the entrance, imprisoning a Blue who was inside; finding he could not get out he coolly laid down and slept through the bombardment. The tents and
trees, bake oven and quarters were pretty well demolished; one fragment of a shell passed through the boarding of the officer's quarters, entered a mess- chest and was there discovered. Some months ago, when Capt. A. S. Hartridge was in command, five hundred missiles were thrown at this Battery & not a man hurt. So far it has nobly held its own, though its 8 in. & 42 pdr. Gun are the only two pieces which can at all compare with the armament of the Yankee Boats. It is surprising how soon the human mind accustoms itself to altered circumstances; when the war originated an attack of this kind would have filled this City with alarm and the friends of the Garrison with anguish; and yet on the 19th with the tremendous detonations thundering in our ears, not a ripple of excitement stirred the placid surface of the City; my Cousins (Lieut. Nicolls') wife dined with me, and though of a most affectionate and anxious disposition, coolly enjoyed her meal and listened unconcernedly to the reports which perhaps were heralds of her husband's death. Such is man & habit is second nature. I can understand how the tumbrils in Paris at last failed even to attract the notice of the passer-by!

Capt. O. C. Hopkins gave me last night a most interesting account of his attack upon the Yankee Gun Boats that recently ascended the Sapelo River; the sides of the Boats were boarded up above the height of a man, and the Abolitionists fired through loop-holes, and most atrociously bad firing they did. Capt. Hopkins' men fired into this screen, and, if the
bullets passed through, certainly inflicted some loss; Capt. M. however fears that the interior was lined with iron, as the Yankees had stolen some old boilers probably for the purpose. On 20th a Captain from Cumberland Gap, who had lost an arm, called at the office to register his name in obedience to existing orders; today the Colonel & Adjutant of the 26th Georgia Regt., both wounded. The Speculators and Extortioners continue their nefarious practices and inflict more injury upon us than the Yankees themselves; our chief danger is that these blood-suckers may raise the price of food and indispensable articles to such a degree that the family of the soldier cannot live; how then can we keep our men in the army when their wives and little ones are perishing at home. The Georgia Legislature is now proposing various remedies — as a tax upon incomes to produce a fund for poor soldiers families, the seizure of manufactories to make clothes & shoes for the army &c. It is the great question of the day and must be settled.

Recently a soldier of the 50th Ga. Regt. was brought to the Barracks by his Captain & locked up as a deserter; it turned out that the poor fellow had left six little children at home, their mother had died, and failing to obtain a furlough, he proceeded, without leave, to his home and brought them to Savannah. This is but a type of many many such cases.

There has been no fighting for weeks, so the newspapers and demagogues are battling at home, discussing the propriety of this measure, denouncing this policy of the Government,
planning splendid campaigns on paper, and breeding distrust and dissension; the free press, free speech, the sharpened uncurbed intellect, what blessings, almost swelling into bitter curses, they are! It is hard to decide which is best, the carnage and patriotism of Manassas and Sharpsburg, or the quiet and corroding egotism of this peaceful pause.

A call was some time since made upon the "Exempts" of Savannah -- the speculators & men who have hired substitutes to pay their debt of patriotism and honor -- to enroll themselves for home defense; only some dozen have affixed their names to the list! I trust the General will remove these Gentry with the women and children when the tug of war comes! It is proper to add, however, that this class is composed chiefly of Yankee storekeepers and Jews of low order; the men who were born on the soil, and have the cause truly at heart are with few exceptions, in the field.

Nov. 22th. We are slowly adding to our forces here; six unattached companies (old ones however) were yesterday formed into the 22nd Georgia Battalion (heavy artillery.) Lt. Col. Clinch is about to increase his Battalion of six companies to a full cavalry Regt; Major Gordon is also ready to complete the 13th Ga. Battl. (Infantry, 3 cos.) to a Regiment. Wherever the War Department has authorized the increase of Corps in the field, in this Military District, by the reception of Conscripts as volunteers, the increase has been readily effected; while I advocate the Conscription Law as a necessary
measure at the time of its adoption, it is useless to
disguise the fact that it is odious to the people. It
has been submitted to in a cheerful spirit from a deep
sense of the purest patriotism; it will not be resisted
while this war lasts, but its operation grows harsher every
day, and necessarily offends the proud spirit of a free and
haughty people. Many cases of the most trying nature now
occur under its enforcement; men are suddenly and violently
taken from their business and their homes; families are
separated and broken up. Farmers who have come to visit
the town in their country wagons, with wife or child beside
them, are suddenly seized by the Enrolling Officer, and
hurried away, leaving their wagon in the streets. Under the
last law Enrolling Officers may be appointed for Regiments
and Companies, and these claim the right to impress men
liable to conscription; this claim has been recently enforced
in this City in the most arbitrary and cruel manner by company
officers detailed to enroll for their several commands. This
is doubtless a violation of the authority conferred, and the
war Department has been addressed on the subject. This
violent seizure of individuals by young thoughtless and
rash officers is perhaps as harsh an exercise of power as
the citizen could be subjected to. These things however
excite little pity or comment, as neither the soldier, who
has suffered or bled, nor his friends, sympathise with the
strong man who fails to defend his country.
Jan 20th 1863. The atrocities of our enemy increase daily; on 1st inst. Lincoln issued his emancipation proclamation, inviting our negroes to rise upon their masters; at Hilton Head a grand negro jubilee is held by the Yankee General, and Yankee women recount to 2000 negroes the horrors of the West India Insurrection & suggest a repetition of these enormities against us & our wives & children. Wherever the Abolitionists go they turn helpless families out of doors & burn their dwelling houses; destruction & desolation mark their course. Milroy in Western Virginia levies contributions & taxes upon those in his power, and threatens death & total destruction of property to all who fail to comply. When a Yankee vessel is fired upon on the Mississippi, the houses of the innocent people in the vicinity are burned in retaliation; for the destruction of rail-roads southern families are to be exiled from Memphis. Mrs. Fisher, the wife of Major Fisher of our army, tells us that before her mother left New Orleans, several Yankee Officers, with their wives, came to her house, demanded admission, and inspected it from top to bottom to see whether it would suit them as a residence. In Fredericksburg the abolitionists destroyed wantonly all they could lay their hands upon; in my Father in Law's once happy home not a door or window was left; the loved mansion was torn with shot and shell; the floors bloody, the plants in the Green-House bruised and gory, the books from the library torn to shreds and scattered over the house yard and stable. In the Yankee Congress Lovejoy and Thaddeus
Stevens, two leading men, declare the people of the South must be starved, exiled and exterminated; Stevens thinks this necessary, but not constitutional; Lovejoy declares it a constitutional duty. Vengeance is the Lord's; but we are men, with men's passions. Shall we not smite the sinner; shall we not swear our young Cannibals to eternal hatred!

Jan. 30th. On the 26th I rode out to Rose Dew Island to see the Battery just completed at that point. About 3 P. M. two Gun Boats came into the Ogeeche River, and from the peculiar appearance of one we concluded it was a turreted iron-clad, of the monitor class; we could see it distinctly through a glass. On the 27th at 7½ A. M. six of the Abolition vessels commenced to bombard the Battery & kept it up until nearly 1 P. M. One of these vessels proved to be a turreted iron-clad and threw fifteen inch shell; this is probably the very first actual engagement in which a gun of this calibre was ever used; several of these shell were brought up to Oglethorpe Barracks, and are tremendous projectiles. One struck the parapet fairly, penetrated but a few feet and rolled out to its outer base. None I believe exploded. Eleven inch shell were also thrown. Not a man or gun in our little battery was hurt by this severe cannonade. The men were cool, courageous and confident, and deserve much credit for repelling the first attack ever made by a turreted Gun Boat, with a gun of such calibre. The Battery fired slowly from its rifle 32 pdr. and 8 in. columbiad, and
occasionally from the 10 in. mortar. The 42 pd. Gun and carriage were thrown from the Chessis at the first fire; the iron clad was struck several times; finally an 8 in. shot struck the turret, and broke in pieces; the turret then ceased to revolve, the firing suddenly stopped, and the vessels drew off. The turret must have received a temporary injury; heavy hammering upon it was afterwards heard by the Pickets, and its conspicuous white colour has been concealed by a coat of dark paint. Up to day the engagement has not been renewed. Last night we supposed a fight was certain to-day; through the Signal Corps twelve transports and two Gun Boats were reported to have left Hilton Head, and nine vessels were in sight Genisis Point; the inference was that the Yankee Iron-clad would make a bold dash past the Battery & destroy the Rail Road Bridge; there was great excitement in consequence; I was up until 2 A. M.; Col. Clinstead with 500 men was ordered to Way's Station, also two howitzers from the Chatham Artillery. In addition two siege rifle pieces were ordered down, and men and horses for them; orders were given to sink the Nashville & Steam Jug. Columbus, if the enemy passed the Battery. To day however, all is quiet.

Feb. 3rd. On the 31st ult. the two iron-clad Boats, Palmetto State and Chicora, went out from Charleston, and attacked the blockading fleet of thirteen vessels at daylight; the Abolition Gun Boat Meridita was run into and sunk, another was sunk, the Quaker City set on fire and badly damaged, and several others crippled. Our Boats returned safely after this glorious triumph without even being struck; the whole
blockading fleet was dispersed; the Susquehanna & Canandaigua, two first class frigates, fled ignominiously without offering to aid their comrades. Two days before this exploit the Yankee Gun Boat Isaac Smith, eleven guns, was crippled by our Artillery along Stone River, and captured. On Sunday Feb. 1st, heavy firing was heard about half past seven A. M.; we soon learned that another formidable attack was being made upon Genesee Point Battery by the turretted iron-clad, one mortar boat, and three gun boats. At 10 A. M. as soon as it could be prepared, a special train started for Bay's Station. Capt. Stewart, Capt. McGrady, Chief Engineer officer, and myself were sent down by the General's permission. As the train was about to leave the depot word was brought that Major Gallie, the commander of the Post, had been killed, several men wounded, and that the fort could not resist the tremendous power of the iron-clad, then being close to it. We started with heavy hearts for the Battery; at every pause the loud explosions could be distinctly heard; we knew the fort held out. At Bay's Station we got rather more cheering accounts. Our mules were at once put in the wagon and we started at full speed for the Battery. When only some hundred yards from it a Courier shouted to us that the fight was still raging and four men killed. We reached the Battery just after the last gun had been fired; the mortar boat still lay in position but was silent; the iron-clad had withdrawn behind the point of woods out of sight. The Garrison looked
pale and tired, but firm and calm; the Battery was filled with broken shells, and exhibited every evidence of severe treatment. The blood and brains of poor Major Gallie, the only one killed, still covered the ground. He was first slightly wounded on the nose, and had just had his face washed and the blood and powder removed, when he was again struck and instantly killed; he was standing behind a 38 pdr. which was dismounted by a fifteen inch shot; a large fragment of the shell or trunnion plate struck him above the ear and cut off the whole top of the head, inflicting a ghastly and terrible wound as can be conceived. It was my first experience of the results of battle. Poor Major, he was a good and gallant men! Seven men were injured, none severely; a fifteen inch shell passed through a parapet twenty feet thick, and rolled over two men who were buried under the sand; they were badly bruised. The Garrison exhibited the noblest courage; they did not lose heart for one moment, though their leader had fallen, and they felt they were resisting an invulnerable enemy. After a large portion of the parapet in front of the 8 inch gun had been torn down the five Blues who manned the gun refused to be relieved and fought it to the last. After Major Gallie fell the fort remained under the immediate command of Capt. George Anderson, Capt. Geo. Nicoll commanding the Emmet Rifles being next officer in rank. The action lasted more than five hours, the iron-clad lying from 700 to 1000 yards from the fort; she was struck repeatedly but I question
whether she was injured; she drew off probably either for
the want of ammunition, or because she found the Battery
would not yield. My old Company, the Republican Blues, now
Co. C, 1st Regt. nobly sustained its ancient reputation. I
had three first Cousins, the three ranking officers, in the
right. We left the Battery about five, with Major Callies
remains; we reached the City about nine and took them to
his house. Yesterday I attended the funeral of this brave
and good man. God bless his children; be it our duty to
cherish his memory and follow his example if necessary for
our country’s good.

Feb. 13th. Since the attack upon Fort McAllister all has
remained quiet in this District; the gallant conduct of the
Garrison has been noticed in orders by Genls. Mercer &
Beauregard. The Montauk, Capt. Norden (formerly of the
Monitor), which it is now ascertained made the attack, lies
quietly in Ossabaw Sound. The Passaic, her consort, Capt.
Deyton, is supposed to be near the old Skidaway Battery.
Day before yesterday the Abolitionists had 78 vessels at
Fort Royal; 22 war vessels and 56 transports. Today the
report shows a diminution. One vessel was reported this
afternoon near Venus Point.

Feb. 16th. A Flag of Truce came from Fort Pulaski to-day
to bring to our lines one of the banished families from
St. Augustine.

It is cheering to see the spirit manifested by our
Georgians; Genl. Mercer recently called upon the Exempts of Savannah to organize and arm, and many have responded; those who refuse are chiefly extortioners and speculators, wedded to gain, and in most cases (thank God!) born beyond the limits of the Confederate States; but the patriotic exempts of Savannah have been outdone by men of the same class in Macon and Columbus, who, although not called upon, are nobly forming companies to come to our rescue; I saw to-day a letter from Columbus which stated that 400 exempts could be raised there, who would arm themselves, and come to our aid as soon as needed. Many volunteers (not conscripts) have recently joined the Regiments stationed here; and the two Regiments, called for by the State were soon filled, by volunteers, to the maximum, and two thousand applicants rejected. This noble spirit is all the more praiseworthy when contrasted with what has occurred elsewhere; we know that a large Abolition force has been concentrated at Hilton Head, and that Carolina soil will soon be red with blood; and yet the Regiments of Carolina Reserves, whose time is just up, insist upon their discharge, and refuse all entreaties to remain longer with their faces to the foe!

Feb. 25th. I rode this morning to the new and handsome work at Causton's Bluff. Several companies of "exempts" have been raised in this City, and Genls. Beauregard and Mercer have received many tenders of aid from the up-country. The spirit shown by the people of Georgia in this emergency is
cheering and noble. I went with Genl. Mercer tonight to hear the narrative of David, Mr. Solomon Cohen's negro man, who was sent to Hilton Head, as a spy, in November last, and has just returned; he could not get beyond Beaufort, but saw much and brings very important information. The Yankee Troops are in bad spirits and expect to be defeated; the negroes are badly treated and many very discontented; the Yankee soldiers indulge in the most shameful license with the negro women; and such a picture of Yankee morals as David draws can hardly be conceived. The Montauk was badly injured in the last fight at Genisis Point; the Yankee Officers spoke of our gunnery as splendid, and said 58 out of 73 shots struck the vessel. I listened to David's simple tale with intense interest; few have experienced such a chapter in this war as that related by this honest, faithful negro slave.

Feb. 27th. A boats' crew of Yankees came up Wilmington Narrows to-day, and reconnoitred Fort Bartow, the new work at Causton's Bluff; they came upon the Causeway leading from Oatlands Island to the Narrows, about one mile and a quarter from the Fort; one of the Yankees climbed a tree and could be distinctly seen. We have every reason to believe that Causton's Bluff will be the main point of attack.

Feb. 28th. When I awoke this morning the booming of heavy guns was the first sound that greeted my ears; about half past nine the firing ceased. At dinner time a Courier from
Capt. McAllister's Co. arrived, bringing a brief report from Capt. Geo. Anderson the Commander of Fort McAllister; the Nashville had unfortunately got aground a short distance above the Fort, and in this position attracted the attention of the Yankees; the Montauk at once approached within 800 yards of the Battery, and, regardless of its heavy fire, directed all her missiles against the ill-fated steamer. The Nashville was soon in flames, and about half past nine A. M. blew up with a tremendous explosion that shook every house in the city. It is not yet known whether the enemy's shell fired her, or her own crew. The Yankees cheered lustily when she blew up; they will boast more over the event than we did over the battle of Fredericksburg. The three wooden gun boats, and the mortar boat, poured a heavy fire into the Battery, but none of its brave garrison were injured. The Montauk was often struck, but her iron armor seems proof against serious injury. She was 800 yards from the Battery and three quarters of a mile from the Nashville. Dispatches to the Signal Corps from Hilton Head show that the enemy were in motion this morning; the steamers were going seaward, and full of troops. We must therefore warn our troops to-night to be on the alert; the Couriers must ride notwithstanding the rain now falling; movements must be made, orders issued, and motion introduced everywhere! Good bye to sleep and ease!

March 2nd. No attack yesterday or today as anticipated.
Yesterday there were 3 steam frigates, 13 gun boats, and 103 transports reported at Hilton Head; also 12 steamers in Mud River. Four vessels near Fort Pulaski, several in Skidaway River and Warsaw Sound, six in Doboy Sound, and last evening 15 gun boats, 3 iron-clad turreted vessels, 2 mortar boats, one tender, and many barges, appeared in Ossabaw Sound; there they still lie to-day, preparing to attack either Fort McAllister or Beaulieu. Our effective force is 10,089; but of these hardly 6,500 are available for the defence of this City.

March 5th. On the 3rd inst. three iron-clad turreted gun boats approached within one thousand yards of Fort McAllister and opened a heavy fire with their 11 and 15 inch guns; aided by two mortar boats, lying two miles below the Battery, these formidable marine monsters poured an iron hail upon our brave garrison from 8.40 A.M. until 4.20 P.M. The carriage of the 9 in gun was destroyed early in the action by a shot, and the gun rendered useless; with this exception no material damage was done to the Battery, and only two men were slightly wounded. God's hand seemed stretched over the brave men of this little battery, now rendered famous. Mounting only three effective guns (1 ten & 1 eight inch, and 1.42 pdr) it contended for over seven hours, and drove off, the most formidable attacking force brought against a single Battery during this war, or perhaps any war. The Garrison exhibited the most perfect courage and self-possession; they kept in fine spirits, though firing upon vessels they
felt they could not harm; the gunners aimed with wonderful precision, striking the iron-clads repeatedly, but apparently without effect; after an unsuccessful shot from the latter, the men would cry out from the Battery "bad shot", "more to the right" &c. &c. The moral influence of this heroic defence will do the whole Confederacy good. The iron-clads, after withdrawing, went some miles down the river, where they still remain. All the night of the 3rd the mortar Boats shelled the Battery, but did no damage; the 8 inch was remounted on a new carriage, and the Battery repaired by the Sharp Shooters, notwithstanding the mortar shells; and by morning was in better condition than ever. Capt. R. Martin, Comdg. Light Battery was in charge of the mortar; he dropped one shell on the deck of the iron-clad, but it broke in pieces and apparently did no damage. Before the Gun Boats took their positions, Lieut. Elarby and six men, of Capt. McAllister's Co. of Mounted Rifles, crossed the river and lay in the open marsh within gun shot of the iron-clads; they say a great many shot struck the turret of the loading boat, but, as far as they could judge, did no damage. These brave men think they wounded an officer on the Montauk, at whom they fired four shots from their rifles; this officer emerged from a trap-door in the deck, behind the turret; he dropped back very suddenly when fired on. The Iron-clads and mortar boats remained quiet on the 4th, and yesterday, to our great surprise, they steamed sea-wards, and are now out of sight.
March 10th. All is quiet in this District, and an immediate attack not anticipated; the Militia Officers, ordered here by Gov. Brown, were sent home by Genl. Mercer; some five hundred had reported, and the rest were on their way. About thirty Volunteer Companies of Exempts have announced themselves formed under Genl. Mercer's call, and new offers are received daily. On the 7th our aggregate force was 16761, the largest army Genl. Mercer has ever commanded, or of which I have been Adjutant. Since then Genl. Clingman's N. C. Brigade (5300) has returned to S. C.

April 12th. On Tuesday 7th at 3 P. M. eight Monitors and the Ironsides attacked Fort Sumter, and the outer Batteries. At half past five firing ceased. Five men were wounded in Fort Sumter one 8 in. Gun burst, and one 10 in. dismounted; the Fort not materially injured; some forty shot struck the east face, and I have heard, a few ugly holes were made. On Monis Island several men were killed by the explosion of an ammunition chest. The Monitors were struck repeatedly, and several injured; the Keokuck sunk, from her injuries, next morning. The Ironsides was seriously damaged. The result has been most cheering. To-day at 3 P. M. all the Monitors recrossed the bar & steamed south; they have been quietly lying at anchor since the 7th. The Ironsides passed over a great torpedo, to have been fired by electricity; but it failed at the critical moment. One of our transport steamers accidently struck a torpedo in Ashley River and
immediately sunk. On 10th inst. Private Michael Keiner, 1st Battl. Ga. Sharp Shooters, was shot on south common, in accordance with sentence of Court Martial; detachments from all the Regiments were present.

April 18th. Nannie left yesterday to visit her Parents in Richmond Va.; I feel her absence very sadly.

All the Yankee vessels appear to be collecting again at Fort Royal; the last report from the Signal Corps (giving the observations of a look-out at Foot Point) shows 105 at that point, including four iron-clads (monitors). Of the nine iron-clads that attacked Fort Sumter, the Keokuk was sunk, the Ironsides is still outside the bar, four monitors are at Fort Royal, and the other three doubtless at Edisto, or some intermediate point. After so much boasting and such enormous preparation, the Abolitionists can hardly consent to relinquish the attack upon Charleston, without another effort; a final retreat, after a two hours trial, would cover them with disgrace. We are anxious to hear news from Yankeedom, and to learn their further intentions; they may essay their fortunes against Savannah. There can be little doubt that the enemy was seriously crippled in their attack on 7th inst. more so than they will ever acknowledge. Fort Sumter was more damaged than is generally known; the Yankees fired about eighty projectiles, and some forty struck the Fort; we fired about twenty five hundred. The immense fifteen and eleven inch shot made ugly holes in the brick walls; some passed entirely through, and one dismounted a gun on the opposite side. Since
the fight, the case-mate guns have been removed, and the case-mates filled up with sand; the Fort is very greatly strengthened in consequence.

April 23rd. Six of the Seven Monitors, which returned to Fort Royal, after the repulse at Charleston, appear to have taken position in Edisto Inlet. This is surmised to be only a diversion, to prevent us from sending Troops elsewhere, or to enable them to re-inforce Foster in North Caro. We are now well satisfied that the Yankee Iron-Clads were very roughly handled; the Tribune Correspondent acknowledges that they "met a bitter repulse," and that the "Monitors disappointed even the most confident." Officers who have visited the wreck of the Keokuck declare that one of our steel bolts, from the Brook's Gun, passed through both sides of the Turret, which is six and a quarter inches thick. The Yankees assert that we owe our success to English aid; whereas the Brook's Gun is the invention of a Virginian, and the steel pointed bolts were all made in the Confederate States. We used some seventy guns against the Iron Clad, while we had one hundred and fifty that bore upon the channel; they did not begin to test our strength, and some think it would have been best to entice them if possible, into the harbor; one hundred and fifty boats and vessels, as one item, were fitted up with torpedoes to run into them. The confidence of the Yankees as to their success was sublime; one prominent naval officer in Washington offered a wager of 5000 that the
Yankees had Charleston, and could find no takers; another declared the officers of the Iron Clads were either in Charleston or in Heaven. Boastfulness is a vice of Yankee character; all their defeats have failed to teach them modesty.

Our Artillerists fixed with great precision, as they have done in all our contests with Gun Boats this year. Our Gunners are now well trained, are experienced and confident; last year they were ignorant and distrustful. The contest between our Artillery and Gun Boats this year, are wonderful contrasts to those of last year, and prove, in a striking manner, the influence and value of drill and experience. We can point proudly to the late engagements at Fort McAllister, Fort Hudson, Fort Pemberton, Vicksburg, and Charleston. While our Army has become so expert and so daring in the use of heavy guns, even on the water, our Navy exhibits no enterprise whatever; the capture of the Harriet Lane at Galveston, of the Boats off Sabine Pass, of the Queen of the West, Indiana, Diana on the Western Rivers, and of the Fort near Mobile, all by Army men, affords splendid examples of energy and daring; on the other hand the old naval officers, now provided with some formidable vessels, lie quietly in our harbors and rivers, and make no effort to injure the foe. This is doubtless due to their education under the old system; they are brave men, but they have been accustomed to men of war, to Jack Tars, and to a certain equipment and routine which they now look for in vain; they waste their time in vain.
regrets for what they cannot procure, are overwhelmed with the conviction that they are powerless to accomplish any good, and advance against the enemy more than half whipped. The Army officer, who knows nothing of the power and resources of the old United States Navy, feels for its vessels a sovereign contempt, and rushes to his fate with entire confidence; the result is that Fate generally eventuates in his favor. With the Fingal, a splendid Iron- clad at their command, the naval officers at this point have not made the slightest demonstration against the enemy, though his wooden Gun Boats prowl about our River and Inlets, actually inviting attack.

The great question of the present -- that which chiefly absorbs the attention of the Cowper -- is the scarcity of food; there is plenty of food in the country, but the want of transportation, and the depreciation of the currency, sadly restrict its distribution. In some portions of the Country our noble soldiers get only one quarter of a pound of bacon and no beef; they live chiefly on corn meal. All of our people subsist on the plainest food, and many of the poor experience great want; every effort is being made to remedy this unfortunate condition of things, and we hope for an improvement as soon as the wheat crop is harvested, and the cattle can get the spring grass. Our patriotic and brave army cheerfully bear all their privations; the only cause for apprehension is that the soldiers will be demoralized by the sufferings of their families at home;
nearly all the desertion and absence without leave can be traced to this source. I should despair of our cause and country if it were to be judged alone by those who stay at home; but I trust the good God will save us for the sake of our pure, generous women, and of the half million noble men now serving in our Armies. A mad fever of speculation — a rabid thirst for wealth — appears to have seized those who are not in the service; a fearful, gambling, corrupt spirit is abroad which is sufficient to call down the denunciations of the Judge of the Universe; all "make haste to be rich," and they are not innocent. These speculators have done, and are doing, us incalculable harm; they are depreciating our currency, and starving the poor. In Richmond, our Capital, my Father in law writes that a small piece of soup meat is worth four dollars, and a pair of chickens ten; an officer, who has just returned, tells me corn is there worth $15 per bushel, and that a Field Officer's pay for one month will support him but a week at a Richmond Hotel. Think of a suit of fatigue uniform clothes costing over $200 in Savannah, and of a Barrel of Whiskey selling for $1600. This rapid depreciation of our currency is due of course, to its immense volume; the scrofulous speculators, composed chiefly of German Jews, of Aliens, of Yankees, and of our own people who have bought substitutes, or are above the age for military service, constantly add to the volume of the currency; they invest almost entirely in real estate, in precious stones, and in such articles as, in changing hands,
augment this swollen stream, and prevent the absorption of
the paper; the Block-ade runners, too, ruin the currency;
they purchase gold, silver and bank-notes at an enormous
premium, to be used beyond the limits of our Govn; and their
profits are so great that numbers are enticed into this
harmful enterprise; in Charleston it is said many officers
are interested in running the blockade, and become so absorbed
in the accumulation of wealth as to neglect their proper
duties and to lose their military spirit. The Jews, who
nearly all claim foreign protection, and thus avoid service,
are the worst people we have among us; their exemption from
military duty, their natural avarice, and their want of
principle in this contest, render them peculiarly obnoxious;
they are all growing rich, while the brave soldier gets
poorer and his family starve; they are buying up much of the
real estate everywhere. A sale of diamonds and jewelry,
being held here, has attracted hundreds of these harpies;
and they crowd around like a flock of greedy vultures, to
the utter disgust of all in whose hearts public virtue is
not dead. War is a sad Corrupter! God grant that the in-
fection of the prevailing avarice may not reach our women
or our army. It were better to return to a state of nature!
better the days of the stern Roman, or the ignorant but
patriotic Spartan, than these latter times of so-called
enlightenment, if the virus of sordid avarice is to penetrate
the land!
May 4th. A dispatch from Genl. Lee announces "a great victory" near Fredericksburg yesterday; Genl. Jackson (Stonewall) was seriously, and Genls. Heath and A. P. Hill slightly wounded; we await further news very eagerly. The 23th, 29th, & 30th Ga. Regts; the 4th Louisiana Battl, 1st Battl, Ga. Sharp Shooters, & Martin's Battery, leave to-morrow, under command of Brig. Genl. W. H. T. Walker, for Jackson Miss. Our force is now small. The Yankee Cavalry are reported within 25 miles of Rome Ga.; they have recently made a very bold raid into Mississippi, reaching a point 120 miles from Mobile; they have also made a bold dash into Virginia, tearing up the Central R. R. and the Fredericksburg Road near Ashland; they are, by last report, only eight miles from Richmond. The Yankees are meeting with some success in this line by reason of the miserable condition of our Cavalry horses; the supply of forage has been so scant that the latter are nearly starved, and are very inefficient just at present; in a Brigade of Cavalry with 3000 horses, only nine were reported fit for duty.

May 5th. The glorious news from Virginia is fully confirmed though no particulars have been received; on Saturday and Sunday the Yankees were driven from all their positions near Chancellorsville (ten miles above Fredericksburg) with heavy loss; on Monday Sedgwick's Corps was driven across the River at Fredericksburg, and now the Yankees are all north of the Rappahannock. The battle though general appears not
to have been decisive. The Yankee Cavalry, under Stoneman, who damaged the Rail Road near Richmond, escaped to the Peninsula, with the loss of about forty prisoners. In Mississippi the Raiders actually passed through the State, and after some loss, reached Baton Rouge. The column, from north Alabama, that attempted to destroy the Ga. State Road, and the Govt works at Rome, was followed by Forrest, and captured near the Georgia line; this feat is the most brilliant of the war; Forrest followed the Yankees several hundred miles, attacked them with between five and seven hundred jaded men, and captured the whole party between sixteen and eighteen hundred strong. The brave people of upper Georgia turned out with their squirrel rifles and shot guns, and materially aided the accomplishment of this gratifying result; the advance Guard of the Yankees approached Rome, but turned back on seeing the small but brave army of citizens extemporized for the occasion. In no other Confederate State have the people rallied so promptly and bravely to resist invasion; the fact is gratifying to every Georgian.

May 9th. The recent battle near Fredericksburg resulted in a great and glorious victory for our arms; not many details are yet received, but sufficient to thrill the hearts of our people with pride and gratitude to God. The enemy took Marye's Hill on Sunday; they captured some hundred prisoners and fourteen cannon; we retook the Hill
Monday. In all we are said to have captured 10,000 prisoners and 53 cannon. Our loss is estimated at 7000 killed and wounded; the Yankee loss very heavy. The heroic, Stonewall Jackson was wounded accidentally by our own men while reconnoitering at night; he was pierced through the right hand, and his left arm was so shattered that amputation was necessary; even the temporary loss of this great man's services is a national misfortune. Some of the Yankees, in the recent raid near Richmond, are said to have actually approached within two miles of the City, penetrating the outer line of entrenchments; the whole affair was so sudden and unexpected, every one was completely surprised; the alarm bells were rung in Richmond, the public offices were closed, and the Clerks of Departments hastily armed. Some even feared that the Yankees would ride into Richmond, burn the Tredegar Works, and capture the President and Congress; of course the danger of this was very remote; only some two hundred Yankees approached so near the City, and they were off, before the people got over their first surprise. The three recent raids in Virginia, Alabama and Mississippi, are perhaps the boldest performances of the Yankees during the war; they resulted however in nothing; no damage of any consequence was inflicted.

The Yankees are now perpetrating more wanton injuries than ever; numerous little towns and villages have been destroyed by fire. Jacksonville Fla. was set on fire, and the Catholic Church gutted and then burned; they boast that "General Starvation" will conquer us! they therefore destroy
farm implements and the growing crops. On April 26th, I went to Kilkenny, Mr. Rodgers place in Bryan Co. and spent a few days with Major E. C. Anderson at his camp; the fine house was within close range of any gun boat that chose to approach, and was pierced in several places with shells hurled against it in pure malignity. The blockader in St. Catherine's Sound was plainly visible, about five miles distant. On 28th we rode twenty miles to the Canoushee River, and back, on a fishing excursion.

A Flag of Truce was recently sent to Brig Genl. W. S. Walker in S. C. conducted by a negro officer, formerly a slave near Pocotaligo; since then all Communication with the abolitionists by flag of Truce from that point has been refused.

The weather for the past four days has been chilly and winter clothes necessary.

May 14th. The greatest calamity of the war has fallen upon our brave, suffering people; Genl. Jackson is no more! He died of his wounds three days after the battle, and leaves a nation to mourn his loss. He was a great and good man -- a Christian soldier -- a true type of the Southern gentlemen. God is wise! let us not complain! With His help, we will all emulate the dead hero, and accomplish the independence for which he died. Our cause is too great to depend upon the life of any one man. Deo Vindice is our national motto, and we will be free or perish utterly! We leave the result with Providence.
I went down the River this afternoon, on the Beauregard, under our newly adopted national flag; the battle flag for the union, on a pure white ground field. It is the first specimen given to the breeze at this point, and all pronounce it a beautiful and noble banner. The day has been exceedingly close and sultry, with wind from the west.

The 47th Ga. Regt. has been ordered to Mississippi, and the two detached Cos. in this District, B. & F. leave with it. Our aggregate force in this District is now only 2800; of this number 6400 are present for duty, and not more than 4500 could be made available for the defence of the City. We hope the Yankees will not discover our weakness.

The Yankees are not a military people; they possess little soldierly pride or honor; this is evidenced by the grand receptions they are now giving to their two years troops, who are literally marching home to the sound of our guns, because their time is up. It is shown in the feature in their Conscription Bill, which permits any one to purchase exemption from service for $300; the troops, whose time was about to expire, were placed in front -- in the post of honor -- at Fredericksburg, because their spirit was questioned. The Raiders captured by Forrest, near Rome Ga., and others taken in N. C. declared that a discharge from service was promised them as a reward for success. The Yankee Army is composed almost entirely of their lowest classes and foreigners; they are getting many recruits from Ireland and Germany; they are canvassing all Europe for aid. The
Yankees themselves feel the war very little their better
classes take no part in it, but remain at home, and fatten
on its patronage. With many the war is therefore a source
of profit and to that extent popular; the whole north is
said to abound with fictitious prosperity.

May 24. We have been kept in painful suspense for the last
week by gloomy reports from Vicksburg; it is reported this
morning that Vicksburg is closely invested by Grants immense
army, but that three assaults upon the heroic city have been
repulsed. We only know that Grant crossed his whole army
below Grand Gulf, compelled our small force under Bowen to
abandon the five gun battery at that point, and, after defeat
at Fort Gibson, to cross the Big Black River. Grant then
advanced to Jackson, driving our small force before him, took
and sacked the town, and then marched against Genl. Pemberton
at the Big Black Bridge; after a bloody engagement we were
compelled to fall back before great odds. It appears that
we were again driven back in another engagement near the
Big Black Bridge and that all our troops, except the re-
inforcements arriving daily, are in Vicksburg. In this
series of engagements our loss must have been heavy, and,
alas!, we have no men to spare. God grant that we may not
lose Vicksburg! it is a vital point! At all events the re-
sult must be decisive; either the enemy or we must be so
beaten that perceptible results will follow. The recent
battles near Fredericksburg cannot be re-enacted; there,
although we gained a great victory, we can see no results;
all is in status quo, and our people cannot help asking, has the victory at all repaid us for the loss of many gallant spirits, now not to be replaced. It is a simple proposition that if these undecided battles continue we, in the end, must be overcome; the north quadruples us in population, and its superiority in naval power, and warlike resources can hardly be estimated; indecisive engagements, therefore, continued indefinitely, must result in our exhaustion and ruin. Notwithstanding the intense patriotism of the whole people, the feeling, I am sorry to say, is very general that we are merely submitting to a process of extermination, and everyone asks how long will our army and Govt last under this system. We must either make the war offensive, or gain some very decided successes, or on the other hand bear our cruel and almost inevitable fate with as cheerful and heroic a temper as possible. I am sure we can never be subdued; our proud people will never bend the supplicant knee to our vile foe; but we may be gradually destroyed, and our dear country become the prey and possession of the spoiler. God, in His mercy, save us from such a fate! The Almighty, in His inscrutable wisdom, has sometimes permitted a brave people to be conquered; we, as a people, are not unworthy of His wrath, for extortion and every meanness have been largely practised; but our army is noble, generous and heroic beyond example, our women among the purest and best of history, and many of our men, not in the service, are patriotic and honorable; our cause is the cause of truth and religion, against the tyranny of the mob,
and the infidelity of the fanatic; under these circumstances I am convinced of our final success; we will never be subdued; I do not believe a just God will allow our extirpation! Our sufferings may long continue, our beloved land may be made a desert, our best and bravest may fall, but our noble and holy cause will not perish; in the end we shall triumph gloriously! Under the present system of conducting the war, the patriotism of our people is subjected to the severest tests; all the privation and suffering of the contest falls upon us. Hundreds of our citizens have been driven from their homes; thousands have lost all they possessed; prices are so high, that it is difficult to live in tolerable comfort; our soldiers receive the most pitiful letters from their wives and families; detailing heart rending cases of destitution and trial; this is what renders them discontented, often causes desertion, and produces a general longing for peace. Officers have told me that their men often yearned for the opportunity to settle the war in one great field; they are timid for their families, not for their own lives, and while determined to fight it out pray for the Battle that will end the conflict. This is very natural; it is because our men love home and family so dearly that they are so irresistible in the battle. We might relieve the terrible pressure upon our people by making the war offensive; I believe we could throw an army into Pennsylvania, into Kentucky and perhaps into Ohio; this would bring the war home to the northern people, and teach them its hardships.
No nation has ever acted so entirely upon the defensive as our own; the consequence is that many brilliant victories have been almost entirely fruitless or results. The purely defensive system cannot be maintained much longer; our necessities will force us to alter it. We had better change the Capital to some inaccessible point, or abandon it and the whole south for the time, rather than submit to a slow but sure extermination on our own soil.

We have committed some grave errors in this war, of which we now eat the bitter fruits. The first and greatest was in failing to concentrate our whole available force, and marching into northern territory, after the first Battle of Manassas. Another was in neglecting to take a bold stand in Maryland and Kentucky; the secret of revolution is audacity; while we delayed and temporized, the north planted its forces boldly in these two states, and carried them over to her interests; the failure to fortify the strip of land between the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, because thereby we would have violated Kentucky neutrality, lost us the control of these great arteries which reach the very heart of our Confederacy, and which have enabled the enemy almost to wrest from us Tennessee. Another great error was the failure to advance boldly upon the enemy on the close of the first day at Shiloh; it is now confessed that we would have destroyed Grant's army; we delayed, and our fatigued army had to fight Buell as well as Grant. Another error was in attacking McClellan's demoralized army in its strong position at
Malvern Hill; we lost largely and were too much weakened to pursue; whereas we might have destroyed this army after it had abandoned Malvern Hill. Another grievous error was Bragg's failure to destroy Buell in north Alabama; he failed to strike his enemy while in his power, and advanced into Kentucky with a hostile army behind him. Another error was Genl. Lee's failure to push the Yankee army after the first battle of Fredericksburg; the Yankee masses were huddled in the town within range of our artillery, but Genl. Lee suffered them to recross unmolested rather than destroy the town. Napoleon would have sacrificed one hundred towns!

May 31st. Our good cause labors under many disadvantages; we are beset with Yankee spies, and many northern and foreign born men are traitors in our midst; a Yankee deserter, who came over to us and begged for work, was put in a Government shoe shop in Columbus; he soon set fire to and burned down some buildings filled with public property; this man -- Ephraim Pettigale by name -- then came to Savannah and enlisted in Capt Chisholm's Co. in which he still was when arrested. Just after the unsuccessful attack upon Fort Sumter Genl. Beauregard planned an expedition against the Monitors anchored off the harbor; small boats were fitted up with formidable torpedoes, and, at a preconcerted signal, determined crews were to row them simultaneously against the iron-clads, from the experiments tried there can be no doubt that success would have crowned our efforts; but alas! just
at the critical moment an Englishman, on one of the boats, deserted to the enemy, revealed the whole plan, and nearly insured the capture of the expedition. In securing a navy we have met with the greatest obstacles; when New Orleans was taken the formidable Mississippi, the Louisiana, and other Gun Boats were destroyed by our own hands; many boats on the Mississippi and elsewhere shared the same fate. The noble Virginia was destroyed and then the Arkansas. Now we hear that the embryo Gun Boats, and the Navy Yard at Yazoo City have just been destroyed by us; and news has just come that the new Gun Boat Chattahoochee (iron-clad it is believed) on that River has blown up, through accident, and all of her crew are killed and wounded. We will not, however, despair. We will go on in our good work with new hope and zeal! For the last ten days we have been kept in the most painful suspense in reference to the fate of Vicksburg; we can learn nothing definite. The Yankee dispatches claim that they have captured the heroic city; they declare they have taken over 8000 prisoners and 74 cannon, and say their victories "are momentous." As they speak in this way, however, after every battle, and recently claimed that they had taken Richmond, we will remain sanguine until we hear further from our own side. Our people, in these exciting times, are wonderfully calm, they appear neither to be depressed by defeat nor exalted by success. I confess, however, that my mind has been much exercised about Vicksburg; it has been the chief subject of my thoughts and anxieties for two weeks. Our
troops behaved badly when ordered to the West; they were taken by surprise, and were unwilling to leave without bidding their families farewell; the consequence was that hundreds straggled along the journey and went home; one Co. of the 47th Regt. lost twenty men, the 46th Georgia lost many men, the cars passing through the counties from which the Regt. comes. One S. Carolina Regt. it is said, went home in a body, and, after remaining some days, proceeded on its journey; these men, however, have no intention of deserting the Service; they have not been properly impressed with the danger of delays, and their subordinate officers set them a bad example, and maintain little authority over them. These stragglers are now passing through this City, to rejoin their Regiments, singly and in squads.

It is said that when the Yankees recently took Jackson Miss. the cellars and garrets of the vile creatures, who were at home, were filled with bread-stuffs and goods of all kinds; they were being hoarded for enhanced prices. The very Yankees cursed these sordid Jews and Extortioners, as they rifled their houses. The true sons of Mississippi -- the gallant children of the soil -- are in the army fighting the battles of their country; but alas! in their places at home are a vile crew of speculators and cowards -- chiefly foreign born, thank God! who are plundering their wives and children, aiding the ruin of the land and disgracing the name and attributes of man. It is said that of 800 of these men in Jackson, who enrolled their names as home-guards
under the appeal of Gov. Pettus, only 15 were forthcoming in the hour of trial. No one who does not live in these days can appreciate the character of some men whom a good God permits to cumber the ground! They would willingly sacrifice country, liberty and honor for a few paltry dollars; they are there, here, everywhere, with their exemptions, and their foreign papers, intent only on gain! gain! gain!

The enemy continues to devastate our land, to ruin and torment our people, in every conceivable way; every paper recounts, some said, with its recitals of burning and outrage. It makes me sick at heart to read of the broad-cast ruin in the over-run districts of our suffering land of murdered and imprisoned Fathers and sons; of helpless wives and daughters despoiled, outraged, insulted, banished; of slaves released from their allegiance and taught to plunder and destroy and to arm for murder and rapine; of crops laid waste; of teeming barns destroyed; of happy, abounding homes the centres of refinement and love and joy, burned to the ground! Oh poor, unhappy country, when will a better day dawn -- when will your scared and mangled bosom again heave with freedom and glow with life and beauty! May God in His mercy, who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb, pour the oil of his consolation into these bleeding wounds! The enemy, by the influence of fear, and by the free use of ardent spirits, and by every devilish art, has induced a good many of our men, who were prisoners in their hands, to swear allegiance to the Abolition Government Vallandingham, who
was tried by Court Martial, and banished from his state, has arrived within our lines; after much wordy thunder the Yankee people acquiesce quietly in this great outrage upon their darling "free speech," and permit Lincoln to tie another coil of his despotic power around their pliant necks; they are slaves at heart, and know not what true liberty means.

June 7th. Some anxiety is still felt about the fate of Vicksburg; the latest official intelligence is to the 29th ult. Heavy firing was heard in the direction of the City at Jackson on the 5th inst. For ten days not a word was received and all felt very anxious; at last Yankee accounts acknowledged that they had been repulsed in every attack. The western men, who compose the attacking army, are far better soldiers than those of the middle and eastern states; their agricultural life, their familiarity with the horse and gun, give them a marked superiority over the mechanics and manufacturers of New England; that we can, with equal numbers, and other things equal always defeat the latter, is now a forgone conclusion at the South.

The Yankees still boast of certain and great success at Vicksburg; they are always found "vaunting aloud but racked with deep despair." They are sure of the capture of Vicksburg! They have been equally sure of Richmond on the eve of each advance; so they were sure of the fall of Charleston -- nothing could prevent it; but, when their Monitors were driven off, after a very feeble effort,
they began to recant; the 80000 men they declared were
under Genl. Hunter's command dwindled down to a "lamentably
small force." Their prophets are the antipodes of Cassandra.

Red tape abounds in some of our Departments; Capt.
King, Asst. Adjt. Genl with Brig. Genl. Gist, stated that
while in North Carolina Lt. Col. McHenry of the 4th Louisiana
Battl. was extremely anxious to get a detached Co. then in
Fort Jackson near this City; as the enemy was approaching
in force and men sadly needed, he applied for the company;
the letter was forwarded to Brig. Genl. Thomas Jordan,
Chief of Staff of this Department; he returned it, without
action, to Col. McHenry with this endorsement; "reapy.
returned; this letter should have been endorsed on the first
fold." I think Russell mentions the case of the English
vessel that reached the Crimea loaded with clothes for the
British soldiers; the men were sickening and dying for the
want of clothes, but the vessel went away unloaded because
the prescribed and proper officer to receive her was not
present.

The influence of good arms upon the fate of battles
may be inferred from the fact that Genl. Hill is said to
have abandoned the siege of Washington N. C. recently because
his two Whitworth field pieces burst; these guns had a longer
range than any the Yankees possessed & could have shelled
them out of the town. Some idea may thus be formed of their
advantages over us in the matter of improved weapons alone.

June 11th 1863. The enemy have recently committed various
depredations upon our coast, which is so extensive that the protection of every point is impossible. A party of armed runaway negroes, under Montgomery, the Kansas Ruffian, last week utterly destroyed five or six fine plantations on the Combahee River S. C.; the handsome dwellings, barns our-buildings and all were wantonly consumed by fire; nearly one thousand (1000) negro slaves were stolen and carried to Hilton Head, to be armed against their masters. A few days afterwards the beautiful little village of Bluffton, on May River, was destroyed by fire; houses of rich and poor, white and black, all perished; fire was kindled under the very altar of the Methodist Church, but it expired, and the House of God was saved. The abolitionists are now threatening Brunswick Ga. and the Altamaha River; the 18th Ga. Battl. (Guards) and Maxwell's Battery, were sent down day before yesterday. Night before last the Yankees are supposed to have captured a boat picket, consisting of five men from the 63rd Regt., near the mouth of St. Augustine Creek. A Regiment of free negroes from Massachusetts (the 54th) has just reached Hilton Head; our coast will doubtless be much fretted this Summer.

A few days since Capt. T. S. Hopkins, with six men, of Battalion Ga. Cavalry made a the 24th/connaissance of Ossabaw Island; after Secreting their boat they advanced towards the north end of the Island; discovering no signs of the enemy at two plantations, they became careless; on reaching the third, McDonald's, a Sergeant went to the dwelling house and opened the front
door; he saw a Yankee officer sitting down cleaning a pistol, who said come in, without looking up; the soldier, with great presence of mind, replied "in a minute Sir," and descended the steps to communicate with his party. In the mean while Capt. H. imprudently ordered his men to seize two negro women who were crossing the yard; these screamed, and instantly, from every building, Yankee soldiers rushed out; the few Confederates would have been captured, had not the Yankees been so completely astounded; their confusion was increased by the order from one of our men, in a loud tone, to fall back & call up the reserves; in the midst of it our men beat a hasty retreat and escaped from the island. One company of Yankee Artillery was ascertained to be at the plantation.

Great events in war often hang on trifles; our indifference about minor matters has doubtless cost us much blood and treasure. It is said that in Maryland Genl. D.H. Hill imprudently dropped Genl. Lee's order prescribing the movements of our army; this was picked up, taken to McClellan, and gave him all the information he desired; he acted accordingly; his whole force was precipitated upon D. H. Hill's single Division at Boonsboro Gap; he forced us to retreat, and, after the bloody battle of Sharpsburg, to leave Maryland. Our ignorance of the country roads, it is said, saved McClellan in the Chickahominy Swamp; the same cause prevented a second battle at Corinth which was intended by Genl. Beauregard; from the same cause, it is declared, Hooker secured a safe retreat from Chancellorsville. We are
very careless; we permit prisoners to walk through our cities, over our roads, into our works, with their eyes open. A Yankee correspondent, recently captured near Vicksburg, writes, for the Yankee papers, a full account of the works as he saw them. Constant communication goes on by Flag of Truce, and our newspapers recklessly mention what the enemy should never hear. Secretiveness is a prime military virtue. Genl. Rice, in a recent speech, declared that whatever success he had obtained arose from the fact that he never told his secrets.

June 17th 1863. The Confederate States Steamer Atlanta (Fingal) was captured in Warsaw Sound, at 7 o'clock this morning, by two Yankee Monitor Gun Boats; the Atlanta steamed boldly down to meet the enemy, and everyone anticipated her brilliant triumph. The sad termination of her career has produced a general gloom in this City. Lieut. Comdg. Kennard of the Isendiga witnessed the meeting at the distance of two and a half miles; he reports that the Atlanta ran aground; she was soon again afloat, and advanced boldly towards the monitors; a second time she appeared to be aground, and did not alter her position. She fired only four shots, when the Yankees were seen to approach and board her, she not contesting their advance; the inference is that her crew mutinied and delivered her up. The Atlanta was a fine ironclad, mounting four splendid Brooke Guns. She is a great loss to us and a great gain to the enemy; they will obtain the pattern of the celebrated Brooke Gun,
which will easily pierce eight inches of iron, and is more formidable than any of their heavy ordnance; they will also secure the torpedo placed at her prow, which is a recent invention, and from the use of which we anticipated great results. Our efforts to secure a navy meet with many obstacles, but our perseverance will finally triumph.

The Yankees acknowledge that, in the recent assault upon Port Hudson, they placed a Regiment of Louisiana negroes in front, and that it lost six out of nine hundred; this is a characteristic specimen of Yankee philanthropy. The poor negroes are to be deluded and forced away from their owners, and then made to serve as a shield for Yankee breasts. It is monstrous, under any circumstances, to arm this inferior race against the superior; but what must impartial history say of the violent abduction of contented negro slaves, the arming of them, and their compulsory service against their own masters? Hunter has conscribed (so the Yankee papers say) all the able bodied negroes at Hilton Head, and is forcing to plunder and ravage our coast. If Lincoln were really fighting this war for the freedom of the negro, he would be compelled to force them to aid him, they have nowhere armed voluntarily; but his cant is apparent to the world; he does not profess to free any but the slaves of rebel masters; the "loyal citizen" holds as many slaves as he desires, and Lincoln recognized and enforces his claim.

Darien was destroyed last week by armed negroes, led by white men; they boasted that they would devastate our
whole coast; this is the system of warfare conducted by the virtuous Puritans of New England, who consider themselves the salt of the earth. Their fiendish and devilish conduct is only surpassed by the hypocrisy of their professions.

They are Pharaohs of the first water!

Savannah, July 10th 1863. Today our fortunes look as gloomy as they have at any time since this war began; a week ago the prospect was bright in the extreme. Owing to the weakness of Genl. Bragg's army he has been obliged to fall behind the Tennessee River, making Bridgeport his Head Quarters; the whole of western and middle Tennessee has thus been surrendered to the devastations and cruelties of the enemy; so discouraging was this necessary retrograde movement that many of the Kentucky and Tennessee Troops deserted and returned to their homes. On the 8th we received Genl. Johnston's official report of the capitulation of Vicksburg, with all its stores, guns and garrison, on the 4th inst. Today we learn that Genl. Lee's army has fallen back from Gettysburg to Hagerstown Md., that his losses have been very heavy, and that the Yankee papers proclaim his utter defeat; we learn also that the Potomac is swollen from a freshet and unfordable. In addition to all this sad news, we learn that Genl. Holmes has been repulsed by the enemy at Helena Ark.; that Grant with his large and victorious army is rapidly advancing upon our small force at Jackson, Miss., and that the Abolitionists, taking advantage of the reduction of our force near Charleston are to-day attacking Morris Island.
in force; we sent twenty companies last night, and get urgent appeals for more help from Genl. Beauregard this morning. The prospect is sad, but not disheartening. We have fallen upon evil times before, and have emerged strong and buoyant. Our cause is too holy to be in serious peril; and God, who has sustained us, will not withdraw His protection, if we are constant, brave and true. For my own part I feel less depressed than after earlier misfortunes; I have seen the Confederacy rebound, with new life, from many a heavy blow, and I feel assured it will so happen again.

The direst misfortunes have been soon forgotten and their effects swallowed up in new victories. I shall never despair of the Republic; our great and heroic people can never be made to bend the suppliant knee to Abolition tyranny. Puritans may devastate and ruin, but they can never rule the South!

Vicksburg appears to have succumbed to starvation after a siege of nearly two months; the Mississippi, however, is not yet opened. Of Genl. Lee's movements we know nothing save through Yankee sources, and they cannot be trusted. I shall not believe that his army is defeated until we learn the fact from our own officers. We all await further intelligence with anxiety. Of late the most wonderful accounts have been telegraphed to the press; the very day before Vicksburg fell it was asserted that the provisions were abundant; only three days ago the telegraph informed us that on Sunday 5th Genl. Lee gained a great victory at
Gettysburg, rout in the Yankees and capturing 40000 prisoners; the details even were given. The sudden demolition of the high hopes these dispatches gave birth to, is productive of general depression. We were also informed that Kenner's Station on the N. Orleans R. R. and the City itself had been recaptured by McGrader; we have no confirmation of all this wonderful news; and the public concludes that the telegraph and news-papers are not to be trusted.

The crew of the Atlanta have been paroled and returned; 30 odd (foreigners) took the oath of allegiance and entered the Yankee service. From the crew and the northern accounts we learn that the Atlanta was not materially injured; she was not penetrated; but the force of the 15 inch shot splintered the pine lining of her roof and wounded all those standing near. Her grounding was the cause of her loss; all think she would have defeated the Yankee Monitor had she kept afloat. Palmetto, or some material that will not splinter, should be used as the inner lining of the roof of our Boats now building.

July 18th. Severe fighting occurred at Morris Island on the 10th & 11th; under the fire of heavy batteries on Folly Island of numerous gun boats, including four Monitors, and of fifteen barges armed with boat howitzers, a heavy column of Abolitionists was landed on the south point of Morris Island; our small force of infantry was driven back with
a loss of three hundred, and the outer battery abandoned. Our troops fell back to Battery Wagner, in the centre of the Island, and have repelled several land assaults and the attacking iron-clads. We have sent thirty (30) companies -- our whole available force -- from this city; a portion were engaged yesterday; Capt. Werner of the 1st Vol. Regt. was killed, and Lieut. Fred. Tupper of the 18th Ca. Battl. wounded; several privates were killed. We await the result anxiously, praying God for the best. Our force is very small; the enemy strong and perfectly provided. We have nothing definite from Gen. Lee's army; wounded officers say we defeated the enemy at Gettysburg, but that it was necessary to fall back to Hagerstown -- twenty miles -- to secure our trains -- to obtain a supply of ammunition.

A battle has commenced at Jackson Miss. The fall of Vicksburg has not depressed our people at all; the garrison of 17000 men will soon be in the field; we are some 30000 ahead of the enemy in prisoners, and their exchange will be effected at once; we can arm them from the 50000 arms we captured at Chancellorsville. The mere loss of 17000 men is mortifying but not fatal; the enemy lost 12000 at Harper's Ferry, but did not appear to feel it. Dupont surrendered 20000 Frenchmen in Spain; St Cyr lost Dresden with 30000, and immediately afterwards Rapp lost Dantzig with 15000. We have no particulars of the capitulation of Vicksburg. The importance of the capture will depend upon the use Grant makes of it. We might redeem the loss by prompt
audacity; if Fort Hudson could be re-provisioned and its
garrison strengthened from the west bank of the river; if
the force that took Brashear City & Berwick's Bay, could
capture Fort Jackson below New Orleans; or if some bold
man would take the iron-clads at Mobile and enter the
Mississippi, the loss of Vicksburg would be obliterated.
We want some man of audacious genius in this crisis -- a
Scipio, a Napoleon, or a leader like Montrose, who with the
feeblest means wrested Scotland, for a time, from the
Covenanters, simply by his rapidity, daring and audacity.
Nothing venture nothing win is very applicable to our
condition now. We have lost splendid opportunities by
delay; the Virginia might have destroyed half the Yankee
navy before the Monitor was afloat; the Atlanta might have
retaken Fort Royal before an Iron-clad left the north; and
the Mobile iron-clads could now re-take the Mississippi by
prompt audacity; but they will delay until the Yankees have
preceded them with stronger boats, better armed! Festina lente
seems our naval maxim.

July 21st. Port Hudson surrendered on the 9th; the gallant
garrison of 5000 men, after repelling Bank's Army of 30000,
for two months, yielded to famine when the last mule had
been consumed! Great misfortunes have befallen us in rapid
succession; Bragg retreated; Vicksburg fell; Lee retreated;
the enemy took south Morris Island; then Fort Hudson fell;
all within the space of ten days! Our hopes were never so
high, and they were suddenly and unexpectedly dashed to the
ground; our people were disappointed and saddened, but not
discouraged. No timid cry found utterance; the press, the
people, the army, the Government were never more defiant,
and all are resolved to do or die. If we must perish we
will leave behind us a proud and glorious name! We have
few particulars of the surrender of Vicksburg and Fort
Hudson; we only know that starvation and not the Abolitionists
overcame them. As soon as their garrisons are exchanged,
about 20,000 veterans will be added to our active force.
The Mississippi is now "open," but the north-western Yankees
will not find it a commercial highway, so long as a cannon,
or rifle can reach its banks.

The Battles at Gettysburg are now understood; on July
1st, a small part of our army drove two Army Corps through
Gettysburg with heavy loss. On the 2nd we drove the enemy
from some of his positions on the hills to others more
formidable. On the 3rd, we attacked him in his almost im-
pregnable positions, taking some of them and many guns, but
finding them untenable because commanded by Batteries at
more elevated and inaccessible points on the mountains. It
was another Malvern Hill! On the 4th we resumed our original
positions, and waited in line of battle for the enemy; he with-
drew towards Frederick City. On the 5th Genl. Lee retired
towards Hagerstown to save his prisoners (between six and
ten thousand) and wounded, and to re-open communication.
The enemy attempted no pursuit, but finding that we were
falling back, resumed possession of the battle field, took
such of our wounded as could not be removed and claimed a
great and decisive victory. While it is evident we cannot
claim a victory in these bloody battles, it is no less so
that the enemy has no reason to boast. He was driven from
point to point, up the mountain side, until his positions
became impregnable, and he left there before we began our
retrograde movement. Yet to read the northern papers one
would suppose our army had been annihilated; they claim "acres
of wagons," over twelve thousand prisoners (it is believed
they took between two and three thousand) and 118 guns (it is
declared on our part they did not take a piece). The mendacious
Yankee press has surpassed itself! We doubtless lost very
heavily in these fierce battles; our men never charged
positions so unassailable, under so tremendous a fire. Their
courage excelled even its former achievements, but from
twelve to fifteen thousand of our ragged heroes were put hors
du combat. Our Army has now re-crossed the Potomac, and is
safe in Virginia; it is believed Genl. Lee was ordered back
in consequence of the threatening position of affairs in
the West. Nothing was accomplished by the invasion, that
is visible, except the capture of valuable supplies. Our
Army could have destroyed many towns, and millions of property
in Pennsylvania, had it followed the example set by Abolition
invaders; but it practised great forbearance, respected all
private property, and doubtless encouraged the Abolitionists
to perpetrate renewed outrages upon a people who refuse to
revenge themselves.
Savage struggles have occurred near Charleston. The enemy keeps up a constant bombardment of Fort Wagner, with their impenetrable iron-clads. They have made two attempts to carry the Battery by assault, the first was repelled with heavy loss to them. On Saturday last (18th) about dark, a desperate assault was made upon the Battery, after a terrific bombardment lasting all day. The Yankees advanced in two columns of over two thousand men each; only about seven hundred of our wearied men resisted their attempt. They were driven back with great slaughter, leaving about one thousand dead and wounded on the ground. The negro troops (54th Mass. Regt.) were placed in front, and their Colonel fell dead on our parapet. Our garrison consisted of two North Carolina Regts. a few South Caro. Cos. and two Cos. of the 63rd Georgia. One North Caro. Regt. behaved badly, many of the men refusing to leave the bomb proof; the other troops, under command of Brig Genl. Taliaferro, behaved like Spartans. Fifteen hundred men had been all day crowded in a bomb-proof intended for five hundred; the air became suffocating, so foul a candle would not burn, and fifty odd men fainted in this terrible retreat; and yet it was almost certain death to leave it, for shell were falling in and around the Battery at the rate of twenty-five per minute. Two Cos. of the 63rd Ga. and some Carolina Regulars were at the guns all day during this fearful hail; four detachments were killed and wounded in succession at one gun. A Lieutenant of the Regulars was stunned by a shell; he burst into tears when, upon recovering
consciousness, the Surgeon would not consent to his return to the gun; one of the men expressing some apprehension, was ordered by this heroic officer to "go back and die at his post"; he at once replied, with the spirit of a true soldier, "I will die at it Sir," and resumed his perilous position. Many Yankee Officers were killed and some captured; about two hundred prisoners were taken, including several negroes. Col. H. H. Anderson, who visited the Fort early Sunday morning, tells me he never imagined so awful a spectacle; hundreds of dead, whites and negroes, were mutilated by grape shot; men were writhing with awful wounds. The ditch was literally choked up with dead bodies and it was possible to walk upon them for fifty yards without touching ground. One poor creature a yankee, had had his fore-head blown away, and his whole brain was exposed; he still lived, and in his physical and mental blindness crawled upon hands and knees, like a beast, moaning and throwing sand over his body, face and into his scull. Oh that the fanatics, whose bloody dreams and distempered minds, produced this cruel war could look upon the ruin they have caused! Would not their eye-balls be seared with such horrid scenes! Col. Shaw, of the Massachusetts negro Regt. was buried in a pit and eleven negroes placed above him. The bombardment still continues, but we hope our brave men can hold the Fort.

July 26th. No further assault has been made on Battery Wagner, but a constant rain of shot and shell is poured upon the work. Some casualties occur every day. The Yankees
have erected two Batteries on Morris Island; they have also prepared several lines of abattis, and have pushed their sharpshooters within seven hundred yards of Battery Wagner; a soldier cannot raise his head above the parapet without being struck. We are erecting Batteries on James Island to bear upon the positions occupied by the enemy. It is impossible to foretell the final result; every advantage is with the enemy; they have invulnerable vessels, and better, and far more abundant, ordnance. Without any inconvenience to themselves, they can keep up the bombardment indefinitely. They acknowledge a loss of 1500 in the last assault on Battery Wagner. Our prospects are gloomier than at any previous period, and yet there are no signs of discouragement; our army has returned to Virginia, after a fruitless invasion, in which we must have lost—temporarily at least—fifteen thousand men. Vicksburg and Port Hudson have fallen, and Grants army has destroyed Jackson, the Capital of Mississippi, and the country between Brandon and Vicksburg; railroads, bridges, plantations, all have perished. The people of Mississippi are represented to be greatly discouraged, and stunned into apathy by their great losses; the Mississippi soldiers (from dissatisfaction with their leaders, or from a desire to visit and care for their families) have deserted in large numbers, and our small army under Johnson, greatly weakened, is in the centre of the State unable to oppose the enemy. All of middle Tennessee and North Ala. is again in the hands of the vandals; destructive Raids are being prepared
to carry devastation and ruin into the heart of Alabama and Georgia. Raiders have penetrated to the lines of road near Wytheville Va. and Goldsboro N. C. and inflicted great injury. The gallant Morgan, who penetrated Indiana some time since, and passed through that state and Southern Ohio, is represented by the northern papers as hemmed in and unable to escape; 2500 of his men are declared to have been captured. At all points of the great theatre of war we have met with reverses. The preponderating force of the enemy (22 millions of whites to our 5 millions) is beginning to tell against our courage and fortitude; and while we are thus weak, Lincoln has ordered the conscription of a half million more men. This is a truthful picture of our position to-day; and yet it should not discourage; it is well calculated to sadden with its grim perspective of continued death and ruin; but true patriotism and courage rise superior to the blows of misfortune, and make redoubled exertions for liberty and independence. The South is passing through a terrible ordeal; all of her citizens -- men, women and children -- are suffering privation, want and woe the world has seldom experienced. But thank God our brave race is as staunch as ever! God designs to eradicate from our hearts all love of lucre and worldly idols; when we are purged sufficiently, when we are humbled in our own sight, and appreciate the emptiness of worldly pomp alone to secure and maintain our liberties, then the great Disposer of events will stop this flow of blood, and crown our young nation with independence!
Aug. 2nd. The Yankee papers assert that the brave Morgan, and nearly all his followers, have been captured in Ohio. We fear this is too true. Morgan entered Kentucky with some 3000 men; after several fights in that State, he crossed the Ohio River near Louisville, passed all through southern Indiana, crossed into Ohio ten miles from Cincinnati, and passed entirely through southern Ohio to the river near Wheeling; here he found the river too high to be forded, and his gallant band was hemmed in, and we fear nearly all captured, by overwhelming numbers. The northern papers declare that 50000 men were called out to intercept him. He has inflicted immense damage upon bridges, railroads, steam-boats, mills &c., and has executed a "Raid" in comparison with which all the Federal attempts are insignificant. His passage through two large and populous States will be one of the great feats of this war. We still, however, have some hope that Morgan himself may escape; the accounts of his discomfiture are all northern and their studied mendacity is well known.

Genl. Meade recently claimed that he had captured a Brigade of our troops at Falling Waters; Genl. Lee officially denies the truth of this claim. In the recent raid on Wytheville Va. the Yankees killed two of our men; they assert that they killed seventy five; one of our writers says that of the 4000 men and six guns the Yankees declare Morgan carried into Indiana he has counted a loss, from Yankee reports, of 31600 men and 23 pieces of cannon. Our enemy has erected lying into a system; we can never trust the accounts he publishes.
for the deception of his own people; they are fed upon constant victories and doubtless think the Confederacy annihilated.

Two wonderful illustrations of the application of science to war have just occurred; the Yankee iron-clad Gun Boat DeKalb, mounting thirteen guns, has been sunk in the Yazoo River by one of our torpedoes; and by means of a torpedo, placed under the rails, a Yankee train has been blown up on the Nashville and Chattanooga R. R. These torpedoes can be made very valuable to a people defending their own soil. The Cairo, a fine Yankee iron-clad, was destroyed by one of our torpedoes in the Yazoo many months ago. May the invention prosper!

The Yankees, after the fall of Vicksburg, followed our army as far as Brandon; they were compelled, by the heat and absence of water, to return. This is an important fact and shows the great difficulty of invading our country, except by the aid of navigable rivers.

The Yankees boast loudly that the Mississippi is now open to trade. I hope very soon to see companies organized which will dispel this illusion. Small bodies of partizans, with horse artillery, or with mountain howitzers on mules, provided with plenty of incendiary shell, will soon render it dangerous for any trading boat to run the gauntlet. If by this means we can destroy the value of the Mississippi as a commercial highway, the capture of Vicksburg and Fort Hudson will prove no serious disadvantage. The enemy must garrison that these points & to extent weaken his army; and the possession
of the River does not cut the Confederacy in two, as the 
Yankees assert, for the two parts have long been practically 
self-supporting; arms and munitions for the western half can 
be obtained through Mexico and the ports of Texas; one section 
has never aided the other with troops during the war, except 
when Van Dorn's and Price's men were moved to the East bank 
of the River after the battle of Corinth.

Aug. 8th. Yesterday and to-day have been the hottest days 
of the Summer. The atmosphere has been intensely close, but 
dry, and not so debilitating as some of the humid weather in 
July. All of August thus far has been dry and very hot. July 
was hot with cloudy skies and heavy rain, with thunder & 
lightening, almost daily. City still healthy. Morgen, will 
all but some three hundred of a force of less than twenty 
five hundred has been captured in Ohio, only a few miles 
from the River; but for the rise in the latter he would have 
escaped; the Gun Boats -- that have secured so many victories 
for the Yankees, prevented a crossing. His success was 
wonderful, for he passed through two great and populous 
States. His capture at this time is a serious loss to us.

Under the influence of this and our previous reverses, 
many timid property holders and cowards are beginning to 
hibit their true colors, and to insinuate the necessity 
for reconstruction or submission; money is their God and 
they worship it in the face of the nation. Many things are 
said calculated to dishearten; for instance Mississippi is 
cowed, ready to give up, and will fight no more; Cruickshank
is elected to Congress in Alabama as an avowed reconstructionist; a
baptist preacher is openly preaching re-construction from his
pulpit in middle Georgia many others are ready to advocate
and vote for this doctrine; Hopkins, who is running for
Congress and who favors peace on any terms, will get two
hundred votes in his District; many soldiers are deserting,
and their wives counselling others to do likewise. Some of
these facts are doubtless true, but others are false, and
all exaggerated. We should not be disturbed by these notes
of alarm; they proceed not from the patriotic men in the field,
but from selfish and timid individuals at home, who have
risked nothing in this grand struggle, and think only of them-
selves; besides we hear of these exceptional cases, while the
thousands of earnest patriots make no sound. I cannot despair
of our holy cause; I believe we will repair our reverses and
stand erect as ever. When the St. Johns River in Florida
was abandoned to the enemy, when Fernandina, Jacksonville
and other places were given up, I heard that the Floridians
were ready to submit that despair had seized the people, and
that prominent men had declared openly that if the Confederate
Govnt. would not protect them they would go back to Lincoln.
I remember how deeply these things grieved and annoyed me;
and yet look at Florida today; she has sent more men to the
field then she has voters, and stands a shining example of
fervid zeal. A better spirit will soon penetrate the
despondent; the firm must be firmer than ever!

There are certain measures that I wish the Govnt. would
adopt; they would add greatly to our power. It should conscribe sufficient free negroes or slaves to supply the places of white teamsters, cooks, nurses &c; it should organize a pioneer corps of several thousand negroes to attend our armies in the field and throw up fortifications; this war has proved that the Yankees cannot wrest fortifications from Confederate Troops; at Fort Hudson, with very ordinary works to aid them, five thousand of our brave men repelled at least twenty-five thousand Yankees for two months, and only yielded at last to starvation. Our armies are weakened sadly and our men are being destroyed; we must economize their lives.

We should thoroughly fortify Atlanta Augusta, Macon, Columbus and other important interior towns; we could then establish safe depots of provisions, and our army would have places of security to fall back upon; we know that if provisioned, the Yankees cannot wrest well fortified positions from us. They would expend their strength in vain against our works. Our whole able-bodied population should be thoroughly organized and trained; the power of Government should enforce regular system and drill; we could then repel raids with our resident population, and send our whole regular force to the field. Congress should stop blockade running except by the Govnt. It should be made penal to trade Yankee green-backs, and the barter of gold for Confederate notes should be suppressed by heavy penalties. If our Government had the energy and manliness to do all these things, I believe in a few months
Aug. 11th. Yesterday and to-day have been intensely hot; it is difficult to say which has been the closer and more uncomfortable. On the 9th, the thermometer reached 96° in some places. The grass is being parched and the streets turning to fine dust under the clear, brazen skies that have marked this month. We need rain sadly.

The fourth of July was a lucky day for the Yankees; on that day Vicksburg capitulated. Genl. Lee began his retreat from Pennsylvania. Genl. Holmes was repulsed in an attack upon Helena Ark., and Morgan was repulsed in an attack upon Green River Bridge Ky. The Yankee press has made the most of it. For a month military operations have been almost suspended; both parties are recuperating after violent efforts. At Charleston the siege of Fort Wagner progresses slowly; it has now held out a month. The Yankees are busy locating their batteries, and I fear the reduction of the Fort is only a question of time; it mounts only three efficient guns, while the enemy can bring a hundred to bear upon it. If it Falls, Sumter must be taken or destroyed. When the southern portion of Morris Island was captured, every advantage remained with the enemy; this should have been held at every cost. Its imperfect fortification and feeble defense excited great surprise. The people of Charleston, I understand, abuse Genls. Beauregard and Ripley without stint; they say -- I know not with what truth -- that the
former has been occupied writing a book and the latter
speculating in blockade stocks. Certain it is that some
one is terribly responsible for the condition of the defences
on southern Morris Island. The Island is the key to Charleston.
The country is greatly pained to hear the truth about
Vicksburg; this vital point though constantly threatened, and
virtually under siege for a year, was provided with only
seven days provisions when invested, and around a portion of the
City not a handful of dirt was thrown up until after the
battle of Baker's Creek. God save us from any more northern
Generals! The Lovels, Pembertons and Hipleys of to-day have
proved like the Gates and Conways of the first revolution.
The people are recovering from the late heavy blows; a better
temper prevails.

Genl. Evans' Brigade has arrived here from Mississippi,
and five hundred of Genl. Cobb's Brigade are expected.

Under the authority of the Sec. of War negroes are now
being impressed to complete the defences of Savannah.

Aug. 24th. On 15th we had rain with north east wind; on
19th north east storm, with raw atmosphere; since then the
weather has been warm, but not oppressive, with rain nearly
every day. Yesterday and to day a strong, delightful south
east breeze has prevailed.

I have recently read a good deal in the afternoons and
at night; have finished, for the second time. Botta's
History of the American Revolution; also Guizot's History of
civilization, and Scott's Heart of Midlothian, besides essays and fragments.

The siege of Morris Island still continues with unabated fury; on 17th the immense two and three hundred pdr. Parrot guns (zirled) of the enemy opened on Fort Sumter, at the distance of three, and two and five eights, miles; even at this enormous distance the brick work offers no resistance to the Parrot bolts and the Fort is now a mass of ruins, still bravely held, but valueless as a fortification. It and Morris Island must soon be abandoned. On Friday night, at the hour of two o'clock, when the women of Charleston were sleeping in fancied security, an immense Parrot gun, planted on Morris Island, fully five miles off, was pointed towards the City and a shell sent shrieking among its slumbering inhabitants; again and again was this repeated until many had fallen in Charleston. As morning dawned the frighted women and children began to fly in every direction to escape the barbarity of the foe. Their love of blood was not rewarded; no one was injured. The range and weight of metal of these guns surprise even those who have appreciated the improvements in gunnery recently inaugurated. Who dreamed two years ago that a City could be shelled at the distance of five miles! Charleston, however, will not succumb to a few shell; the Abolitionists will be foiled; they may destroy, but they will not capture, "the nest of the rebellion."
August 23th. At twelve minutes before twelve this morning my wife gave birth to a fine little boy. May God bless us in these terrible, uncertain days, and spare my little son to be an honor to his parents, his country, and his God.

Aug. 31st 1863. The weather is raw and rather chilly; City healthy. Fort Sumter is now a heap of ruins, but is still held by our men. The Yankees are now within two hundred yards of Battery Wagner; their zig-zags have been extended with great industry and skill. They have a fine Engineer Corps, and are more industrious than we; they dig and delve earnestly and lose no time. We have no immediate fears for Charleston itself.

The Yankee papers are very jubilant over their prospects of early success; they have been intoxicated by recent victories. Never did the venal Yankee press display greater zeal, adroitness and disregard for truth; they make their ignorant masses believe our government is crumbling to pieces; that our men are deserting, our people starving and our cause lost; they lie systematically and persistently, and, by constant iteration secure their ends. Their account of the recent fight on James Island was a perfect specimen of deliberate falsification; no item was correct. They now go so far as to forge articles purporting to come from our papers, and even whole papers themselves. English papers copied an article, as from the Richmond Enquirer, advocating the selling of poor Irish into slavery. All these atrocious deceptions help to prejudice the
world against us; but can this system of deceit long succeed? we trow not.

The Yankees possess a potential weapon for converting lukewarm Southerners into warm Lincolnites, and they use it without stint; this is the granting of commercial privileges and trade monopolies to those they wish to purchase. In the Cities and Sections overrun by them, all their creatures are invested with this ready means of acquiring wealth; in this day of money getting, nothing could give them more influence. It is the love of money that is sapping our virtue and making traitors among us. Oh the Seara sun fames, how it curses us to-day!

The Enemy derive many advantages from northern-born men in our midst; a large proportion of them are hostile, and ready to take the oath of allegiance as soon as an opportunity is presented. These men become guides, spies, and informers. Our negroes too are valuable to the invaders as guides; in no single instance (and this speaks volumes!) have they voluntarily armed against their masters; but, for money, they will give all the information sought. Slaves are a source of great weakness to an invaded country.

The German Jews in our midst are a most noxious element; they swarm in every town and village, escape service as Aliens, own no allegiance to our Govt. think only of accumulating wealth, and are always ready to pursue any course that will save it. These are the "good union men," who take the oath of allegiance to our invaders. These men are all
speculators and extortioners, blockade-runners, and brokers; they have done more to depreciate our currency than all the rest of the community. It is an anomaly to see safely embosomed among us a people more hurtful than our Yankee foes. This war has taught me more respect for the quondam doctrines of Americanism; Citizenship is too easily procured, and Aliens too carelessly admitted; they are now reaping all the benefits of the war, while our own people are actually bearing all the burdens.

Sept. 9th. On Sunday night, 7th, Morris Island was successfully evacuated by our troops; after a siege of sixty days, and a bombardment unexampled in the annals of war, Batteries Wagner and Gregg have fallen into the hands of the enemy. In the meantime heavy Batteries have been erected on Sullivan's and James Islands, and Charleston is as defensible as ever. The enemy may shell the City from Morris Island, or their iron-clads may penetrate the harbor and inflict much injury, but I still believe that Charleston will be held against them. Last night an attempt was made to capture the ruins of Fort Sumter by fifty barge loads of armed men. The assault was repulsed by our brave garrison, and heavy loss inflicted upon the Abolitionists; we captured over one hundred prisoners.

Sept. 14th. The news to night is anything but cheering; Bragg's whole army has fallen back into north western Georgia, and all of East Tennessee, including Chattanooga, is in the hands of the enemy. A defeat suffered by our army now opens
upper Georgia to his ravages. Why East Tennessee, the strongest and most defensible portion of the Confederacy, was abandoned it is impossible to say; if our army could not make a stand there it becomes difficult to discover a defensible position. The mountain Gaps, the coal fields, the nitre caves, and a most important rail road connection were all abandoned without a struggle; a weak garrison of two thousand men left at Cumberland Gap, surrendered to Burnside -- so he claims on the 9th. We now have no foothold in the great State of Tennessee. If our move was strategic the advantages anticipated must be immense -- our losses have been enormous. It is feared that Bragg has been completely out-generated by the wily Rosenocranz; the latter threatened to turn Bragg's left flank and to seize Rome and the State Road; Bragg at once fell back from Chattanooga, which the enemy immediately occupied; it is now feared that Rosenocranz has gained all he wishes for the present, and will simply fortify the strategic points before he again advances. Chattanooga, Cumberland Gap, and other strong positions once fortified, our experience at Corinth, Helena, and elsewhere tells us we will not again possess them. There is only one hope; will the Government send a Corps from Genl. Lee's army through south west Virginia into East Tenn., and enclose the Yankees between it and the army of Genl. Bragg? This might peril Richmond; it would save a state! We need dash, daring, audacity; we cannot longer sit down to untie this Gordian knot; we must cut it with the sword and that promptly and
boldly. Longstreet's Corps of Genl. Lee's army is now hastening to re-inforce Bragg; God grant they may be in time. Why were they not sent weeks ago? The enemy proclaimed the very movements they are now accomplishing! The Government is in fault for these tardy movements; too late too late is the epitaph upon their failures. Delay has lost us Tennessee; delay lost us Vicksburg; had the army sent to Genl. Johnston arrived a few weeks earlier, that stronghold might still be ours. I confess that these fast recurring reverses -- these accumulating instances of official dereliction and incapacity -- fill my heart with anguish. I never despair of our final triumph, but to a patriot and freeman, contemplating the terrible results of subjugation, these frequent blows are painful indeed. Few have lived in a time like this when the dreadful spectacle of ruin and slavery, of national and individual extinction, is presented to a whole people; no wonder the din of battle echoes in millions of throbbing hearts, and that defeat crushes thousands far away from the bloody field. I love my country and my liberty, and every blow at them wounds me to the soul; I have spent many a miserable hour contemplating the misfortunes of the land, and invoking the Divine favor upon our suffering people and cause. But we must prevail; so just, so noble a cause cannot perish. I look for better days. Heaven speed them!

In this Military Department matters are quiet. Since the attempt to capture Fort Sumter's ruins, the enemy have made no further demonstrations near Charleston; they are
busily working however on Morris Island; their industry is remarkable; it is the prime cause of their success. They are mounting guns to attack our Batteries on Sullivans and James Islands. It is doubtful what their next move will be—whether to attempt a lodgment upon Sullivan's Island, or James Island, or a bold run into the harbor with their iron-clads. An immense Bleakely Gun, throwing a bolt weighing six hundred odd pounds, burst in Charleston at the first fire; this monster was imported from England on the Steamer Gibralta, and was the chief reliance if the enemy succeeded in entering the harbor; under such shadows does our good cause struggle on.

Amid the prevailing avarice and sordidness of the time, it is gratifying to see that some have not bent the knee to Mammon; many of our planters are full of earnest patriotism; those of Troup County have taken a noble stand, and promise to give, and sell at nominal prices, all their produce to the Government; Mr. Myrick, a noble planter near Millcreek, sold his wheat to the Govt. at $17000 less than speculators offered him. He is one of many. On the other hand many refuse either to give, or sell to the Govt. at the prices fixed by the Commissioners under the Impressment Act; last week a small military Guard was furnished to the Commissary of Subsistence to enable him to secure the produce of certain niggardly planters; the Guard worked like a charm; barn door locks and bolts fell before one officer and six men.
The social changes that progress with the revolution are many and wonderful; the rich are ruined, the poor grow rich; some of the best property in this City and Charleston has been purchased by German Jews, who were lately the poorest of the poor. Anyone who is willing to buy, keep, and re-sell at a profit can now grow rich; the recipe is simple -- the practice successful, vide the Israelites.