

of war, and that which, in the hands of
citizens, has the dwellings over their
heads, and subjects them to momentary
crutches, involving the life of families
with man, in his demerit moods, can in-
flict upon women. Gen. Hampton might
have gone farther. There is a point, which
seems to be uncontroverted, but which has
been long since defined by the laws of war
among civilized people—all who desire
to assert the proprieties and decencies—
even in a progress of war, violence and in-
vasion. All such peoples have declared, not
only that the property and dwellings of
non-combatants and private citizens should
be spared, but they denounce, as a crime,
the destruction of those buildings of a
State, public structures, when are not em-
ployed absolutely for the manufacture and
keeping of arms and the munitions of war.
Public archives, the monuments of peace,
trophies of art and history, models of in-
vention and art—all these are held sacred
among civilized nations, however angry, and
deep the degree of hate between the con-
flicting peoples. Thus, what a howl was
sent up to the skies, not merely in America,
but over the whole world, when the British,
in the war of 1812, destroyed the public
works, buildings, archives and the civic
treasures at Washington. This city found
its proper echoes in the British Parliamen-
tary House, where many noble statesmen, includ-
ing Sir James Mackintosh and, we believe,
the present Lord John Russell, denounced
the crime as manifold and shocking in the
eyes of civilization. So, again, the spoliation
of the works of art, by Napoleon, in
Italy, brought down upon the imperial rob-
ber the denunciation of all Europe, and the
first proceeding of the allied sovereigns,
when in possession of Paris, was to wrest
these spoils from the possession of France
and restore them to their original owners.
But the example and authority of civilized
and human States and peoples have but

little weight with man, when he is the
prize of a few more acres of land than he
now has, and when he will not be sold or
sold to a stranger, victor or brutal, who has
conducted them to slavery in their design.
They practice the Rob Roy plan,
"That they shall take who have the power,
And they shall shove us if we will."

Man's Law, God's law, the laws of nature
and humanity, such as the simplest and
least educated people acknowledge, perhaps
more through instinct than thought, are
scorned by a race whose morals never yet
have been able to make more than a mo-
mentary resistance to their three great pas-
sions—vanity, cupidity and lust.

Since writing the above paragraph, we
have been able to my curls hands upon au-
thorities, both British and American, which
more than confirm our views. But we con-
tinue our story, with quoting the
authority of Sir James Mackintosh, (*clerum
et venerabile nomen*) to whom we have re-
ferred above. Our first extract may be
found in Wrennan. We quote from the
speech of Sir James, made in Parliamen-
tary House on the occasion. "In this speech, he says:
*The late destruction of the houses of Go-
vernment at Washington was another act
which came necessarily into view. In the
wars of modern Europe, no example of the
kind, even among nations the most hostile
to each other, could be traced. In the
course of ten years past, the capitals of the
principal powers of the European continent
had been conquered, and occupied alterna-
tely by the victorious armies of each
other, and no instance of such wanton and
unjustifiable destruction had been seen.
They must go back to distant and barba-
rous ages to find a parallel, etc. etc.*
He then, he describes the acts of "uncharitable
measures" and in this journal, declares
*that the destruction of the houses of Go-
vernment at Washington was another act
which came necessarily into view. In the
wars of modern Europe, no example of the
kind, even among nations the most hostile
to each other, could be traced.*

Harvard, Mt. Vernon, Mass.,
1863, Feb. 21, 1863.
Lieut. Gen. Wm. H. Hampton, Commanding
Gen. Forces U. S. A.

General: It is respectfully remem-
bered that on the 21st of Feb. 1863, you
captured and detained "D" with all his
prisoners. One instance of a lie being told
seven men near Chesterville, and another of
twenty near a ravine eighty rods from the
main road, about three miles from Feaster-
ville. I have ordered a similar number of
prisoners in our hands to be disposed of in
like manner.

I hold about 1,000 prisoners, captured
in various ways, and can stand it as long as
you, but I don't think these murders are
concerned with your knowledge, and would
suggest that you give notice to the people at
large that every life taken by them simply
results in the death of one of your Con-
federates.

Of course you cannot question my right
to range over this country—it is a war right
of its history. The manner of exercising
it varies with circumstances, and the
civil authorities will supply my requisitions,
I will to bid all foraging. But I find no
civil authorities who can be said to call
for foraging provisions, and therefore must
collect directly of the people. I have no
doubt this is the occasion of much mis-
behavior on the part of our men, but I can
not permit an enemy to judge or punish
with wholesale murder.

Personally I regret the bitter feelings
generated by this war, but they were to be
expected, and I simply hope that the evil
struck the first blow, and made war more
able, ought not to farther to be pro-
longed for the mutual consequences. I have
no objection to your right to forage, and I
will to provide for you as far as I can
do for me. I am, with respect, your
obedient servant,

[Signed] W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General U. S. A.
Officer John M. Ory, A. A. G.
Headquarters of the Third
Army, Feb. 21, 1863.
P. S. I have ordered a similar number of
prisoners in our hands to be disposed of in
like manner.