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Operations of Mahone's Brigade.

The Petersburg "Express" has been furnished with the following figures from the official report of Major-General Wm. Mahone, giving the operations of his division during the campaign of 1864, from the time he assumed command down to the battle of Burgess' Mill, on the 27th of October. We publish them to show the public what this command has accomplished. In appreciation of their services, guided by a wonderful genius and energy which always ensured success, the citizens of Petersburg testified their gratitude by presenting their leader with a beautiful sword—fit emblem of the times.

The command has captured: Prisoners, 6,704; pieces of artillery, 15; colors, 42; small arms, 4867; horses, 235; wagons and ambulances, 49; slaves, 537.

According to the enemy's own statements, to collect which particular care has been taken, the losses in killed and wounded in those commands which at different times fought Mahone's division, sum up 11,000.

By these figures, and for certain reasons, it is believed that the loss in killed and wounded is underestimated, it will be seen that during the spring and summer campaigns of last year, Gen. Mahone inflicted upon the enemy a loss of 17,704 men.

The loss of his own command during this time, in killed, wounded and missing, was 5,248.

PATRIOTISM OF THE TRUE GRIT.—A patriotic gentleman from Petersburg proposes through the Richmond "Sentinel," to be one of twenty-five to give \$200,000 each, to pay Gen. Lee's army. If no others agree to this proposition this gentleman authorizes the "Sentinel" to say, that the sum of \$200,000, proposed as a gift by himself, will be paid by him to any one whom Gen. Lee may designate. Surely the Confederacy can produce twenty-four other men who are as large of heart as this noble-spirited gentleman, and who will respond to this generous proposition.

The celebrated guerilla, Dick Davis, long in prison at Memphis, has been hung by the Federals. He is reported to have sent a last message to his men requesting them not to retaliate for his death. He is generally believed to have slain about seventy Yankees with his own hands before they caught and hung him. The merciless war waged by him against the Federals, all on his own hook, for he had no commission in our service, was in retaliation for their barbarity to his brother, a member of the 2d Missouri cavalry, whom they horribly mutilated after he had surrendered himself a prisoner.

CAMDEN FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Gen. SAM FERGUSON is reported to be ordered with his brigade of cavalry to the country between the Pedee and Santee.

It is rumored that Gen. FORREST is ordered to report with his command to Gen. JOHNSTON.

SHERIDAN is moving eastward, along the boundary line between Virginia and North Carolina, with a heavy force of cavalry.

GENS. BRAGG, BEAUREGARD, MCLAWS and ROBERTSON are reported to have been relieved from duty by Gen. JOHNSTON.

TO CONTRIBUTORS.—The communication over the signature of "Darby" has been received, and will appear in a few days. The crowded state of our columns within the past week or two have precluded its appearance.

A letter signed "Stanley" has been received, but decline publishing, as the tone and general character of the subject being discussed is not conducive to the interest of our cause. We have no doubt Capt. COLCLOUGH will honor the gentleman with a guard, if he persists in penning such sentiments.

DESTRUCTION OF NEWSPAPERS.—The enemy have made sad havoc among the newspapers of the South recently. The offices captured and destroyed or confiscated include the Savannah Republican and News, the Charleston Mercury and Courier, the Columbia Guardian and Carolinian, the Goldsboro Journal, and the Wilmington Journal—all first class dailies. This does not include as many weeklies and job offices.

PERSONAL.—We had the pleasure of welcoming into our sanctuary Col. P. P. RHETT, Jr., of the Charleston Mercury, who is on a visit of a few days to our town. We have no doubt that the announcement of the early resumption of the publication of the Mercury will be hailed with delight by the many patrons of that sterling sheet, in this and other States. However some may differ about some of the views advocated in it, the boldness, consistency and ability which have ever characterized its articles and its long-tryed faithfulness to Southern rights and principles, make it one of those papers which the Southern people would not willingly let die.

THAT LETTER.—We publish to-day a letter from a Yankee to his wife in Boston. It is undoubtedly genuine, and will serve greatly to dispel the last lingering belief still remaining in some deluded minds that the plundering and thieving of the Yankee army, was, if winked at, certainly not shared in by those in authority. We see from this letter that from SHERMAN himself down to the lowest drummer in his army, the plundering is conducted on system, and the booty shared upon established principles. We do not think that anything is necessary to produce a correct conviction of the Yankee character in this community, where it is everywhere written in characters so plain that he who runs may read, but as one of the curiosities of the times we thought it not unworthy of insertion.

FROM JOHNSTON'S ARMY.—A partial engagement took place near Smithfield on the 17th ult., between a portion of Gen. McLaws' Division and the 13th and 20th (Yankee) army corps, under Slocum. Our loss about 500—Yankee loss about 3500. A general engagement on the 20th, in which Sherman was driven with heavy loss into the swamps of the Cape Fear, where he entrenched himself. On the 21st Johnston stormed the entrenchments and captured many pieces of cannon, several thousand prisoners and routed the remainder of his army. Sherman's losses in the three fights estimated at twenty-five thousand. After the third engagement he was supposed to be retreating towards Wilmington. Another engagement is said to have taken place on Monday last, near Raleigh, in which the enemy was completely routed, with heavy loss.

NEGRO FUGITIVES.—The Columbia Phoenix says: It is reported that some three hundred negroes, chiefly women and children, were abandoned by SHERMAN'S army at the passage of the Catawba and other rivers; and that in the effort to follow the enemy on a raft, the poor wretches drifted down stream and were mostly drowned. It is said that SHERMAN adopts this policy wherever his consumers and supernumeraries are too numerous for his provision wagons. He will let them occupy one of his boats, then cast it adrift, leaving the miserable wretches, when he has seduced or torn from their homes, to find their way as they can—and to the bottom, whether they will or not. The tender mercies of the wicked are especially penal dooms to the weak and silly.

THE REPENTANTS.—The Columbia Phoenix says: It is well known that some two hundred persons—men, women and children—mostly of Yankee origin and families, went off with SHERMAN'S army when he left that city. Some of these parties were naturally leaves, some—poor creatures—were scared out of their wits, and moved to fly by false reports and representations earnestly thrust into their ears by the Yankees themselves. In one instance, one lady was told that her husband—an officer in the Confederate service and absent from home—had been made a prisoner, and was actually in a Northern prison. It was quite natural, after hearing this that she should eagerly seek an offered opportunity to make her way to him. For the greater number, there is no excuse. We now learn, and the information comes from Gen. HAMPTON himself, that the poor devils were soon made ashamed and thoroughly repentant of their error, and through SHERMAN under a flag, made an application to Gen. H. to suffer their return to Columbia. SHERMAN reported the whole party as thoroughly tired, if not repentant. But HAMPTON was inflexible to his refusal to grant the desired permission, and we may fancy them still trudging on in their way to their promise land. May they enjoy the privilege vouchsafed to the Israelites, and consume forty years in their pleasant pilgrimage. If the report be true that HAMPTON, in a sudden dash deprived them of all their vehicles, they will need a formidable supply of shoes for their continued progress.

A Villianous Yankee Letter.

SOUTH CAROLINA,

CAMP NEAR CAMDEN, S. C., 1865.

My dear Wife:—I have time for particulars. We have had a glorious time in this State. Unrestricted licence to burn and plunder was the order of the day. The chivalry have been stripped of most of their valuables.—Gold watches, silver pitchers, cups, spoons, forks, &c., &c., are as common in camp as black berries. The terms of plunder are as follows: The valuables procured are estimated by companies. Each Co. is required to exhibit the results of its operations at any given place—1-5 and first choice falls to the share of the Commander-in-Chief and staff; 1-5 to the corps commander and staff; 1-5 to Field Officers of Regiment, and 2-5 to the Company. Officers are not allowed to join in these expeditions, without disguising themselves as privates. One of our corps commanders borrowed a suit of rough clothes from one of my men and was very successful at this place. He got a large quantity of silver (among other things and old time silver milk pitcher) and a very fine gold watch from a Mr. DeSaussure at this place. DeSaussure is one of the F. F. V.'s of S. C., and was made to fork out liberally.—Officers over the rank of Capt. are not made to put their plunder in the estimate for general distribution. This is very unfair, and for that reason in order to protect themselves, subordi-

nate officers and privates keep back everything that they can carry about their persons—such as rings, ear-rings, breast pins, &c., &c., of which, if I have to get home, I have about a quart. I am not joking—I have at least a quart of jewelry for you and all the girls—and some No. 1 diamond rings and pins among them. Gen. Sherman has silver and gold enough to start a Bank. His share in gold watches and chains alone, at Columbia, was two hundred and seventy-five (275.)

But I said I could not go into particulars. All the general officers, and many besides, have valuables of every description down to embroidered ladies pocket handkerchiefs. (I have my share of them too). We took gold and silver enough from the d-d rebels to have redeemed their infernal currency twice over. This (the current) when ever we came across it we burned, as we considered it utterly worthless.

I wish all the jewelry this army has could be carried to the "Old Bay State." It would deck her out in glorious style; but alas it will be scattered all over the North and middle States. The damned niggers, as a general rule, preferred to stay at home—particularly after they found out that we only wanted the able-bodied men (and to tell you the truth the youngest and best looking women.) Sometimes we took off whole families and plantations of niggers, by way of repaying some influential secessionist. But the useless part of these we soon manage to lose—sometimes in crossing rivers—sometimes in other ways.

I shall write to you again from Wilmington, Goldsboro or some place in North Carolina. The order to march has arrived and I must close hurriedly. Love to grandmother and aunt Charlotte. Take care of yourself and the children. Don't show this letter out of the family.

Your affectionate husband,

THOS. J. MYERS, Lieut., &c.

P. S.—I will send this by the first flag of truce to be mailed; unless I have an opportunity of sending it to Hilton Head. Tell Sally I am saving a pearl bracelet and ear-rings for her. Bob Lambert got the necklace and breast pin of the same set. I am trying to trade him out of them. These were taken from the Miss Jimasons, daughters of the President of the S. C. Secession Convention. We found these ladies on our trip through Georgia.

From Georgia—Suffering at Atlanta.

A gentleman from the vicinity of Atlanta reports that the suffering for food in that section has been heart-rending. He had charge of commissary stores, and his office is almost constantly thronged with women and children begging for bread. They do not ask for meat, but are satisfied with bread alone. During the late wet weather females walked as far as sixteen miles in the mud for the purpose of getting meat, which they would carry home upon their shoulders.

The railroad lately destroyed in Georgia by Sherman have been repaired with great rapidity. The "Georgia road" has been repaired, and the cars run from Augusta to Conyers station, and the remainder of the road will probably be completed to Atlanta within two or three weeks at farthest. Other roads are undergoing repairs, and promise to be ready for travel very soon.