

An Infamous Letter

Written by a Federal Officer During Sherman's Raid in South Carolina to his Wife -- His Brazen Admissions of Ruthless Robbery.

John T. Boifeuillet in Macon Telegraph.

Yesterday I was conversing with a prominent lady of Macon who, with her sister, also a well known resident of this city, were eye witnesses of the burning of Columbia and sufferers too from this terrible act. She furnished me with evidence of the process by which the Union was restored in the shape of a copy of a letter which was found in the streets of Columbia immediately after the army of Sherman had left the ruined and plundered city. The lady informs me that the original is still preserved and can be shown and substantiated if anybody desires. The name signed to the letter was that of a lieutenant in Sherman's army and was addressed to his wife at Boston, Mass. I am indebted to the Macon lady for the following copy of the letter, which was handed to me with the request that it be published on this, the forty-second anniversary of the destruction of the fair and beautiful Columbia. I can add nothing in the way of comment on such a document. It speaks for itself:

Camp Near Camden, S. C.
February 26, 1865.

My dear wife: I have no time for particulars. We have had a glorious time in this State. Unresisted license 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, etc., are as common in camp as blackberries.

The terms of plunder are as follows: The valuables procured are estimated by companies. Each company is required to exhibit the results of its operations at any given place—one-fifth and first choice falls to the share of the commander-in-chief and staff, one fifth to the field officers of the regiments, and two fifths to the company.

Officers are not allowed to join 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 successful in this place. He got a large quantity of silver (among other things an old-time silver pitcher) and a very fine gold watch from a Mr. DeSaussure at this place. DeSaussure is one of the F. F. V.'s of South Carolina, and was made to fork over liberally. Officers over the rank of captain 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, subordinate officers and privates keep back everything that they can carry about their persons, such as rings, earrings, breast pins etc., of which, if I ever live 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 275.

But I said I would not go into particulars. All the general officers, and many besides, had 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 currency) whenever 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 By State." It would deck her out in glorious style, but alas! it will be scattered all over the North and Middle States. The d—d niggers, as a rule, prefer to stay at home—particularly after they found out that we only wanted the able-bodied men (and, to tell the truth,) the youngest and best looking women. Sometimes we took off whole families and plantations of niggers by the way of repaying the secessionists. But the useless part of these we soon managed to lose—sometimes by crossing rivers—sometimes by other ways.

I shall write 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,
Thomas J. Myers,
Lieutenant, etc.

P. S: I will send this by the flag of truce to be mailed, unless I have an opportunity of sending it to Hilton Head. Tell Sallie I am saving a pearl bracelet and ear rings for her. But 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 Misses Jamisons, daughters of the president of South Carolina secession convention. We found these on our trip through Georgia.

Cold did Serious Damage in Georgia.

Savannah, Ga., April 3.—Reports from middle and south Georgia indicate that vegetables and farm crops have been seriously damaged by the cold of the last two days.

They were well advanced for this time. Growers tonight say they are unable to tell whether the peach crop has been damaged. Fear is felt on account of tonight's low temperature.

Earthquake in Armenia.

Erzenum, Turkish Armenia, April 3.—Information has reached the British consul here to the effect that while the earthquake which occurred at Bitlis, March 29, was violent the loss of life was small, only four casualties having been reported. Many houses were damaged and the shocks continue. Almost all the inhabitants are camped in the snow.

To Enforce Present Law, not to Enact New One, is What The News Urges.

From the Kershaw Era.

Editor Connors, of the Lancaster News, is urgently appealing to the officials of his town to enact an ordinance against dumping trash or paper on the streets. It is an appeal which commends itself and should receive the favorable attention of town officials in any town. Nothing contributes so much the unsightliness or neglected appearance of a town as filthy streets.

Kershaw has learned long ago the value of keeping clean streets and we believe nothing in the town occasions more favorable comment from visitors than that one item of neatness.

Subscribe to The News.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,
COUNTY OF LANCASTER,
In the Probate Court,
By J. E. Stewman, Esquire,
Probate Judge.

WHEREAS, B. F. Kennington made suit to me, to grant him Letters of Administration of the Estate of and effects of J. T. Kennington, dec'd.

THESE ARE THEREFORE to cite and admonish all and singular the kindred and Creditors of the said J. T. Kennington, dec'd, that they be and appear before me, in the Court of Probate, to be held at Lancaster Court House, S. C., on Tuesday, April 9th, next, after publication thereof, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any they have, why the said Administration should not be granted.

Given under my Hand, this 27th day of March, Anno Domini, 1907.
J. E. STEWMAN,
Probate Judge.

March 26, 1907.

Money to Loan.

I have made arrangements with parties in New York City by which I can negotiate loans for five years on improved cotton farms, in sums of \$300.00 and upwards, at the rate of 7 per cent. on amounts of \$1000 and over, and 8 per cent. on sums less than \$1000. No brokerage or commission charged. Only a reasonable fee for abstract of title.
R. E. WYLIE,
Attorney-at-Law.

Feed and Livery Stables

I have opened a first-class Livery Stable on French street, adjacent to the jail lot, and solicit the patronage of the public. My turnouts are stylish, up-to-date, and it will be my endeavor to please my customers. I will also run

Feed Stables

in connection with the livery and guarantee to give your stock the best attention if left at my stables.

Very respectfully,

Jas. T. Hunter

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Write us at once for our special plan of payments on a Piano or Organ. If you buy either instrument through us, you get a standard make, one that will last a life time. Write

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COLUMBIA, S. C.,
for catalogs, prices and terms.

Notice of Discharge.

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned, as administrator of the estates of B. F. Miller, Emma A. Miller and John A. Miller, deceased, will on the 20th day of April, 1907, make his final return and settlement as such administrator and apply to the Probate Court for Lancaster County for his final discharge.

L. C. LAZENBY, Admr.,
Estate of B. F., Emma A. and John A. Miller, Deceased.
Lancaster, S.C., March 20th, 1908.

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