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Correspondence Between Generals Lee and Grant.

The following is the correspondence referred to in the President's message, in regard to the proposed conference to adjust terms of peace by means of a military convention:

LETTER OF THE PRESIDENT.

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 28, 1865.

Gen. R. E. Lee, Commanding, &c.:

General—You will learn by the letter of Gen. Longstreet, the result of his second interview with General Ord. The point as to whether yourself or General Grant should invite the other to a conference is not worth discussing. If you think the statements of General Ord render it probably useful that the conference suggested should be had, you will proceed as you may prefer, and are clothed with all the supplementary authority you may need in the consideration of any proposition for a military convention, or the appointment of a commissioner to enter into such an arrangement as will cause at least temporary suspension of hostilities.

Very truly yours,

[Signed] JEFFERSON DAVIS.

LETTER OF GEN. R. E. LEE.

HEADQUARTERS, C. S. ARMIES,

March 24, 1865.

Lt. Gen. U. S. Grant, Commanding U. S. Armies:

General—Lt. Gen. Longstreet has informed me that in a recent conversation between himself and Major General Ord, as to the possibility of arriving at a satisfactory adjustment of the present unhappy difficulties by means of a military convention, Gen. Ord stated that if I desired to have an interview with you on the subject, you would not decline, provided I had authority to act. Sincerely desiring to leave nothing untold which may put an end to the calamities of war, I propose to meet you at such a convenient time and place as you may designate, with the hope that upon an interchange of views it may be found practicable to submit to subjects of controversy between the belligerents to a convention of the kind mentioned.

In such event, I am authorized to do whatever the result of the proposed interview may render necessary or advisable. Should you accede to this proposition, I would suggest that if agreeable to you, we meet at the place selected by Gen. Ord and Longstreet for the interview, at 11 A. M., on Monday next.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

[Signed] R. E. LEE, General.

Official copy.

[Signed] C. S. VENABLE, A. A. G.

Headquarters, March 7, 1865.

LETTER OF GEN. U. S. GRANT.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMIES U. S.,

March 4th, 1865.

Gen. R. E. Lee, commanding C. S. Armies:

GENERAL—Your two letters of the 24th inst., were received. In regard to any apprehended misunderstanding in reference to the exchange of political prisoners, I think there need be none. General Ord or General Longstreet have probably misunderstood what I said to the former on the subject, or I may have failed to make myself understood, possibly. A few days before the interview between Generals Longstreet and Ord, I had received a dispatch from General Hoffman, Commissary General of prisoners, stating in substance, that all prisoners of war who were or had been in close confinement or irons, whether under charges or sentences, had been ordered to City Point for exchange. I forwarded the substance of that dispatch to Lieut. Col. Mulford, Assistant Agent of Exchange, and presumed it probable that he had communicated it to Colonel Robert Ould.

A day or two after, an offender, who was neither a prisoner of war nor a political prisoner, was executed, after a fair and impartial trial, and in accordance with the laws of war and the usages of civilized nations. It was in explanation of this class of cases that I told Gen. Ord to speak to Gen. Longstreet.

Reference to my letter of February 16th will show my understanding on the subject of releasing political or citizen prisoners.

In regard to meeting you on the 16th instant, I would state that I have no authority to accede to your proposition for a conference on the subject proposed. Such authority is vested in the President of the United States alone.

General Ord could only have meant that I would not refuse an interview on any subject which I have a right to act, which, of course, would be such as are purely of a military character, and on the subject of exchange, which has been entrusted to me.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
[Signed] U. S. GRANT, Lieut. Gen.

A Remedy for Extortion.

THE FRENCH SYSTEM.

The daily increasing price of food and other articles essential to subsistence, admonishes us that, unless a remedy can be applied, evils of fearful magnitude will arise. People must live, and things are fast approximating that point where none, but the very wealthy, the speculator and extortioner, can get bread. The poorer classes—the families of soldiers in the field, of mechanics in the employ of government, and the widows and orphans of deceased soldiers, are even now being reduced to painful straits for subsistence. Something should be done, and that promptly, to check this evil.

The French Government, under a similarly embarrassing state of affairs, resorted to an expedient, which nothing but the direst necessity, could justify, and yet it is one, which affected prejudicially only those whose wealth enabled them to buy up market supplies, either for their own luxurious living or for purposes of speculation. If it operated harshly, it was but a comparatively small portion of the community that it injured. Under this law, the Convention, through its agents, undertook to control provision supplies, and issue them out to citizens in quantities commensurate with their necessities. Heads of families were required to register the number of their families and to procure tickets entitling them to purchase a given amount of provisions, regulated by the number to be fed. All fared alike and paid alike. The rich could command no more for his wealth than the poor for his pittance. Speculation and extortion were checked, for these supplies were seized, or impressed, by authority of the Convention, and were paid for at a uniform price, fixed by that body, in government currency. Any attempt to conceal them, or to withhold them from market, was severely punished.

This measure, arbitrary as it was, and justifiable only as one of extreme necessity, subserved, we believe, the purpose for which it was intended. It brought down the price of articles of prime necessity, enabled all to live, allayed discontent among the multitude, and restrained heartless extortion. Whether it would operate favorably or prejudicially, as applied to our own affairs, we cannot say. Perhaps it might furnish a hint upon which to base some plan of remedy for the dangers which threaten to result from the enormously increasing price of every thing essential to the maintenance of life. We give the historical precedent for what is worth—neither approving nor disapproving, but simply desiring that something should be done in relief of the suffering poor of the country.—[Macon Journal & Messenger.]

PERSEVERANCE—When with fluttering heart you make your few first struggling steps toward the goal of your endeavors, which placed far onwards in the dimness of futurity, is only illuminated by the rays projected upon it by the dark lantern of hope, while ever and anon you stumble against the stones that bestrew your path, or plunge into a quagmire of disappointment—when you feel distressingly conscious that you are alone, with no friendly hand to beckon you on, no guiding voice to lead you safely past the dangerous by-paths on to the high-road of security; amid all this, and ten times worse, persevere! What a man asks, that he shall have! what a man seeks, that he shall find; where he knocks, there shall a door be opened unto him—only he must persevere! To alter, in borrowing, a well-known thought, the first requisite for success is perseverance, the second is perseverance, and the third is still—perseverance! To persevere, is to defy the frowns of fortune and the world, to subdue circumstances to our will, to conquer demons, to scale precipices, to remove mountains! Oh! that we could imbue the young with this indomitable spirit—that we could cry with trumpet-tongue to the feeble, to the faint-hearted, to the desponding, to the world and wo-oppressed—persevere!

This is the Beauty of which Byron says:

"She was a form of Life and Light,
That sun, become a part of sight,
And rose, where'er I turned my eye,
The Morning-star of Memory!"

A lot of fellows, bantering a large and fat companion, remarked, that if all flesh was grass he must be a load of hay. "I suspect I am," said the man, "from the way the asses are nibbling at me."

"Come, Charley, get up, it's the early bird that catches the worm."

"I know, sis, but I've had the worms, and I don't want 'em more, you know."

Proverbial Philosophy.

BY THE SOLOMON IN ORDINARY TO THE BRITISH NATION.

I. An umbrella upon thine arm may make it ache, but should rain come, the umbrella will preserve thy clothes. Choose betwixt a trifling pain and a tailor's bill.

II. Other persons were born about the same as thyself, and have been growing up ever since, as well as thou. Therefore be not proud.

III. Preserve few secrets from thy wife; for if she discover them, she will grieve, not that thou hast kept from her thy secrets, but thy confidence.

IV. Yet confidence may be misplaced, as when thou goest out in thin patent leathern boots, simply because the pavement before thine own door has dried.

V. The girl who is destined to be thy wife, although now unknown to thee, is sure to be living somewhere or other. Hope, therefore, that she is quite well, otherwise think politely about her.

VI. Educate thy children, lest one of these fine days they educate thee in a school with no vacations.

VII. O how good was Nature, that placed great rivers near great towns!

VIII. A traveller, journeying wisely, may learn much. Yet much may also be learned by him who stays at home.

IX. An insane person may lie to thee, and yet be innocent, and thou mayest lie to him, and be praiseworthy. Now all persons are somewhat insane, but do beware of lying, as a general rule.

X. Heat expands things, and therefore in hot weather the days are lengthened. Moral heats sometimes expand thy mind, but they tend not to the lengthening of thy days.

XI. Say not that thou knowest a book until thou hast read it all. Yet some books thou mayest throw aside partially read. Herein thou judgest a criminal unheard. What then?

XII. I do not say to thee, "Marry, for it will exalt thee," yet was there subtle meaning in those whose usage it was to say, "Marry, come up."

XIII. Cool things are used to cure fever, yet the over-coolness of a friend's act will throw thee into heat.

XIV. We know nothing, and yet it is knowing something to know that thou knowest nothing.

XV. By a conceit, a certain red fly hath been called a Ladybird, and bidden to fly away home. The counsel is good, even to her who is neither bird nor fly. There is no place like home.

XVI. He who always holds his tongue, will one day have nothing else to hold. Yet it is not good to be over-garrulous.

XVII. The weather-cock, working easily, can tell thee the way of the wind; but if the weather-cock sticks, the course of the wind will not be influenced thereby. Remember this.

XVIII. If thy heart is in the Highlands, it is not here.

XIX. Virtuous love is wholesome. Therefore be virtuous, to make thyself worthy of self-love. Not, of course, that thou art thereby prevented from loving somebody else.

XX. Talk to thyself, and insist on a reply, yet not before the world, lest it think that nobody else will talk to thee.

XXI. A cat, even if she be friendly, never approaches thee by a direct course. No more does a truth, O friend; but winding round thy stupidities, and rubbing up against thy prejudices, it reaches thee gently—and then paws scratches.

XXII. A stitch in time saves nine. If therefore thou feelest one in thy side, be thankful, O friend.

XXIII. Love the moon, for she shines in the night, to give us light in the dark; whereas the sun only shines in the day time, when there is plenty of light, and his assistance is not wanted. Such is the difference between real and false charity.

XXIV. Solomon knew several things, allowing for his age, but I could teach him a few others.—Punch.

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 General 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 to himself, will be paid by him to any one of whom Gen. LEE may designate. Surely the Confederacy can produce twenty-four other men are as large of heart as this noble-spirited gentleman, and who will respond to this generous proposition.

A Block of marble, wrought in Italy for the South Carolina State House, now surmounts the firemen's monument in a Chicago cemetery, having been confiscated in trying to run the blockade to its original destination.

Interesting from the South-West.

AUGUSTA, April 5.—Western papers of late dates report the enemy moving through the interior of Alabama in large force, from points on the Tennessee river. Two divisions were near Montevello, commanded by McCook. The enemy are in force near Tuscaloosa. Six thousand started from Tusculum, dividing at Jasper. One column went to Tuscaloosa, the other towards Montevello.

McCook's command was at Elyton on Thursday, March 28th, with a large wagon train and artillery. They burned the village of Elyton and the Red Mountain Iron Works.

The enemy have tapped the telegraph line at unknown points and are despatching to Southern offices.

General Clanton despatched to his wife on March 28th "I was Wounded seriously and left by the enemy below Pollard; was paroled to report at Barrancas on the 5th of April."

The Clarion, of the 27th ultimo, states that two columns of the Yankees are advancing on Columbus, Mississippi. One from Humsville, reached a point thirty-five miles above Columbus, another started from Memphis, 4,000 strong, well provided with pack mules and well mounted, for Pontotoc, Miss.

The steamers Gertrude and Natchez collided at the mouth of Spanish river, near Mobile, at midnight on Friday, March 31st. The Gertrude sunk in a few minutes. Her cargo, valued at \$2,000,000, consisting of provisions belonging to citizens, who had purchased them to supply themselves during the siege of Mobile, was a total loss. The Natchez was uninjured.

Captain Vernon Lock, of the privateer Retribution, is in prison at Nassau.

The Savannah Republican, of March 31st, reports that many societies have been organized in England for the purpose of sending material assistance for the benefit of freed men in the South.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ENGLAND AND INDIA.—Communication by telegraph between England and India within eight hours and a-half is one of the recent startling facts recorded in the European journals. The London Star says:

The result is due in no small measure to the enterprise of the Turkish Government. The Sultan proposed at an early period to construct, and has at length carried out, a line from Constantinople across the Asiatic provinces of the Empire, on condition that a line to India should be completed by the English Government from Bussorah, at the head of the gulf, to Kurrachee. It is this arrangement which is now in operation. The submarine line along the shores of the gulf and the coast of Beloochistan is under English arrangements and worked by English telegraphists, while from Bussorah onward the line is entirely Turkish.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR COPPERAS.—A friend informs us that his wife has tried the following recipe as a substitute for copperas, and found that it answers the purpose well: Take a quantity of old iron and put in an earthen pot; then pour on sufficient vinegar or sour beer to cover the iron; let it stand two or three weeks; then use it as a solution of copperas. The iron should be free from grease or paint, so that the acid may operate freely.—Copperas is nothing more than a sulphate of iron, and, therefore, the above recipe must be reliable.

HOW MANY LIVES HAS THE WAR COST!—Official statements, carefully made up in the War Department, will show, it is said, that the number of the soldiers in our service who have died since the war began, will reach the startling number of two hundred and forty thousand, or very nearly a quarter of a million! Of these, two hundred and twenty-one thousand have actually died in the service from wounds or sickness, in the field and in hospitals.—[Yankee Paper.]

TO THE FRIENDS OF SOLDIERS IN GENERAL J. E. JOHNSTON'S ARMY.—A regular postmaster having been appointed to serve in this army the better to facilitate the delivery of mails, parties writing to officers or soldiers of this command will be particular to give as address, the Company, Regiment, Brigade or staff on which they may be serving, and say "Johnston's Army" as destination. All newspapers please circulate.

Utter deafness speedily cured was never so well defined as in Hood's tale of a trumpet:

There was Mrs. F.,
So very deaf,

She might have worn a percussion cap,
And been hit on the head without hearing it snap.

A TERRIBLE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN LOUISIANA.—According to all accounts, a fearful condition of things exists in East Louisiana. The country is infested with jayhawkers, robbers and murderers. Persons are frequently found dead by the way side. Women have also been killed. In short, anarchy reigns supreme.