
REMOVAL OF HON. E. M. STANTON AND OTHERS.

LETTER

FROM

GENERAL GRANT,

IN ANSWER TO

The resolution of the House of Representatives of date November 26, 1867, in relation to the removal of Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War, and Major General P. H. Sheridan, commander of the fifth military district, and of Major General D. E. Sickles, commander of the second military district, &c.

DECEMBER 17, 1867.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, D. C., December 17, 1867.

SIR: In answer to the resolution of the House of Representatives of date November 26, 1867, I have the honor to submit the following:

First. All the correspondence in the matter of the removal of Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War, of General P. H. Sheridan, commander of the fifth military district, and of General D. E. Sickles, commander of the second military district.

REMOVAL OF HON. E. M. STANTON.

[Private.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, D. C., August 1, 1867.

SIR: I take the liberty of addressing you privately on the subject of the conversation we had this morning, feeling, as I do, the great danger to the welfare of the country should you carry out the designs then expressed.

First. On the subject of the displacement of the Secretary of War. His removal cannot be effected against his will without the consent of the Senate. It is but a short time since the United States Senate was in session, and why not then have asked for his removal if it was desired? It certainly was the intention of the legislative branch of government to place cabinet ministers beyond the power of Executive removal, and it is pretty well understood that, so far as cabinet ministers are affected by the "tenure-of-office bill," it was intended specially to protect the Secretary of War, whom the country felt great confidence in. The meaning of the law may be explained away by an astute lawyer, but common sense and the views of loyal people will give to it the effect intended by its framers.

On the subject of the removal of the very able commander of the fifth military district, let me ask you to consider the effect it would have upon the public. He is universally and deservedly beloved by the people who sustained this government through its trials, and feared by those who would still be enemies of the government. It fell to the lot of but few men to do as much against an armed enemy as General Sheridan did during the rebellion, and it is within the scope of the ability of but few in this or other country to do what he has. His civil administration has given equal satisfaction. He has had difficulties to contend with which no other district commander has encountered. Almost if not quite from the day he was appointed district commander to the present time, the press has given out that he was to be removed; that the administration was dissatisfied with him, &c. This has emboldened the opponents to the laws of Congress within his command to oppose him in every way in their power, and has rendered necessary measures which otherwise may never have been necessary. In conclusion, allow me to say, as a friend desiring peace and quiet, the welfare of the whole country north and south, that it is in my opinion more than the loyal people of this country (I mean those who supported the government during the great rebellion) will quietly submit to, to see the very men of all others whom they have expressed confidence in removed.

I would not have taken the liberty of addressing the Executive of the United States thus but for the conversation on the subject alluded to in this letter, and from a sense of duty, feeling that I know I am right in this matter.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT, *General.*

His Excellency A. JOHNSON,
President of the United States.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
Washington, D. C., August 12, 1867.

SIR: The honorable Edwin M. Stanton having been this day suspended as Secretary of War, you are hereby authorized and empowered to act as Secretary of War *ad interim*, and will at once enter upon the discharge of the duties of that office.

The Secretary of War has been instructed to transfer to you all records, books, papers, and other public property now in his custody and charge.

Very respectfully, yours,

ANDREW JOHNSON.

General ULYSSES S. GRANT,
Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D. C., August 12, 1867.

SIR: Enclosed herewith I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of a letter just received from the President of the United States notifying me of my assignment as Secretary of War, and directing me to assume those duties at once.

In notifying you of my acceptance, I cannot let the opportunity pass without expressing to you my appreciation of the zeal, patriotism, firmness and ability with which you have ever discharged the duties of Secretary of War.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT, *General.*

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, August 12, 1867.

GENERAL: Your note of this date, accompanied by a copy of a letter addressed to you, August 12, by the President, appointing you Secretary of War *ad interim*, and informing me of your acceptance of the appointment, has been received.

Under a sense of public duty I am compelled to deny the President's rights, under the Constitution and laws of the United States, to suspend me from office as Secretary of War, or to authorize any other person to enter upon the discharge of the duties of that office, or to require me to transfer to you or any other person the records, books, papers and other property in my official custody and charge, as Secretary of War.

But inasmuch as the President has assumed to suspend me from office as Secretary of War, and you have notified me of your acceptance of the appointment of Secretary of War *ad interim*, I have no alternative but to submit, under protest, to the superior force of the President.

You will please accept my acknowledgment of the kind terms in which you have notified me of your acceptance of the President's appointment, and my cordial reciprocation of the sentiments expressed.

I am, with sincere regard, truly yours.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

General ULYSSES S. GRANT.

MAJOR GENERAL SHERIDAN'S REMOVAL.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
Washington, D. C., August 17, 1867.

DEAR SIR: Before you issue instructions to carry into effect the enclosed order, I would be pleased to hear any suggestions you may deem necessary respecting the assignments to which the order refers.

Truly yours,

ANDREW JOHNSON.

General U. S. GRANT,
Secretary of War *ad interim*.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
Washington, D. C., August 17, 1867.

Major General Geo. H. Thomas is hereby assigned to the command of the fifth military district, created by the act of Congress passed on the 2d day of March, 1867.

Major General P. H. Sheridan is hereby assigned to the command of the department of the Missouri.

Major General Winfield S. Hancock is hereby assigned to the command of the department of the Cumberland.

The Secretary of War *ad interim* will give the necessary instructions to carry this order into effect.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, D. C., August 17, 1867.

SIR : I am in receipt of your order of this date, directing the assignment of General G. H. Thomas to the command of the fifth military district, General Sheridan to the department of the Missouri, and General Hancock to the department of the Cumberland ; also of your note of this date (enclosing these instructions) saying : " Before you issue instructions to carry into effect the enclosed order, I would be pleased to hear any suggestions you may deem necessary respecting the assignments to which the order refers."

I am pleased to avail myself of this invitation to urge, earnestly urge, urge in the name of a patriotic people who have sacrificed hundreds of thousands of loyal lives and thousands of millions of treasure to preserve the integrity and union of this country, that this order be not insisted on. It is unmistakably the expressed wish of the country that General Sheridan should not be removed from his present command.

This is a republic where the will of the people is the law of the land. I beg that their voice may be heard.

General Sheridan has performed his civil duties faithfully and intelligently. His removal will only be regarded as an effort to defeat the laws of Congress. It will be interpreted by the unreconstructed element in the south, those who did all they could to break up this government by arms, and now wish to be the only element consulted as to the method of restoring order, as a triumph. It will embolden them to renewed opposition to the will of the loyal masses, believing that they have the Executive with them.

The services of General Thomas in battling for the Union entitle him to some consideration. He has repeatedly entered his protest against being assigned to either of the five military districts and especially to being assigned to relieve General Sheridan.

There are military reasons, pecuniary reasons, and above all patriotic reasons why this should not be insisted upon.

I beg to refer to a letter marked "private" which I wrote to the President, when first consulted on the subject of the change in the War Department. It bears upon the subject of this removal, and I had hoped would have prevented it.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,

General United States Army, Secretary of War ad interim.

His Excellency A. JOHNSON,

President of the United States.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,

Washington, D. C., August 19, 1867.

GENERAL : I have received your communication of the 17th instant, and thank you for the promptness with which you have submitted your views respecting the assignments directed in my order of that date. When I stated, in my unofficial note of the 17th, that I would be pleased to hear any suggestions you might deem necessary upon the subject, it was not my intention to ask from you a formal report, but rather to invite a verbal statement of any reason affecting the public interests which, in your opinion, would render the order inexpedient. Inasmuch, however, as you have embodied your suggestions in a written communication, it is proper that I should make some reply.

You earnestly urge that the order be not insisted on, remarking that " it is unmistakably the expressed wish of the country that General Sheridan should not be removed from his present command."

While I am cognizant of the efforts that have been made to retain General Sheridan in command of the fifth military district, I am not aware that the question has ever been submitted to the people themselves for determination. It certainly would be unjust to the army to assume that, in the opinion of the nation, he alone is capable of commanding the States of Louisiana and Texas, and that, were he for any cause removed, no other general in the military service of the United States could be competent to fill his place. General Thomas, whom I have designated as his successor, is well known to the country. Having won high and honorable distinction in the field, he has since, in the execution of the responsible duties of a department commander, exhibited great ability, sound discretion, and sterling patriotism. He has not failed, under the most trying circumstances, to enforce the laws, to preserve peace and order, to encourage the restoration of civil authority, and to promote as far as possible a spirit of reconciliation. His administration of the department of the Cumberland will certainly compare most favorably with that of General Sheridan in the fifth military district. There affairs appear to be in a disturbed condition, and a bitter spirit of antagonism seems to have resulted from General Sheridan's management. He has rendered himself exceedingly obnoxious by the manner in which he has exercised even the power conferred by Congress, and still more so by a resort to authority not granted by law or necessary to its faithful and efficient execution. His rule has, in fact, been one of absolute tyranny, without reference to the principles of our government or the nature of our free institutions. The state of affairs which has resulted from the course he has pursued has seriously interfered with a harmonious, satisfactory, and speedy execution of the acts of Congress, and is alone sufficient to justify a change. His removal, therefore, cannot "be regarded as an effort to defeat the laws of Congress," for the object is to facilitate their execution, through an officer who has never failed to obey the statutes of the land, and to exact, within his jurisdiction, a like obedience from others. It cannot "be interpreted by the unreconstructed elements in the south, those who did all they could to break up this government by arms, and now wish to be the only element consulted as to the method of restoring order, as a triumph;" for, as intelligent men, they must know that the mere change of military commanders cannot alter the law, and that General Thomas will be as much bound by its requirements as General Sheridan. It cannot "embolden them to renewed opposition to the will of the loyal masses, believing that they have the Executive with them," for they are perfectly familiar with the antecedents of the President, and know that he has not obstructed the faithful execution of any act of Congress.

No one, as you are aware, has a higher appreciation than myself of the services of General Thomas, and no one would be less inclined to assign him to command not entirely consonant with his wishes. Knowing him, as I do, I cannot think that he will hesitate for a moment to obey any order having in view a complete and speedy restoration of the Union, in the preservation of which he has rendered such important and valuable services.

General Hancock, known to the whole country as a gallant, able, and patriotic soldier, will, I have no doubt, sustain his high reputation in any position to which he may be assigned. If, as you observe, the department which he will leave is a complicated one, I feel confident that, under the guidance and instruction of General Sherman, General Sheridan will soon become familiar with its necessities, and will avail himself of the opportunity afforded by the Indian troubles for the display of the energy, enterprise, and daring which gave him so enviable a reputation during our recent civil struggle.

In assuming that it is the expressed wish of the people that General Sheridan should not be removed from his present command, you remark that "this is a republic where the will of the people is the law of the land," and "beg that their voice may be heard."

This is indeed a republic, based, however, upon a written Constitution. That Constitution is the combined and expressed will of the people, and their voice is law when reflected in the manner which that instrument prescribes. While one of its provisions makes the President commander-in-chief of the army and navy, another requires that "he shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed."

Believing that a change in the command of the fifth military district is absolutely necessary for a faithful execution of the laws, I have issued the order which is the subject of this correspondence, and in thus exercising a power that inheres in the Executive, under the Constitution as commander-in-chief of the military and naval forces, I am discharging a duty required of me by the will of the nation, as formally declared in the supreme law of the land.

By his oath the Executive is solemnly bound, "to the best of his ability, to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution," and although in times of great excitement it may be lost to public view, it is his duty, without regard to the consequences to himself, to hold sacred and to enforce any and all of its provisions. Any other course would lead to the destruction of the republic; for the Constitution once abolished, there would be no Congress for the exercise of legislative powers; no Executive to see that the laws are faithfully executed; no judiciary to afford to the citizen protection for life, limb, and property. Usurpation would inevitably follow, and a despotism be fixed upon the people in violation of their combined and expressed will.

In conclusion, I fail to perceive any military, pecuniary, or patriotic reasons why this order should not be carried into effect. You will remember that, in the first instance, I did not consider General Sheridan the most suitable officer for the fifth military district. Time has strengthened my convictions upon this point, and has led me to the conclusion that patriotic considerations demand that he should be superseded by an officer who, while he will faithfully execute the law, will at the same time give more general satisfaction to the whole people, white and black, north and south.

I am, general, very respectfully, yours,

ANDREW JOHNSON.

General U. S. GRANT,

Secretary of War ad interim.

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH, WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., August 21, 1867.

[From Louisville, Kentucky, 11.30 a. m., August 21, 1867.—Received 3.45 p. m., in cipher.]

To General U. S. GRANT :

General Thomas is absent in West Virginia, and has probably not yet seen his orders. He has been under medical treatment this summer for an affection of his liver, and it would be a great risk for him to go south at this time.

ALEXANDER B. HASSON,
*Surgeon U. S. Army and Medical Director,
Department of the Cumberland.*

Respectfully forwarded to the President for his information, and recommending a suspension of the order making change in military commanders.

U. S. GRANT, *General.*

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,

August 22, 1867.

In view of the precarious condition of General Thomas's health, as represented in the within despatch of Surgeon Hasson, General Thomas will, until further orders, remain in command of the department of the Cumberland.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

AUGUST 23, 1867.

[By telegraph, in cipher.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, D. C., August 24, 1867.

General Thomas's orders to relieve you are suspended for the present. Orders will be sent by mail. Relax nothing in consequence of probable change of commands.

U. S. GRANT, *General.*

Major General P. H. SHERIDAN,
New Orleans, Louisiana.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,

Washington, D. C., August 26, 1867.

SIR: In consequence of the unfavorable condition of the health of Major General George H. Thomas, as reported to you in Surgeon Hasson's despatch of the 21st instant, my order dated August 17, 1867, is hereby modified so as to assign Major General Winfield S. Hancock to the command of the fifth military district, created by the act of Congress passed March 2, 1867, and of the military department comprising the States of Louisiana and Texas. On being relieved from the command of the department of the Missouri by Major General P. H. Sheridan, Major General Hancock will proceed directly to New Orleans, Louisiana, and, assuming the command to which he is hereby assigned, will, when necessary to a faithful execution of the laws, exercise any and all powers conferred by acts of Congress upon district commanders, and any and all authority pertaining to officers in command of military departments.

Major General P. H. Sheridan will at once turn over his present command to the officer next in rank to himself, and proceeding without delay to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, will relieve Major General Hancock of the command of the department of the Missouri.

Major General George H. Thomas will, until further orders, remain in command of the department of the Cumberland.

Very respectfully, yours,

ANDREW JOHNSON.

General U. S. GRANT,
Secretary of War ad interim.

 MAJOR GENERAL SICKLES'S REMOVAL.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,

Washington, D. C., August 26, 1867.

Brevet Major General Edward R. S. Canby is hereby assigned to the command of the second military district, created by the act of Congress of March 2,

1867, and of the military department of the south, embracing the States of North Carolina and South Carolina. He will, as soon as practicable, relieve Major General Daniel E. Sickles, and on assuming the command to which he is hereby assigned, will, when necessary to a faithful execution of the laws, exercise any and all powers conferred by acts of Congress upon district commanders, and any and all authority pertaining to officers in command of military departments.

Major General Daniel E. Sickles is hereby relieved from the command of the second military district.

The Secretary of War *ad interim* will give the necessary instructions to carry this order into effect.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

Second. Correspondence and orders showing the condition of the fifth military district prior to the passage of the military reconstruction bill, and recommendations made thereon, with the action of the civil authorities on such recommendations, so far as known to me :

FLORIDA.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA,
Tallahassee, January 1, 1866.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report, for the information of the major general commanding, that everything remains quiet in this State and good order prevails.

There has not been any trouble with the negroes, neither is any apprehended. The new State government has not yet attained full efficiency, and in nearly all the counties the preservation of the public peace depends almost entirely upon the United States troops. The military courts try and punish all capital offences and crimes.

I have arranged with Governor Walker that, if in any emergency the militia of the State has to be called out to assist in preserving order, it shall in all cases be under the command of the United States officers commanding the nearest posts.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER,

Major General Commanding.

ADJUTANT GENERAL,

*Military Division of the Gulf,
New Orleans, Louisiana.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA,
Tallahassee, Florida, March 2, 1866.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report that everything remains quiet and orderly in the department. I do not, however, think the feeling towards the government has improved since it became known that the representatives would not be admitted to Congress. The General Order No. 4, which I issued upon the official request of the Freedmen's Bureau, has also given rise to considerable unfriendly discussion. There is a large class of lawless men in the State who are restive under the restraints of military rule, and feel impatient that it is not removed.

The better and more intelligent class are, however, more friendly and desire to have the troops remain until things become more settled; even these, however, have a great aversion to colored troops. I think, therefore, to preserve

order in the State, and give that protection to Union men and freed people which is required under the circumstances, that it is absolutely necessary to maintain the present military force in this State for some time to come.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER,
Major General Commanding.

Colonel GEORGE L. HARTSUFF, A. A. G.,
Military Division of the Gulf.

[General Orders No. 23.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA,
Tallahassee, Florida, April 27, 1866.

His Excellency the President, in his proclamation of the second instant, having declared that the insurrection which heretofore existed in the State of "Florida is at an end, and henceforth to be so regarded;"

And the honorable Secretary of War having, with the approval of the President, declared in an order of the 9th instant that although the "President's proclamation does not remove martial law," "it is not expedient, however, to resort to military tribunals in any case where justice can be attained through the medium of civil authority;

And the constitution of the State of Florida having provided that all the inhabitants thereof "are free and shall enjoy the rights of person and property without distinction of color;"

And the courts being now organized in said State, and the officers and people in general "well and loyally disposed," so that the constitution "and the laws can be sustained and enforced therein by proper civil authority, State or federal;"

And the bill entitled "An act to protect all persons in the United States in their civil rights, and to furnish means for their vindication," having become a law, it is therefore ordered as follows:

I. All persons in this department now under military arrest shall be turned over to the civil authorities for trial, except soldiers and those subject to military law; and such other persons as shall be detained by Special Orders hereafter to be issued from these headquarters.

II. In future commanders of districts and posts will, when requested, assist the ministerial officers of the civil authorities in making arrests, but will arrest no citizen on their own order, except in the absence of the proper civil authorities, or upon their neglect or refusal to perform their duties; and in all such cases, unless the circumstances provided for in paragraph III exist, they will immediately turn over the persons arrested to the civil authorities.

III. Should any case or cases arise in which a citizen, agent of the Freedmen's Bureau, or a commander of a district or post, shall deem that justice will not be done before a civil tribunal, they will, respectively, report such case or cases, together with affidavits showing the necessity for military intervention, to these headquarters for consideration and the necessary action.

By command of Major General J. G. Foster:

CHARLES MUNDEE,
Brevet Brigadier General and Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES,
Lake City, Florida, April 28, 1866.

SIR: In obedience to instructions received, I have the honor to submit herewith the following report, viz:

The people residing within the different counties within the jurisdiction of this post appear generally to quietly accept the results of the late war as unavoidable, and though there are many who regret it did not terminate otherwise, still the majority seem to be content to accept the issue, and express their intentions to abide by the laws. I find, however, considerably strong feelings on account of the action of the United States Congress in passing the civil rights bill, which seems to be understood by many as conferring the right of suffrage upon freedmen. Wherever the true import of the bill is understood the people appear to be satisfied there with. All seem to favor and express great confidence in the reconstruction policy of the President of the United States.

The planters generally have made fair contracts with the freedmen, and are, I believe, disposed to fulfil their part thereof. Many of the planters have assured me that they prefer the present mode of engaging free labor to the system of slave labor formerly existing; but I also hear considerable complaint that many of the freedmen are inclined to neglect their duties.

Isolated cases excepted, the treatment of freedmen by their employers is all that could be required, and freedmen who are industrious and faithful receive good wages.

As far as the general conduct of the people of this section is concerned, I am constrained to say that there are certain counties in which crimes of magnitude are committed in greater numbers than in others, and as a rule, in counties furthest removed from this post, I find perpetrated more crime of a serious nature than in those immediately under my control.

Union citizens residing within the jurisdiction have, with but few exceptions, not been openly insulted. At the same time it is my opinion, corroborated by the statements of many loyal men in the vicinity, that it would not be advisable for any man of strong northern sentiments to express or defend them publicly.

Union people generally either remain silent as to their opinions, or permit themselves to be understood as coinciding with the sentiments of their neighbors. In this connection it may be proper to state that it is the universal hope of people of northern sentiments, within this jurisdiction, that the military may be retained in their midst for some time to come, inasmuch as many of them fear that should the troops be removed their property and life might be put in jeopardy.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. E. GROSSMAN,

First Lieut. 7th U. S. Infantry, Com'dg Post.

Lieut. J. M. J. SANNO,

A. A. G. Dist. East Florida, Jacksonville, Fla.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA,
Tallahassee, May 7, 1866.

COLONEL: In compliance with directions contained in your communication of the 16th ultimo, I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the information of the major general commanding, reports from officers under my command thus far received. Reports from more distant posts have not reached me yet, to make complete statements as required by your letter, but the enclosed accounts of the condition in East Florida and this immediate vicinity can serve as a criterion for the whole State of Florida.

The feeling of the people towards the government and northern men, as far as can be judged by outward signs, is generally good; still there is, as reported, considerable bitterness manifested at times, especially by the ignorant, the old secessionists, and those who have suffered by the war. Recent events have developed the expression of this feeling somewhat.

The conduct of the people is generally good. A strong disposition is shown to conform to all the requirements of the government. It is, however, requisite, in my opinion, that the present military force shall remain in the State for many months to come. This is absolutely necessary in order to give protection to Union men, to strengthen the feeling of returning loyalty, and to support the United States courts, so that its officers may execute the federal laws.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER,

Major General Commanding Department.

Brevet Col. GEORGE L. HARTSUFF, A. A. G.,

Military Division of the Gulf, New Orleans, Louisiana.

[General Orders No. 34.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA,
Tallahassee, Florida, June 9, 1866.

Several murders, attempts to kill, and other crimes having been committed upon the persons of loyal citizens and soldiers of the United States in certain counties of this State, and the civil authorities having failed to bring the criminals to justice, it is hereby ordered that Part II of General Orders No. 28, C. S., from these headquarters, be so modified as to direct all officers of the army serving in the counties of Santa Rosa, Escambia, Levy, Madison and Alachua, to St. Augustine, to be held in custody until orders in each case are received from these headquarters.

These arrests will be made with promptness, and without waiting for the action of the civil authorities, unless the latter exhibit clearly a purpose to act promptly and fairly, in which case a cordial co-operation will be maintained by the officers of the army.

A report will be made at once to these headquarters of every arrest thus made, for the necessary orders thereon, accompanied by a recommendation for the disposition of the prisoner.

By command of Major General J. G. Foster:

CHARLES MUNDEE,

Brevet Brigadier General and A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA,
Tallahassee, Florida, June 15, 1866.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that affairs in general in this department remain in a satisfactory state; that the negroes are working diligently, the crops are promising, and the planters feel encouraged by the favorable prospects. The civil courts, in the majority of cases, deal out impartial justice to all citizens; but there are exceptional cases, in which they have failed, and in such I have been prompt to apply the proper remedy by resuming the exercise of the power of making arrests. My General Order No. 34, of which a copy is enclosed, will explain this.

The absence of the United States district judge prevents our bringing cases

before that court, which ought to be tried by it in order that justice may be obtained. The civil-rights bill cannot be availed of, until the commissioners under it are appointed by United States judges. I have thought this matter so important as to require the immediate action of the Attorney General of the United States, and have therefore written to him direct, and herewith enclose a copy of the letter.

I enclose copies of all the reports from subordinate officers upon the state of the country, received since the 1st instant. With reference to Colonel Flint's report of the Gee festival at this place, it may be proper to say that it was a very innocent affair, gotten up by his friends to raise funds to pay counsel's fees and other expenses incidental to his trial, his own means having been exhausted. All the officers were invited to attend, and I can hear of nothing improper or disloyal having been done or said.

The presence of a military force has of course its restraining influence, and such a force will have to be kept up for a long time, in order to support the United States officials in the discharge of their duties, and to insure protection to the known friends of the North. But the better portion of the people, while admitting this necessity, admit also their preference for it, as insuring general security, and they would express a decided protest to any removal of troops that would leave them at the mercy of the more lawless portion of the community.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER,

Major General Commanding Department.

Brevet Brig. Gen. GEORGE L. HARTSUFF, A. A. G.,

Military Division of the Gulf, New Orleans, Louisiana.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA,

Tallahassee, Florida, June 13, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to call your attention to the fact of the absence of the United States district judge from this State, and the consequent closing of the court, thus depriving us of the means of obtaining justice in that tribunal in cases where the State courts fail to administer it. There are several cases that are awaiting trial, and many others that I expect to have to bring before it under the civil-rights bill, but nothing can be done even under this law until the judge returns and United States courts are opened.

I respectfully request that you will be kind enough to give the matter your attention at as early a moment as practicable so as to remedy the complaint.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER,

Major General Commanding Department.

Hon. JAMES SPEED,

Attorney General United States, Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA,

Tallahassee, Florida, July 8, 1866.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that the general quiet of the department remains the same as per last report. I have delayed making this semi-monthly report until after the 4th of July, so as to be able to report the effects of the celebration of the day. It was anticipated by many citizens that trouble would arise on that day from the celebrations, barbecues and merry-makings which the colored people generally propose to enjoy on that day. The white

citizens generally discourage the celebration of the day; some evil-disposed persons made threats against the peace of the negro celebrations, and in some instances I was requested to suppress them in order to avoid threatened collisions. This I declined to do, but, on the contrary, approved the celebrations, as will be seen by General Order No. 39. The result has been that the day passed off quietly and happily to all those engaged in its proper commemoration. I have heard of no disturbance of any kind. In this section of the State the freedmen are generally working well, the crops are very promising, and a general good feeling prevails. In some other sections, as in Middle Florida, I hear complaints that many crops are suffering from want of industry in their cultivation on the part of the freedmen. In other portions of the State prospects are generally favorable, and more than half an average crop of cotton will be raised.

The conduct of the citizens towards the government and its officers is generally good, furnishing assurance of their ready acquiescence in all its requirements. Their sentiments are, I believe, friendly, especially among the best citizens, but among others, as the ignorant and prejudiced, I am convinced that there exists little love for us or the government. This feeling does not find expression towards us, except in individual instances, as of an erratic editor like that of the *Sentinel* of this town, or of an indiscreet person under excitement or in intoxication. But towards the colored people it is often expressed, and freely applied in acts whenever opportunity offers. The instances of injustice in the administration of the law by the courts have been so frequent as to lead the colored people generally to regard them as only engines of oppression to the race. This necessarily engenders in them a disposition to suspect, to evade, and even to combine for safety or resistance. I have had occasion often of late to call the attention of the governor to the cases of unjust decision of the courts, and I do so in every case of the kind. I am happy to say that I have always found him ready and anxious to remedy the evils and to redress the wrongs done, by every proper and legal means, and by the exercise of the executive clemency.

These repeated admonitions and pardons on his part, coupled with the knowledge of the critical watch upon their actions maintained on our part, will in time, it is hoped, induce the courts to administer more impartial justice, thereby conducing to the growth of a better feeling in their former slaves, and to the attachment of them to their interests as humble friends and faithful servitors. This, to a considerable extent, is now being accomplished in this immediate section, and in the eastern part of the State on the coast. The more I observe closely, however, the more I am convinced that the presence of a military force will be absolutely necessary for at least one or two years more, if not for a longer period. Without this military control the condition of the colored people will be nearly as bad as in the days of slavery, and many ex-officers and northern men, now settling and investing capital in the State, will be forced to abandon their enterprises and to leave. This force need not be large in the interior, and should, to avoid irritation, be white, a few bayonets being a sufficient exponent of the presence of the government, and with good officers, a sufficient guard over the interests to be protected. In the large forts and some posts on the coast, a suitable proportion of colored troops can be used to advantage, especially during the hot and sickly seasons.

Since my last semi-monthly report I have visited with Governor Walker, and remained several days at, Fernandina, for the purpose of quieting the disturbed feelings of rival parties in that town, arising from conflicts of interest growing out of the titles to property sold by the tax commissioners during the war for non-payment of taxes.

Our visit was productive of good results, and in future I do not apprehend any trouble, except such as necessarily arises from legal proceedings, with reference to which, and to the protection of titles derived from the United States, I have given full instructions to the commanding officer. Warrants from the

Treasury Department in reimbursement of the purchase money, with interest, &c., are now being received by the tax commissioners, for delivery to the purchasers, in all cases where the property has been allowed to be redeemed by the former owners; and the possession to which the latter are entitled by this act can now be given, thus soothing the irritated feelings growing out of the long interval which has heretofore elapsed between the redemption and the possession.

The health of the department is not so good as by last report. One-half of the troops are unfit for duty from various diseases, principally malarious. At Fort Jefferson Colonel Clarke, inspector of the department, reports the officers and men of the 5th artillery to be so debilitated by heat and the confinement of the fort as to render necessary the retention there of the battalion of the eighty-second United States colored troops, in which there is little sickness. The prisoners are generally healthy, and suffer much less from their confinement than do their guards.

I enclose copies of all the semi-monthly reports from subordinates received since last report.

I am, general, very respectfully your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER,

Major General, Commanding Department.

Brevet Brig. Gen. GEORGE S. HARTSUFF, A. A. G.,

Military Division of the Gulf, New Orleans, La.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA,

Tallahassee, Florida, July 26, 1866.

COLONEL: I have the honor to make my semi-monthly report of affairs in this State, and enclose copies of the reports of subordinate officers. The conduct of the people generally, both white and black, is good. There is exhibited a ready acquiescence in all the requirements of the laws and of the government. Very few acts of violence are committed compared with those of former years, and, as far as outward appearances show, the people seem disposed to remain law-abiding, peaceable citizens. Private information and observation leads me to believe, however, that the secret feelings of the secessionists are more bitter against Union men and the government than they were six months ago. This arises, I think, from disappointment at not obtaining readmission into the Union, and the failure to recover their former State powers. The treatment of the freedmen by the planters and other employers is generally good, and in return the freedmen work well, and to the satisfaction of their employers. There are some exceptional cases of breach of contract and injustice on one side, and lack of industry on the other, but these are rare.

The crops are promising, with the exception of corn, which has suffered much from want of rain. Most of the civil officers of the State perform their duty justly and impartially. The administration of the law in the courts is, however, complained of by the freed people and Union men. The officers of the court generally perform their duty in accordance with law and justice, but the trouble is with the juries. These, in a great many cases, allow their prejudices to influence their decision, in the exercise of their vested power, to such an extent as to impair the correctness and justice of their findings; especially is this the case where the parties are a white man *versus* a negro, or a secessionist *versus* a Unionist or a "deserter" from the confederates.

The correction that I have applied to this evil is to bring every such case to the attention of the governor, either for a call of the record of the case for reviewal, or for the exercise of executive clemency. The governor has in all

cases acted firmly and justly, and his action has thus far proved effective to preserve the rights of citizens. I have not as yet had occasion to arrest any citizens for a violation of General Orders No. 3 or No. 44 of the War Department. It is well known that both will be strictly enforced.

The United States district court for the northern district of Florida is not in session, and the judge (Frazier) is absent from the State. The commissioners to be appointed under the civil rights bill have not yet been designated. I have received orders from General O. O. Howard to facilitate in every way the efforts of the freedmen and loyal men to avail themselves of the privilege of the new homestead law, and have promptly acted in the matter. I believe the effect of the law will be that a large number of the loyal citizens in this State will enter land. I do not fear any great disturbance of the established labor of the State from the number of freedmen who will take up land, because the benefits of the law will draw a large number of immigrants from other States.

I shall caution the freed people not to be too rash in taking possession of these lands before they have the means to provide some few farming utensils, and also to support themselves until the first crop is gathered; otherwise, the government will be called upon to supply their wants.

The health of the department is not so good as at last report. There is much sickness of a malarious character among the troops at this place, and I have been obliged in consequence to order the battalion of the seventh United States infantry at this place to proceed to St. Augustine, and to remain in that healthy locality to recruit, during the sickly season.

The 472 recruits for this regiment sent from New York on the steamer San Salvador are now at quarantine on Tybee island, at the mouth of the Savannah river, the cholera having broken out among them, from which Lieutenant May, 15th infantry, and six men are reported to have died. I have received no official report from the officer in command of the recruits, but intend to send an officer to Tybee island to obtain accurate information of their condition and wants. As soon as the disinfected portion can be removed I propose to isolate them on Anastasia island, at the entrance to St. Augustine, until from cleansing and fumigation there can remain no danger in mixing them with the companies of the regiment at St. Augustine, for organization and drill.

This may occupy considerable time, which, added to the sickness, will materially reduce the effective force in the State, especially as the 82d United States colored troops has to be concentrated for muster out on the 30th of next month. I believe, however, that I can make such arrangements as will meet the requirements of the circumstances.

I have received no late intelligence from Key West, from which place I am daily expecting the steamer.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER,

Major General, Commanding Department.

Brevet Lieut. Col. GEORGE LEE, A. A. G.,

Military Division of the Gulf.

P. S.—Since writing the above, I have received the report of the arrest of three men at Appalachicola charged with the murder of two Union men, and ordered them, under General Order No. 44, War Department, to be detained in custody at Fort Pickens until a civil court is ready and willing to try them.

J. G. FOSTER,

Major General Commanding.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D. C., August 7, 1866.

Major General J. G. FOSTER, *Tallahoma, Florida* :

General Order No. 44 is not intended to apply to offences committed prior to the close of hostilities. As a rule no arrests should be made under it except where the civil authorities refuse to make them. Release all prisoners you may now have whose offences were committed previous to May, 1865.

U. S. GRANT, *General.*

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D. C., August 18, 1866.

Major General SHERMAN, *New Orleans, La.* :

Instructions* to General Foster given some months ago prevent citizens of Florida appealing to other than United States courts for recovery of property sold for taxes. Those instructions will be now annulled and purchasers will look to civil courts and the civil-rights bill for protection.

U. S. GRANT, *General.*

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, SEPARATE BRIGADE,
Tallahassee, Florida, September 11, 1866.

COLONEL : I have the honor to make the following semi-monthly report of the condition of affairs in this State.

The general aspect of affairs is not changed since my last report. The people generally acquiesce in all the requirements of law and of the government. Very few utterances of opinions of a disrespectful character, and only one breach of the peace on account of political sentiments, have been reported. The latter was by the notorious Colonel Titus, of Jacksonville, who was arrested and fined by the civil authorities for the offence. The majority of the people of the State

* Instructions referred to :

FERNANDINA, FLORIDA, *April 12, 1866.*

D. Richards, commissioner of taxes, reports anticipated difficulties between the former property holders and loyal citizens in his district.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY UNITED STATES, *April 27, 1866.*

Respectfully forwarded to Major General Foster, commanding department of Florida, who is directed to see that all titles to lands and other property obtained from the United States authorities are respected until decisions are given against them by the United States courts.

U. S. GRANT, *Lieutenant General.*

NEW YORK, *June 30, 1866.*

William Marvin reports people of Fernandina, Florida, as complaining of the lieutenant general's order of 27th April, 1866, given in matter of difficulty between former landholders and loyal citizens of Fernandina, Florida, as reported by D. Richards, tax commissioner, April 12, 1866. Mr. Marvin makes certain suggestions as to the State and United States courts, &c.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY UNITED STATES, *July 2, 1866.*

Respectfully forwarded to the Secretary of War, with request that the opinion of the Attorney General be had upon the legality of the enclosed indorsement, made April 27, 1866, upon a communication from D. Richards, tax commissioner at Fernandina, Florida. Other papers relating to the tax difficulty in Florida were submitted to the War Department May 7 and 20, 1866.

U. S. GRANT, *General.*

regard with great favor the administration of the President, and the action of the Philadelphia convention of August 14th, and are warm in their expressions of hope that the party formed under its auspices may succeed at the next elections at the north. In their expressions they declare that they desire this as a means of obtaining for the southern States full recognition in the Union, and of restoring the full union of the States. Many of the most violent secessionists now declare this to be their ardent wish, and also that the present political movement may end in the restoration of the old Union of their fathers. The effect of all this is to produce a better state of feeling generally. There is little complaint, but frequent expressions of anticipation of more satisfactory times ahead. I never hear of hostile acts or sentiments towards the government or the Union. The only hostile acts or expressions are of a personal character, as of a bad or drunken man towards known Union men, or, as the secesh term them, "deserters."

The freedmen generally are well treated; all are working industriously in most localities, and to the satisfaction of the planters. Many of the officers of the bureau apprehend some disagreements at the close of the year arising from the conflict of interests in the division of the crops. Nearly nine-tenths of the freedmen upon plantations in this State are working for a share of the crop; the others for wages.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER.

Brevet Major General U. S. Army, Commanding.

Brevet Lieut. Col. GEORGE LEE, A. A. G.,

Department of the Gulf, New Orleans, La.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF FLORIDA,
ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Tallahassee, Fla., September 18, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to request to be instructed as to the effect of the President's proclamation of August 20, 1866.

Does it in effect restore the privileges of the *habeas corpus* act in all cases; and if not in all cases, to what extent does it operate to restore the privileges of the law? Does it deprive me in the exercise of my command of the supremacy of martial law in cases of conflict between the authority of acts of Congress and orders of my military superiors, and the State or municipal authorities?

The immediate cause of this request is the action of the municipal authorities of this town, who, in the temporary absence of troops, have essayed to arrest officers, soldiers and employes for trifling infractions of municipal ordinances, and this, too, while the latter were in the discharge of their special military duties; and, in most cases, to fine them and require the fine to be paid or go to jail.

I resisted this at once, and have forbidden the mayor to arrest any officers, soldiers, or employes while in the discharge of their duties, but requested him to notify me of any of them who may offend against the law, so that I may investigate each case and punish the offenders.

As the penalty attached to article 33, revised regulations for 1863, is severe, it is desirable that I may be instructed as soon as practicable upon the above points, and whether the above article is now to govern in the military districts under your command.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER,

Brevet Major General U. S. Army.

Brevet Major Gen. GEORGE L. HARTSUFF,

Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF FLORIDA,
ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Tallahassee, Fla., September 20, 1866.

GENERAL: I have the honor to make the following semi-monthly report of the condition of affairs in this district:

The state of feeling toward the government and Union and northern men has not improved since my last report, and there have been indications that the old bitter feeling engendered by the war still rankles in the hearts of many of the old secessionists, and that it will find vent in words and actions as soon as a favorable opportunity offers.

In this town, the intendant, assuming that the proclamation of the President, of August 20, fully restored the supremacy of the civil law over the military, essayed to arrest soldiers and employés of the United States, while in the performance of their duties, for trifling infractions of the municipal ordinance. I was obliged to order him peremptorily to desist. I wrote to you in full in reference to this on the 17th instant, requesting instructions. To allow the State or municipal authorities the power of arresting and trying our officers and soldiers will be to give into the hands of our late enemies the power of retaliation for past injuries and present dislikes. I therefore hope that the supremacy of the military in all matters of conflict between the United States and municipal authorities, and in all actions under express laws of Congress, may be preserved.

I have some trouble in carrying out the provisions of the "homestead law;" in some localities combinations have been formed to resist the settlement of the negroes, and to drive them off. I am preparing to suppress the combinations, and shall take effective measures to vindicate the law.

The freedmen are doing well. The cotton crop is now very promising, being too far advanced to suffer from the ravages of the caterpillar. More cotton will be grown in this section of the State than can be picked by the hands on the plantations.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. G. FOSTER,

Brevet Major General U. S. Army, Commanding District.

Brevet Major Gen. GEORGE L. HARTSUFF, A. A. G.,
Department of the Gulf, New Orleans, La.

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, La., October 6, 1866.

Respectfully forwarded for the information of the general-in-chief.

There has been increased indolence on the part of the functionaries of the civil law in Florida and Texas, growing out of the proclamation of the President.

In Louisiana it has not been so, as the proclamation has never been officially promulgated, and as General Orders Nos. 3 and 44, from headquarters of the army, have not been rescinded, I have gone on in Louisiana as though no proclamation had been issued.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General United States Army.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D. C., October 17, 1866.

SIR: Referring to your indorsement upon communications of General J. G. Foster, commanding district of Florida, of date September 18 and 20, relative

to the effect of the President's proclamation, &c., I am directed by the general-in-chief to enclose you a copy of the same, and to say that he construes the proclamation as nullifying General Order No. 3, War Department, Adjutant General's office, January 12, and General Order No. 44, headquarters of the army, July 6, 1866.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 GEO. K. LEET,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Major General P. H. SHERIDAN,
Commanding Department of the Gulf.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, November 1, 1866.

You will instruct General Foster to refrain from interference with the execution of civil law in Florida, when the laws of the State are not in conflict with laws of the United States. It is alleged that orders given by Colonel Sprague to officers in Fernandina practically prevent the execution of civil law. The duty of the military is to encourage the enforcement of the civil law and order to the fullest extent.

By command of General Grant :

GEO. K. LEET,
Assistant Adjutant General.

General SHERIDAN,
Commanding Department of the Gulf.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF FLORIDA,
Tallahássee, Florida, December 1, 1866.

GENERAL : I have the honor to submit my report on the situation of affairs and the state of public opinion in this district.

The bitter feeling existing towards Union men is exhibited very frequently, and reports and petitions are constantly received by me setting forth the injustice done to them, and praying for relief.

The majority of such cases being entirely within the jurisdiction of the civil authorities, little or nothing can be done by me.

The presence of a military force undoubtedly exercises a great power in the preservation of order, and contributes in some measure at least to the protection of the Union men residing within the immediate limit of its influence.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 J. G. FOSTER,
Brevet Major General, Commanding.

Brevet Major Gen. GEO. L. HARTSUFF, A. A. G.,
Department of the Gulf, New Orleans, La.

TEXAS.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Austin, Texas, January 17, 1866.

GENERAL : The question as to whether the military force now occupying Texas is to be soon reduced, by mustering out a portion of it, is frequently asked, and about which much concern is felt, especially by the loyal portion of the people.

I have just been informed by General Custer that an order had been issued to muster out nearly all the troops in the State, but that it has been revoked or countermanded. This serves to show that the government has had the matter in contemplation, which is enough to fill me with apprehension.

I can scarcely express to you the deep conviction I entertain that such a policy would be most disastrous to the Union men of the State and the interests of the government. If this were done there would immediately occur a scene of violence and outrages upon the real Union men of the State, and upon the freedmen, such as to shock the moral sense of the entire country, and put the government in the attitude of having wantonly deserted its only true friends in the south, leaving them to a cruel and unmerited fate.

The meekness which characterized the conduct of the late rebels for a time after the lapse of the late rebellion has disappeared since they find that no one is to be punished for treason, and in its place the old bitterness, arrogance, and intolerance is reappearing. The spirit which fomented the rebellion is rife to-day. It does not purpose to engage in another war with the government, but it does aspire to still keep the freedmen under the absolute control of their late masters, and to ostracize every white man who refuses to join in perpetuating their policy. I can say very truthfully that if the present military force should be withdrawn I could not and would not attempt to live here. The force will have to be larger than it now is to insure proper protection to all, and to preserve order. I do most sincerely hope that the fatal mistake will not be made of leaving the State in the supreme control of men who have no respect for, or attachment to, the government, and who hate with deep bitterness all its friends and supporters in the south.

In this brief note I have spoken strongly because I feel deeply; and I trust you will understand that nothing but a sense of duty impels me to trouble you with what I have said. I felt that it was not improper to address you on this subject. The force now here (General Custer's) has accomplished much good, and if it were twice as large would accomplish twice as much, without then being able to do all that the necessities of the country demand. I have written to the President upon this subject, most earnestly entreating him not to reduce the present force.

I have not hitherto felt it my duty, nor do I now, to proclaim to the world all the evidences around me of a disposition on the part of the people here to resist in every available way the policy of the government, but to you, general, I feel that I may be frank, and being so, I do most emphatically say that the people of Texas are in no condition to take charge of the affairs of the State with any hope of good to themselves or peace to the country. How long this state of things is to exist depends greatly upon the course pursued by the government. I feel sure that a determined course of action on its part would work the most certain and speedy reformation.

I would be pleased to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

I tender to you, general, my salutations and sincere wishes for your health and welfare.

Very truly and respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. J. HAMILTON.

Major General PHIL. SHERIDAN,

Commanding Military Division of the Gulf, New Orleans.

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, La., February 5, 1866.

Respectfully referred to the lieutenant general commanding the armies of the United States for his information.

With reference to the State of Louisiana, I have for some time believed that the influence of northern capital and northern people would soon fix a good status for the State; but this will not hold good for Texas, as the people of Texas increased in wealth by the rebellion, while in Louisiana they became very poor. Therefore, Texas, by its wealth and the hostility of its people to northern influence, will oblige us to govern them for a long period by a military force.

I very much fear that Governor Hrmilton has not in the least exaggerated in this letter.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General United States Army.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, La., March 10, 1866.

GENERAL : * * * * *

I request reference to the following letters enclosed :

Letter and accompanying papers from Major General H. G. Wright.

Letter from Governor A. J. Hamilton, of Texas.

I think the governor takes rather an exaggerated view of the condition of things.

I am, sir, yours, respectfully,

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General United States Army.

ADJUTANT GENERAL, U. S. ARMY,
Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
Galveston, Texas, March 2, 1866.

COLONEL : I have the honor to transmit for the information of the major general commanding, the following papers :

1. Copy of report of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas M. Browne, 7th Indiana cavalry, of the expedition under his command to Sherman, Grayson county, Texas.
2. Petition, J. W. Robbins, chairman, and other loyal citizens of Jacksboro', asking military protection.
3. Petition of loyal citizens of Weatherford, Parker county, asking military aid, dated February 12.
4. Certificate of other citizens of Weatherford, in relation to above petition.

In order to get fuller and more satisfactory information regarding the condition of the northern part of the State than I had been able to procure, I ordered Brevet Brigadier General Sturgis, commanding at Austin, to report in person here. He arrived yesterday, bringing the papers now enclosed, and after conference with him, I am impressed with the necessity for sending troops into the northern part of the State, and therefore propose, with the approval of the major general commanding, to send four companies of the 6th cavalry to that section, two companies to be stationed at Sherman, one at Weatherford, and one at Jacksboro'. This will reduce the force at Austin to a pretty low figure, smaller than Governor Hamilton will probably think prudent, but which, in the opinion of General Sturgis, will be sufficient.

For the better understanding of the matter by General Sheridan, I should state that one company of the 6th cavalry is now posted at Waco; that there is

a detachment of ten men at Belton, and one of eighteen men at Lockhart; and that I propose sending detachments of fifteen men each to Bastrop and La Grange to protect the officers of the Freedmen's Bureau at those points, in accordance with an application of General Gregory, assistant commissioner, to that effect.

It is the opinion of General Sturgis, in which I am inclined to concur, that most of the disturbances in Texas are caused by comparatively small bands of desperadoes, and that a small force of troops at the more prominent points will suffice to preserve quiet, and securing the safety of Union men and freedmen. No opposition to the United States troops is apprehended unless it be from bushwhackers, &c., and therefore small posts will be as effective as large ones. To concentrate the troops as at present, does not fully accomplish the object of preserving quiet in the country. The desperate and disaffected know that they can perpetrate their outrages and get away from the locality before troops can reach the spot, so long as the latter are concentrated at a few points in the State.

It should be remarked that the disposition towards lawlessness, which has manifestly increased in the State during the last month or two, is attributed to the fact that many of the former slave owners, who are unpopular with the freedmen on account of their cruel disposition towards them, have not been able to secure labor for their farms, the freedmen naturally preferring to contract with those from whom good treatment can be expected; and these men, thus virtually without means of support, have joined the previously disaffected in their crusade against Union men and freedmen.

It is important that the posts referred to should be established with as little delay as practicable, if established at all, and I would therefore ask early action in the matter.

It does not accomplish the desired object to send detachments through the country, or I would start the troops at once, leaving the question of their remaining till I get the needful authority.

Wherever the troops go, the Union men exhibit their feelings freely, and by thus committing themselves towards their lawless neighbors, are in a worse condition on the withdrawal of the troops than they were before. I shall therefore await instructions before sending out the troops.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. G. WRIGHT,

Major General Commanding.

Brevet Colonel GEO. L. HARTSUFF, A. A. G.,

Military Division of the Gulf, New Orleans, La.

P. S.—Please return petitions 2, 3, and 4, for file and reference here.

H. G. W.

AUSTIN, *February 12, 1866.*

General STURGIS, *Commanding, &c.:*

I have just returned from Sherman, Grayson county, Texas, where I was in command of detachments of United States troops under orders from Major General Custer, and at which point I remained for nearly two months.

I flatter myself that I understand fully the condition of affairs in that section of the State, and I most urgently recommend that troops be immediately sent to occupy that country. My reasons are, briefly—

1st. There is more outspoken disloyalty to the government, less respect for its authority, and a greater indisposition to submit to its laws and authority in that section than in any other in the State with which I am acquainted.

2d. It lies upon the border of the Indian territory, and is the rendezvous for

all the thieves, robbers, bushwhackers, and guerillas of the border States, and especially of those from Missouri and Arkansas.

Quantrell's and Anderson's bands of murderers occupied that country during a portion of the war, and many of the worst of these scoundrels infest the country yet.

3d. In this section there are many Union men who continued true to the government during the entire struggle, but they are by no means sufficiently numerous to even defend themselves, to say nothing about regulating and controlling civil government.

These men have suffered every kind of indignity, cruelty, and persecution during the war, and now that it is ended they are in constant danger of assassination. I might give several recent occurrences to prove the correctness of my opinion on this point.

4th. United States troops have recently occupied Grayson, Fannin, and Cooke counties, and several Union men have been active in assisting them in finding secreted government property, and apprehending and arresting outlaws and murderers. This has made them doubly obnoxious to rebels, and they are doubtless marked. Some of these men had to leave when my command was withdrawn, for fear of their lives.

5th. Grayson, Cooke, and Fannin counties were the theatre of the most unparalleled and atrocious outrages during the war. Murder and robbery of Union men was frequent and popular. Hundreds of cold-blooded butcheries were perpetrated upon men guilty of no offence but their devotion to their country. Mob juries, without authority of civil or military tribunals, condemned the suspected without evidence and hanged them speedily and mercilessly. Over fifty men were thus executed upon *one limb* near Gainesville, Cooke county, and some thirty of these were hanged in one day.

On the 1st of January last, and while I was at Shermau, a United States flag, brought into Benham, in Fannin county, by a party of loyal and quiet citizens, was taken from the court-house into the public square and torn into fragments and trampled into the earth. This was done in open day, and in the presence of a considerable concourse of the people.

Courts are necessarily powerless to punish these crimes, or any that assume a partisan character, for, although the judicial functionaries with whom I met (with one exception) are loyal and upright, yet where the body of the people applaud and uphold the act, juries cannot in the nature of things be empanelled that will convict.

Forage and subsistence can be easily secured, and upon terms favorable to the government.

Many mere things I might mention, showing the necessity of protecting the loyal people of northern Texas, but I hope the above will be considered sufficient.

Certainly in no portion of Texas are troops so badly needed. That I do not exaggerate the character and condition of matters, I refer you for confirmation of my statements to C. W. Binckley, esq., Sherman; J. D. C. Blackburn, Sherman; Colonel Robert H. Taylor, Bonham; Colonel Robert H. Lane, Bonham; Judge Lattimore, Clarksville.

The first was one of the commissioners appointed recently by Governor Hamilton to visit Washington, and the latter three are at present members of the convention. All of them are Union men, and in their statement you may place the most implicit confidence.

Hoping this suggestion will not be considered impertinent, but will be favorably considered, I am, general, your friend and obedient servant,

THOMAS M. BROWNE,

Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding 7th Indiana Vol. Cavalry.

JACKSBORO', TEXAS,

February 10, 1866.

Whereas late demonstrations on the part of the rebels is to mob and drive from the county the loyal citizens, we (the object of their malice) deem it necessary to take some proceeding for our safety. Therefore we have met in secret council to devise some safe plan, either to implore the help of the government or abandon the county. But as we have baffled a great odds for nearly five years we think it necessary to battle until we can notify the authorities and ask help. We ask for positive information and not to be flattered, as flattery is death. We therefore appoint D. O. Norton and D. B. Lucky as our representatives, as they can more fully state our condition, and will rely upon their information as final. It is not necessary for this convention to say anything in regard to D. O. Norton and D. B. Lucky's loyalty, as they are generally known in most parts of the State to have been two of our firmest Union men and never to give it up.

J. W. ROBBINS, *Chairman.*W. P. DICKENSON *Secretary.*

H. J. Thompson.

M. Burris.

S. C. Morrows.

W. H. Hampton.

W. P. Dickenson, *C. C. C., J. C.*Wm. Peterson, *Treasury, J. C.*

A. J. Thompson.

T. Burris.

M. L. Higgins.

Owen Fox.

J. R. Armstrong.

E. P. Armstrong.

H. P. Mahaffey.

J. Hilliard.

J. L. Burris.

J. K. Knight.

P. Shelly, *D. C., J. C.*

W. Higgins.

WEATHERFORD, PARKER COUNTY, TEXAS,

February 13, 1866.

Commanding Officer of the United States troops at Austin, Texas:

As our health will not permit of either of us travelling, we place these petitions in the care of John H. Godfrey to deliver to you. He is well known to us to be a good loyal citizen of Parker county, Texas, and we will vouch for all reports that he may make in reference to the condition of affairs in this and Jack county.

D. B. LUCKY.

D. O. NORTON.

WEATHERFORD, PARKER COUNTY, TEXAS,

February 12, 1866.

SIR: We, the undersigned, loyal citizens of Weatherford, feel it a duty incumbent on us to present the following facts and circumstances for your consideration and request your assistance.

We have hesitated long in hopes that necessity would not compel us to this course or to appeal to you, but that peace and quiet would be restored, and law and order resume its sway; but in this we have been very much mistaken.

Immediately after the surrender there was an apparent disposition on the part of the opponents of the government to submit. Officers were appointed and entered upon the discharge of their duties with but little apparent opposition at first, except some opposition to the raising of the old flag, and in fact, it being permitted to remain after night, was taken down and destroyed, and afterwards a confederate flag was raised on the court-house. However, this was permitted

to pass and the wind wore it out; then all seemed to become quiet, except a few who refused to take the amnesty oath, and an occasional outburst when some would get under the influence of ardent spirits and publicly curse on the public square all Union men, and occasionally would get the advantage and beat one, and at night rock the houses of known Union men. A farce of a court had passed off in the mean time, and some Union men had been summoned to attend before the grand jury against some rebels, and this was the pretext for the abuse.

Well, the opposition continued to grow and become more open, till at last one of the foremost of them was killed in an assault upon a Union man. He left a son grown up who had already killed a white man and a negro shortly after the surrender, and against whom some indictments had been found for these and other offences; but he refused to be arrested and was absent for the time. He left also two other sons, youths, but who, with some few friends, vowed vengeance against Union men. The oldest one has since returned, and he, with the younger ones and these friends, have openly defied the civil officers, parading the public square and streets of the town. The sheriff failing to receive support, and not being able to execute the laws, resigned his office; and three others have been temporarily appointed and compelled to resign, while these men roam at large, parade the streets day after day, openly and boisterously proclaim on the public square they glory in the name of rebel, curse and assault and threaten the lives of Union men, so that perfect anarchy and confusion prevails, and good men, several, are confined to their houses for fear of their lives being taken. No one can be found to accept the office of sheriff, and order can never be restored in this county without the aid of the military.

The time for holding district court is approaching; no preparations are being made, and without help none can be held here.

Therefore we have to request, having given you a brief outline, though not near all, of matters as they stand, that you send a force and station them at this place for some time, till order and quiet has been restored. This, we feel satisfied, can be done if some few persons are arrested and taken off from here, and the force remains till after court to aid the officers. We think a line of posts should be kept up along near the frontier, say Sherman, Weatherford, Gateville, and Austin, as this country is, and will be, subject to inroads from the lawless desperadoes, and occasionally the savage Indians on the other hand.

Feeling that we deserve protection for our devotion to the government, we hope to receive a favorable reply and speedy relief at your hands.

With all due respect,

C. E. BROWN.
STEPHEN HEFFINGTON.
JOHN GODFREY.
JAS. M. TAYLOR.

D. O. NORTON.
N. STONE.
DAVID MOON.
JNO. BROWN,

Justice of the Peace.

We hope this will be regarded and held strictly private.

General CUSTER,

Commanding U. S. Cavalry in Texas.

WEATHERFORD, *February 13, 1866.*

We, the undersigned citizens, do certify that the accompanying report is true, and, moreover, that rebels who have taken the amnesty oath do swear that they spit it out, (using their own language,) and that they swore a lie when they took the oath. Whenever the rebels catch a Union man unprotected they will abuse him and mob him. A few days since a peaceable citizen went into the town of Weatherford, and he was attacked by a party of rebels and killed. The outrages are too numerous to mention.

We will vouch for any reports that John H. Godfrey, the bearer of this, may make in person to you, and we sincerely hope you will send us aid. If you do not relieve us in some way we will have to abandon this part of the country, as there is fifteen or twenty rebels to one Union man, and we have to go in companies to keep them from mobbing us.

They swear that they will not submit to federal authority.

JAMES BEDFORD.
WM. MOON.
H. BUCKER.
STEPH. HEFFINGTON.
PETER HOLDER.
W. B. GODFREY.

D. B. LUCKY.
J. A. GODFREY.
LOGAN BEEK.
JOHN BROWN.
ISAAC SEELER.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Austin, Texas, February 26, 1866.

DEAR GENERAL: Your favor of the 5th instant is at hand, and I am much gratified to know that you have indorsed my views as to the necessity of retaining troops in Texas. You are right in saying that the necessity is increasing rather than decreasing. This is true to an extent that I am scarcely willing to commit to paper. It will suffice to say that unless the military force in this State is speedily augmented we will have a state of things very nearly approaching civil war. I am very delicately situated, general, as you can well conceive, but my first duty is to speak truthfully what I believe.

I affirm that the spirit of rebellion is rampant in this State, and while at present there is no intention to organize *armed* resistance to the United States government, there is every disposition to browbeat and maltreat its friends, the Unionists; to infuse into the minds of the people hatred of its policy, and to yield only such obedience to its authority as is forced from fear. This spirit has been rapidly developing for several months past.

I am receiving daily accounts from different sections of the State, especially from the counties bordering on the Indian territory, that not only the civil authority of the State is openly defied, but a determination publicly proclaimed to resist as well the authority of the national government. Violence is everywhere on the increase. Human life in Texas is not to day worth as much, so far as law or protection can give value to it, as that of domestic cattle. The removal of the few troops now in the State would be the signal for a scene of murder, assassinations, and outrages such as have never disgraced any country claiming civilization.

To keep the people of Texas quiet and force obedience to law will require a force of from fifteen to twenty thousand men, properly distributed through her populated districts. I pen these things hastily, general, and possibly you may conceive that anxiety has exaggerated in my mind the fears I entertain. But I am not alone in my opinions. I have not conferred with one thoughtful, observant loyal man (and upon this subject I confer with none others) who does not fully agree with me.

You desire my opinion as to how negro troops will do here and at San Antonio. We are in a condition not to be choise. In God's name send us help—troops of any sort—and we will be thankful.

I shall leave for Washington as soon as the convention now in session adjourns and as I pass through New Orleans hope to have the pleasure of meeting you and discussing this matter fully. Wishing you continued health,

I am, general, very truly, your friend and obedient servant,

A. J. HAMILTON.

Major General P. H. SHERIDAN,
Commanding Division of the Gulf, New Orleans.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,

Austin, Texas, March 19, 1866.

GENERAL: For two months past I have had repeated communications from Parker county, in the northern part of the State, all tending to prove that there exists in that region a very bad state of things, and which, if not checked, will probably ripen into open violence and civil war. The civil officers cannot execute their duties, and have abandoned the further attempt to do so, unless sustained by a military force. The loyal men are greatly alarmed and implore aid. There is a courier now here who will leave in the morning, (who is, perhaps, the fourth or fifth one who has been sent,) who says if they could have the presence of a small force during the term of the district court for Parker county, which begins on the 26th instant, it would do great good. The force lately sent up in that direction I have understood was ordered to Pilot Point, in Denton county, which adjoins Parker. If you could order this force to visit Parker during the session of the court, it would, I doubt not, accomplish much good. Among other things which have been communicated to me from that portion of the State is the statement contained in the enclosed paper, which you will please read and return when convenient.

If it be possible, general, to give such orders to the command which has gone north as will relieve the people of Parker county, the gentleman (courier) who starts in the morning will bear it to the commanding officer.

I am, general, very truly, your obedient servant,

A. J. HAMILTON.

General S. D. STURGIS, *Austin, Texas.*

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA,

May 21, 1866.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that in obedience to instructions from the headquarters military division of the gulf, I visited Marshall and Jefferson, Texas, for the purpose of ascertaining and reporting upon the condition of civil affairs in reference to Union men and freedmen in that section of the State.

I was also directed to report whether or not, according to my best judgment, it would be necessary to retain the troops at the two places above mentioned.

I found at Marshall a very good state of feeling concerning the freedmen generally. All citizens who are property holders have become fully aware that it is for their interest to treat the negro well. They find that the labor of the freedmen is a necessity to them, and to secure and retain that labor, kind treatment is necessary.

The same feeling exists at Jefferson, among men of standing and respectability, though there are in this place quite a number of grocery loungers who are loud-mouthed and violent periodically. Yet these men form but quite a small proportion of the inhabitants of Jefferson, and it would be unfair to judge them all by a few irresponsible persons.

I had an interview with Judge Bonfory of Marshall, collector of internal revenue of that district; also with Judge Weems of Shreveport. Both those gentlemen are old residents in that section of country, and are undoubted Union men. They are well acquainted with the feelings and sentiments of the people, of northeastern Texas, and I think their opinions and statements can be relied on.

I also conversed with other prominent citizens, both of Marshall and Jefferson, all of whom state that the people generally are willing to give a cordial support to the government, and to treat the freedmen kindly.

With regard to the Union men there is some bitterness of feeling, (I refer to those who belonged in that section of Texas at the beginning of the war, and

not to northern men,) though I did not hear of any attempt at persecution on account of political differences.

I have met with quite a number of northern men, many of them formerly officers and soldiers in our army. These men, both in the vicinity of Marshall and Jefferson, state that the people generally are well disposed towards them.

I am, therefore, of the opinion that there is no longer any necessity for troops either at Marshall or Jefferson, the presence of troops at Shreveport being sufficient, in my belief, to overcome the few turbulent spirits at Jefferson.

I have the honor to be, with much respect, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH A. MOWER,

Bvt. Maj. Gen. U. S. Army, and Capt. 1st Infantry.

Major GEORGE LEE, A. A. G.,

Military Division of the Gulf.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,

Galveston, Texas, July 21, 1866.

COLONEL: I send to-day an application from Mrs. L. E. Potts, of Paris, Lamar county, Texas, to the President, for troops to be sent to that locality for the protection of the people, and particularly of the freedmen, whom she represents to be subject to much ill treatment on the part of their former masters. This application is referred from headquarters of the army to General Sheridan, through the Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau, but it was—inadvertently, no doubt—sent to General Kiddoo, who refers it to General Sheridan through these headquarters.

I get frequent complaints from the northeastern section of the State regarding the condition of that part of the country, of the barbarities practiced toward refugees and freedmen, but owing to the want of force for the purpose, nothing could be done in the matter. The troops we have are already widely distributed, generally in one-company posts, and in some instances in detachments of four or five men, with large commands at San Antonio and Austin, which latter are held ready for any case of emergency. But as the remainder of the seventeenth United States infantry will soon be here, thus giving an important increase of force, I would ask the attention of the major general commanding to the distribution to be made of it.

The first battalion of the seventeenth infantry which is at present a mere skeleton of three companies, is held at this point awaiting assignment. The second battalion, of two small companies, is at San Antonio. The third, which is fully garrisoned, is distributed in this section of the State at posts of one company, except at Galveston, where there are two companies. On the arrival of the remainder, now on the way, the three battalions will be filled to their maximum, nearly.

I think that the northeastern and northern portion of the State should be garrisoned, but as infantry seems to be of comparatively little use for such service, I would suggest that, on the arrival of the remainder of the second battalion at San Antonio, the fourth cavalry, or at any rate eight companies of it, be sent into the section named, and distributed in one-company posts generally.

This recommendation is made of course upon the supposition that the present policy of maintaining garrisons in the interior of the State is to be continued for some time to come; otherwise, a very different disposition of troops should be made by assigning them to posts on the frontiers with a view to their protection from the Indians.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. G. WRIGHT,

Major General Commanding.

Brevet Lieut. Col. GEORGE LEE, A. A. G.,

Military Division of the Gulf, New Orleans, La.

PARIS, LAMAR COUNTY, TEXAS.

Mr. PRESIDENT—DEAR SIR: In addressing you, I do not address you as the Chief Magistrate only, but as the father of our beloved country—one to whom we all look more or less for protection—but most especially the poor negro. I wish that my poor pen could tell you of their persecutions here. They are now just out of slavery only a few months, and their masters are so angry to have to lose them that they are trying to persecute them back into slavery. It is not considered crime here to kill a negro. They are often run down by blood-hounds and shot, because they do not do precisely what the white man says. I have been in Nashville, Tennessee, all the winter, and I am constantly reminded of the difference in their condition here and there. There has never been any federal troops in here, and everything savors of rebellion. I wish that we could have a few soldiers here for a while, just to let these rebels know that they have been whipped.

The confederacy has destroyed and ruined my own and my children's property. In 1858, I took my two children and went to California, with the hope of restoring the health of my daughter, who was in a deep decline, and in 1861 I was ready to return home, when the rebellion broke out, and fearing that my son, a youth only thirteen years of age, might be forced into the war, I remained there until peace. We left a large estate here, which they confiscated and destroyed all that they could. The land is all that is left to us. They stripped it of all the timber, and destroyed my houses, had my notes and claims turned over to the confederate receiver, who has them yet. But it is not to my wrongs that I wish to call your attention, but for humanity's sake I implore you to send protection in some form to these suffering freedmen. Your good heart and wise head knows best what to do. I have only stated facts. The negroes need protection here. When they work they scarcely ever get any pay, and what are they to do?

I am a plain woman from your own State, and hope that this appeal may not be made in vain. I have never had the pleasure of your acquaintance, but as a Tennessean I am proud of you, and as a President I approve of your course, and hope that bright laurels may forever crown your brow.

Nothing more at present, but subscribe myself respectfully yours, &c.,

MRS. L. E. POTTS.

JUNE 28, 1866.

Respectfully referred to Major General O. O. Howard, Commissioner.

By order of the President:

R. MORROW, *Secretary.*

WASHINGTON, July 2, 1866.

Respectfully forwarded to Lieutenant General Grant, United States army, whose attention is called to indorsement within, with request for his approval and return to this office.

O. O. HOWARD,

Major General, Commissioner.

Indorsement referred to above:

WAR DEPARTMENT,

BUREAU REFUGEES, FREEDMEN AND ABANDONED LANDS,

Washington, July 2, 1866.

Respectfully referred to Brevet Major General Kiddoo, assistant commissioner of Texas, with instructions to make requisitions for sufficient force to visit Paris, Lamar county, Texas, to make investigation of the within statements and, if necessary, to give the protection required. Parties guilty of murder and other outrages upon freedmen must be brought to justice.

O. O. HOWARD,

Major General, Commissioner.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES UNITED STATES,

July 6, 1866.

Respectfully referred to Major General P. H. Sheridan, commanding military division of the Gulf, through Major General Howard, Commissioner of Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, with directions to furnish, upon application of agents of the Freedmen's Bureau, such assistance as the means at his command will permit, either for the protection of refugees, freedmen, and Union men, or to enforce punishment for crimes.

By Command of Lieutenant General Grant :

GEO. K. LEET,

Assistant Adjutant General.

WAR DEPARTMENT, BUREAU OF REFUGEES, &c.,

Washington, July 6, 1866.

Respectfully referred to Brevet Major General J. B. Kiddoo, assistant commissioner, whose attention is invited to the indorsement of Lieutenant General U. S. Grant upon the within envelope, and the indorsement from this office upon the enclosed paper. General Kiddoo will take immediate action in this matter.

By order of General O. O. Howard, Commissioner :

A. P. KETCHUM,

*Brevet Major and Acting Assistant Adjutant General.*HEADQUARTERS BUREAU OF REFUGEES,
FREEDMEN AND ABANDONED LANDS,

July 20, 1866.

Respectfully transmitted to Major General Sheridan, through headquarters department of Texas.

J. B. KIDDOO,

Brevet Major General, Assistant Commissioner.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,

Galveston, July 21, 1866.

Respectfully forwarded and attention invited to my letter of this date upon the subject of further disposition of troops in this department.

H. G. WRIGHT,

Major General Commanding.

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH, WAR DEPARTMENT,

Washington, D. C., July 22, 1866.

[Time received, 12.15 a. m.—Cipher.]

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA,

July 21, 1866—8.30 p. m.

Brevet Major General J. A. RAWLINS, *Chief of Staff* :

I find it necessary to go over the Rio Grande frontier for six days. Since the surrender of Matamoras, there is the *diable* to pay over in Mexico. The empress is on her way to Vera Cruz to leave the country, and there are general indications of a break-up or a stampede of the most alarming character. Fears are entertained of the ability of the French troops to get out of the country.

P. H. SHERIDAN,

Major General.

[Cipher telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, Louisiana, September 20, 1866.

GENERAL: Two soldiers of the seventeenth infantry were wantonly shot at Brenham, Texas, on the evening of the 7th of this month; they were unarmed and inoffensive.

On that night a party of four or five persons broke into the store of Mr. Compton, and about four o'clock a. m. it was discovered to be on fire, and a small block of buildings burned.

Lieutenant Colonel Mason, commanding at Galveston, at the request of the governor, proceeded to Brenham, and made an open investigation in the courthouse, the result of which is, that Brevet Major Smith took every precaution to keep his men in camp during the night; that he himself was not out of camp after twelve o'clock p. m., and that the examination does not fix the crime of arson on any of the soldiers. Notwithstanding this, writs were issued for the arrest of Brevet Major Smith and four of his men, not one of whom, it is the belief of Colonel Mason, could have committed the crime.

Since the occurrence the town of Brenham has been held at night by a sheriff's posse of fifty men, no soldiers allowed to come into the town, and the threats against Brevet Major Smith and his command have been such as to cause him to enclose his camp by a field work.

I have sent orders to Brevet Major Smith to not deliver himself, nor any of his men, up. Meantime I will assemble a military board to ascertain if any of the soldiers were guilty of arson.

The manner of the civil authorities at Brenham is insolent and threatening; the language towards the soldiers insulting and menacing. Unless it subsides I will move troops from Austin and San Antonio to that point.

I will forward by mail the report of Brevet Colonel Mason. I have delayed in reporting on this case until the facts were received.

Two more of our soldiers were shot near Jefferson some time ago, which I have not yet reported, as I am awaiting the receipt of the official evidence.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General United States Army.

General U. S. GRANT,

Commanding Armies of the United States, Washington, D. C.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D. C., September 21, 1866.

Major General SHERIDAN, New Orleans, Louisiana:

Despatches of 20th received. Your course in regard to riot in Brenham, Texas, right, only I think troops to defend themselves should be sent there without delay. If arms are used against peaceable soldiers, disarm citizens.

U. S. GRANT, General.

OFFICE UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
War Department, Washington, D. C., September 21, 1866.

[Telegram in cipher.—Time received 7.10 p. m.]

NEW ORLEANS, LA, September 21, 1866.

U. S. GRANT, General:

I telegraphed you yesterday about the difficulty at Brenham, Texas. I think it will subside without serious trouble. I am inclined to think there was a good

deal of bluff intended. I will make every endeavor to get at the parties who fired the store of Mr. Compton, if they are soldiers, and there is strong probability that they were.

P. H. SHERIDAN.

[Cipher telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, Louisiana, October 1, 1866.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report my return from Texas.

I visited Brenham, and affairs are now arranged so that no difficulty will occur. The men who shot the soldiers have been held to bonds. The sheriff has given up the attempt to arrest innocent men, and if the guilty parties are found I will not screen them.

The charge that the town of Brenham was fired is exaggerated. One small square of houses, separate from any others, about one hundred and sixty feet front by sixty feet deep, was burned. The buildings and their contents not very valuable.

P. H. SHERIDAN,

Major General United States Army.

Brevet Major General J. A. RAWLINS,

Chief of Staff, Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, Louisiana, October 1, 1866.

GENERAL: I have the honor to transmit a report of the circumstances connected with the murder of two soldiers of the 80th United States colored infantry, stationed at Jefferson, Texas, on the 29th of August last.

I doubt very much if any redress can be obtained in this case, but will follow it up. This section of the State of Texas is very lawless from all I can hear, and the injustice done to freedmen very great, but I can cover but few of the cases, as I have not the troops to spare.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

P. H. SHERIDAN,

Major General United States Army.

Brevet Major General J. A. RAWLINS,

Chief of Staff, Washington, D. C.

CAMP LOWELL,
Sherman, Grayson Co., Texas, October 20, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to enclose a communication addressed to General Getty, commanding district of Texas, which was handed to me this morning by Judge A. M. Bryant, late chief justice of Grayson county, Texas.

Judge Bryant was arrested this morning by the civil authority for acts done in pursuance of proper military authority.

He applied to me for relief under the provisions of General Orders No. 5, from headquarters department of Texas, dated January 27, 1866.

After examination of the case, I was satisfied that it came clearly within that order, and forthwith released him from custody of the sheriff.

There is a most vindictive spirit exhibited here by many towards original Union men who remained, and those who left the State to fight in our army. They have ceased resorting to mob law for the purpose of making "Texas too hot for Union men," and having control of the courts and the sympathy of the jury, are endeavoring to persecute them out of the State by annoying suits and tricks of law.

Judge Bryant is prosecuted for his efforts to secure the return of government property. He was not only acting under military authority at the time the offence was charged, but also held the office of chief justice of the county under the provisional government; which would make him *ex officio* an officer of the general government.

From the character of the parties engaged in this prosecution, I am afraid that it will not end here.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. S. ABERT,

Bvt. Lieut. Col. and Capt. 6th Cavalry, Commanding.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL,

District of Texas, Galveston.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF TEXAS,
Galveston, November 12, 1866.

Respectfully forwarded.

This is only one of several cases which have already arisen, and there will be more since the peace proclamation.

How can aid be given in such cases?

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

Col. 17th Inf., Brevet Major General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, Louisiana, November 16, 1866.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant General of the army. I respectfully invite the attention of General Grant to the enclosed communications and the indorsements thereon by General Heintzelman. It is apparent that the late rebels now exercising civil authority in Texas are determined to annoy and injure, to the extent of their ability, all who in any way favored the Union cause in the late war.

P. H. SHERIDAN,

Major General United States Army, Commanding.

OFFICE UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH, WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., October 23, 1866.

[Telegram in cipher.—Time received, 7 p. m.]

General GRANT, *Commanding Armies:*

Information from the commanding officer at Jacksboro', Texas, and also from commanding officer at Sherman, Texas, mentions some Indian depredations on that line of frontier. Captain Cram followed with two companies of cavalry from Jacksboro', and ran the Indians across the Wichita river, but could not overtake them. They apparently came from the Indian territory, but it is not certain. Major Forsyth is now *en route* to that line of frontier, and will, if possible, ascertain what tribes these Indians belong to.

P. H. SHERIDAN, *Major General.*

HEADQUARTERS SUB-DISTRICT OF THE RIO GRANDE,

Brownsville, Texas, January 19, 1867.

GENERAL: On the night of the 16th instant, a patrol of the colored troops, in charge of a non-commissioned officer, while in the discharge of their legitimate duty, was fired upon by some drunken policemen in Brownsville. The patrol returned the fire promptly and properly, resulting in mortally wounding two white men; one a policeman, the other the proprietor of a drinking saloon, where the affair occurred.

The patrol acted right and is in no way to blame.

The occurrence has been fully investigated by the mayor, at which I had an officer present. We have all the testimony, which clearly justifies the action of the guard.

I forward this concise statement of the facts in the case for the information of the major general commanding department of the gulf, lest the papers, through defective information, should give a false impression with regard to the affair.

I have the honor to be, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. J. REYNOLDS,

Col. 26th Infantry, Commanding Sub-district Rio Grande.

Brevet Major General GEORGE L. HARTSUFF,

Assistant Adjutant General, Department of the Gulf.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,

New Orleans, Louisiana, January 25, 1867.

GENERAL: From the enclosed despatch you will see that there is some little trouble in Texas about honors to be paid to the remains of Sidney Johnson, and that General Griffin has taken action in the premises.

I very much fear continued disturbance in that State.

The condition of freedmen and Union men in remote parts of the State is truly horrible. The government is denounced, the freedmen are shot, and Union men are persecuted if they have the temerity to express their opinion.

This condition exists in the northeastern counties of the State to an alarming extent.

I have been unable to spare troops for these counties, but will try and send a detachment or company to some point north of Jefferson.

Applications come to me from the most respectable authorities for troops, but troops have so little power that they are sufficient only in the moral effect which their presence has.

It is currently reported in these counties that the object of the governor in calling for troops for the frontier is to get the soldiers removed from the interior, so that there could be no interference in the perpetration of these fiendish actions.

There was no trouble here upon the removal of the remains of Sidney Johnson from this city.

The newspapers invited the friends of the deceased to attend the funeral, and there was simply a funeral, without any confederate display.

The twentieth infantry is at the mouth of the river. This will give me as many troops as I want for my command, and the last two remaining regiments of colored volunteers will be ordered mustered out before long.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. H. SHERIDAN,

Major General United States Army.

General U. S. GRANT,

Commanding Armies of the United States, Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES UNITED STATES,

January 29, 1867.

Respectfully forwarded to the Secretary of War. Attention is invited to that part of the within communication which refers to the condition of Union men and freedmen in Texas, and to the powerlessness of the military in the present state of affairs to afford them protection. Even the moral effect of the presence of troops is passing away, and a few days ago a squad of soldiers on duty was fired on by citizens in Brownsville, Texas; a report of which is this day forwarded. In my opinion the great number of murders of Union men and freedmen in Texas, not only as a rule unpunished, but uninvestigated, constitute practically a state of insurrection, and believing it to be the province and duty of every good government to afford protection to the lives, liberty, and property of her citizens, I would recommend the declaration of martial law in Texas to secure these ends.

The necessity for governing any portion of our territory by martial law is to be deplored. If resorted to, it should be limited in its authority, and should leave all local authorities and civil tribunals free and unobstructed, until they prove their inefficiency or unwillingness to perform their duties.

Martial law would give security, or comparatively so, to all classes of citizens, without regard to race, color, or political opinions, and could be continued until society was capable of protecting itself, or until the State is returned to its full relation with the Union.

The application of martial law to one of these States would be a warning to all, and, if necessary, could be extended to others.

U. S. GRANT, *General.*

No action was had by the civil authorities upon the foregoing recommendation.

INDIAN DIFFICULTIES.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE GULF,

New Orleans, Louisiana, April 26, 1866.

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the resolutions of the convention of the State of Texas in reference to frontier defence.

I know of no depredations having been committed except by the Kickapoo Indians, who live in Mexico, near San Fernando. They come over in bands of four or five, and occasionally drive off stock. It is very hard to control these small bands. I sent word to their chief last fall that we would go after him if he did not control his people better. The chiefs of the tribe are well disposed towards our people, and it should be remembered that it was this tribe that the disloyal Texans attacked, under a white flag, when they were emigrating from the borders of western Missouri to get away from rebellion. They made an agreement with the so-called imperial government of Mexico to protect the frontier against hostile Indians, since which time the imperial government has been unable to fulfil its agreement, and the tribe has been left in a destitute condition. I sent to inquire of them some time ago what they wanted, and if they desired to again return; but no reply has been sent me.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. H. SHERIDAN,

Major General United States Army.

Brevet Major General JOHN A. RAWLINS,

Chief of Staff, Headquarters Armies U. S., Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, Louisiana, May 4, 1866.

GENERAL: * * * * * *

The reason I hold this battalion at Galveston for the present is this: If the colored troops on the Rio Grande frontier are to be mustered out I would put it on that line. If they are not to be mustered out, I wish to open the line from San Antonio to El Paso. I think this line could be opened by the reoccupation of two posts, one at Fort Clark, the other at Fort Davis. Fort Davis should have not less than six companies, four of infantry and two of cavalry, and Fort Clark about two companies. This would leave me but two companies for Fort Bliss, out of the eight companies of the first battalion; and this, perhaps, is not enough.

I heretofore felt no particular inclination to open this line, or in the establishment of frontier posts, as I had only volunteer organizations, and now when I am getting regular troops, I have to use them in the settled portions of the State, to make the people behave themselves. It is somewhat of a question in my mind whether I should especially exert myself for the protection of the frontier of Texas, when the very troops which could be used for this purpose have to be held to put down the disloyal acts of the people. However, I have not yet received the balance of the seventeenth infantry, and nothing can be done until it comes, and if it does not come soon it will be too late for this year.

* * * * * * *

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. H. SHERIDAN,

Major General United States Army.

Lieutenant General U. S. GRANT,

Commanding Armies of the United States, Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, Louisiana, September 8, 1866.

GENERAL: I have recently received a communication from the governor of Texas, addressed to Major General H. G. Wright, representing and complaining of Indian troubles in the Comanche country in that State and at other points on the northern frontier, and asking for the requisite protection from the military. I have also seen articles in the newspapers of Texas about Indian depredations at different points on the frontier; but while these reports come from the sources enumerated, there is not a single military report to sustain them. However, Captain Claffin, of the sixth United States cavalry, is now out investigating these reports, and I will depend more upon what he says than on any of these reports, which may be originated for some special purpose.

I have ordered a portion of the United States cavalry to take post at Camp Verdi and at Fredericksburg, which will cover that country and also the Comanche country. While these reports are being made to me and published in the Texas newspapers, the legislature is passing acts to raise citizen troops; and it may be that this cry is gotten up to help along the passage of these acts to raise citizen soldiery for frontier service.

General Wright said to me that the governor of Texas would make a great effort to have the troops removed from the interior of the State, and this excitement about Indian difficulties may be based on this object.

There would be no person more willing than I am to remove all troops from points where their duties are more of a civil than military nature; but, under the present policy of the government to give protection to freedmen and men who were not disloyal during the rebellion, I cannot see how that change can at present occur.

I want to go to the interior of Texas very much, but am so tied down here for the present that I cannot get off.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

P. H. SHERIDAN,

Major General United States Army.

Brevet Major General JOHN A. RAWLINS,

Chief of Staff, Washington, D. C.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,

Austin, Texas, September 18, 1866.

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 3d instant. I am much gratified to learn that you have so promptly ordered a cavalry force to Fredericksburg. They are much needed at that point, but the most serious depredations are being committed on the border along the waters of the Brazos, Trinity, and Red rivers. In truth, there is no part of the frontier, from Red river to the Rio Grande, that is not suffering more or less. Every day brings the most distressing and heart-rending accounts of the murders and sufferings of the frontier people. The settlements are being rapidly broken up. A very large amount of property has been taken and destroyed by the Indians. Quite a number of women and children have been carried into captivity. Only a few weeks since, within fifteen miles of Gainesville, the county-seat of Cook county, (one of the interior counties, but bordering on the Chickasaw nation,) a man was killed, and his wife and two grown daughters and two younger daughters were carried into captivity. I only mention this as one instance, and because you will see by reference to the map that west of Cook there are several counties of considerable population; but immediately north of this part of the frontier is the adjacent Indian territory, the western part of which is not populated, and through which the wild tribes travel in making their raids upon this portion of the border.

Accompanying this communication I send you a synopsis of information received from various portions of the frontier within the last few weeks.

I deem it proper that you should have this information, and I assure you that this is by no means a full and complete representation of all the depredations committed.

From recent reliable information I am certain that the Cheyennes and Arapahoes (tribes that live far beyond the borders of Texas) were joined in their recent annual council by several other tribes, and determined to continue their war upon Texas with redoubled vigor.

Events recently occurring satisfy me that this determination is now being put into active execution.

I beg to call your attention to the fact that the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, during the last five years, on account of their depredations upon the United States trains, emigrant travel across the plains, &c., have been gradually drifting south to evade pursuit, and in the cold season have been wintering in the Washita mountains north of Red river.

In this locality they consort with the Kiowas, Northern Camanches and Lipans, all of which tribes are now concentrating their forces upon the border of Texas.

On account of the shelter afforded these hostile tribes by the mountains, and streams bordered with heavy bottoms of timber, and the facility with which they can travel unseen through the western part of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations, it is a matter of absolute necessity that a strong post should be established near the southern base of the Wichita mountains, and then another about

the mouth of the Wichita on Red river, or some ten or fifteen miles lower down, at the mouth of the Caché creek. These two posts would cover the line from Clay county east to Cook county, and would also cover the line of Indian travel from the mountains towards the frontier counties of Jack, Young, Palo Pinto, &c. This would be the beginning of the line, connecting with Fort Belknap and the old line of posts. I hope, general, you will pardon these suggestions. I would not make them to one so eminent as a military man, were it not that the last year of the war I was myself in command on the frontier, and have a personal knowledge of the localities mentioned. I presume that the Indian country north of the Red river, and south of the Arkansas, is not in your department; but I am sure you will agree with me in opinion that it should be, as the wild tribes inhabiting the country south of the Arkansas, and also those living in New Mexico, are at war with the people of your district.

I deem it proper to inform you that the legislature now in session have passed an act authorizing me to call out one thousand men for frontier defence. This measure is not to be resorted to by me if the general government sends an adequate force at once to the protection of the people. The State is illy prepared to undertake this heavy expenditure, but the necessity is so urgent that I will be compelled to call out the force at once, unless I receive an assurance from you of speedy relief.

I trust, general, you will make an appeal to the authorities at once in our behalf, and without delay have a sufficient force placed at your disposal to insure safety to the lives and property of our people.

You mention your great desire to "remove the troops from the settled portions of the State as soon as there is a practical illustration of good sentiment, and an entire security to every class of population in the State."

General, I am aware of the ten thousand misrepresentations of our people, published to the world by persons who have no desire to have peace restored to the country, who really wish to excite our people to acts and expressions disrespectful to the general government; and while I know this is true, I am free to admit that there are a few, very few, heedless and malicious persons among us, citizens of the country, who say and do things truly reprehensible. But while such is the fact, I know this is confined to a very few, and constitutes nothing like a general sentiment among the people.

I think I am entirely justified in assuring you that the civil authorities of the State are not only competent to, but will protect all classes of the people in the enjoyment of every right of person and property; and I am satisfied that the civil authorities will respond to any legitimate call made upon them by the agents of the Freedmen's Bureau in the exercise of the duties as officers of the government.

It will afford me pleasure, general, to give you information touching the general feeling and sentiment of our people, and to respond to any inquiries regarding particular sections or special events occurring amongst us. I know a few special circumstances of bad conduct on the part of some of the citizens of the State that are without the shadow of truth.

Hoping, general, to hear from you soon, and that you will be able to afford relief to the suffering people of the border,

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,

J. W. THROCKMORTON,

Governor of Texas.

Major General SHERIDAN,

Commanding Department of the Gulf, New Orleans, La.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, La., October 6, 1866.

Respectfully referred to the General-in-chief for his information.

There is no doubt in my mind that the Indian troubles on the frontier of Texas are very much exaggerated. There have been troubles on this frontier always, and always will be, and I doubt if they are much greater now than heretofore.

I will have all my arrangements made by early spring to establish posts, as by that time I hope to have an adequate force of regular troops to establish them.

I am opposed to the use of the mounted force the governor proposes to call out.

With reference to the good sentiment and the desire to do justice to every class of citizens in Texas, there are so many intelligent officers and citizens who differ from the governor in his views, that I am compelled to believe he only represents one side of the question.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, La., October 3, 1866.

GENERAL: I have the honor to forward the enclosed telegram from Governor Throckmorton of Texas.

I have no reason to believe that there is any necessity for these volunteers, except the reports found in the Texas newspapers and the representations of Governor Throckmorton.

There has not been a single military commander in Texas who has reported Indian difficulties, except in the case of a few Kickapoos, who came over on our side of the Rio Grande two or three times, and in parties not numbering more than five or six.

So far as my judgment is concerned, it is opposed to the acceptance of these troops, and I have been led to believe, from what I have heard and seen, that the mainspring of the whole movement is to get the United States troops from the interior of the State. There is no one who would hail such an event with greater pleasure than myself; but, so long as the government pursues its present policy, I would not advise their removal until there is a practical illustration of a better sentiment among the people of Texas.

I have, indirectly, been contending with the governor of Louisiana, to prevent him from raising troops in the State, for the alleged purpose of protecting Union people, (but most probably for other and more selfish motives;) but if the governor of Texas can call out troops, the governor of Louisiana has the same right, and then will be this strange anomaly. The troops raised in Texas would be of the element which fought against the government; those in Louisiana of the element which fought for it—and so it goes.

I have sent the fourth cavalry to the region of alleged Indian troubles.

General Wright informed me that Governor Throckmorton was going to make a great effort to remove the troops from the interior of Texas. This may be a part of the programme.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General United States Army.

General U. S. GRANT,
Commanding Armies of the United States, Washington, D. C.

[By telegraph from Austin, September 26, 1866.—Received at New Orleans, September 26, 1866.]

To GENERAL SHERIDAN *Commanding, &c.*:

The legislature requests me to call out one thousand (1,000) mounted men to defend the frontier, unless immediate relief is offered by the government. If their services are accepted by the federal government, they are at the disposal and service of the federal authorities for such term as they may desire. They can be put in the field and supplied in three weeks from the order. Necessity requires prompt action.

Very respectfully,

J. W. THROCKMORTON,
Governor of Texas.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D. C., October 8, 1866.

Major General SHERIDAN, *New Orleans, Louisiana:*

Your despatch of 3d instant just received. Your views about not authorizing volunteers to be raised in Texas, ostensibly to put down Indian hostilities, are sustained. With the military at your command as full protection can be given to the people of Texas as to any other exposed settlements. You may so instruct Governor Throckmorton.

U. S. GRANT, *General.*

[Duplicate telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, Louisiana, October 9, 1866.

GOVERNOR: I am directed by the General-in-chief to inform you that the volunteers authorized by the legislature of Texas will not be accepted.

I have the pleasure of informing you that additional troops have been ordered to the State, and that an inspector will be at once sent to its northern frontier; that as much protection as we possibly can give to the frontier will be cheerfully given, and that in the early spring the frontier posts will be established.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General United States Army.

His Excellency J. W. THROCKMORTON,
Governor of Texas, Austin.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, October 11, 1866.

GENERAL: I enclose to you, for your consideration and such action as you deem proper, a communication dated Austin, September 29, 1866, addressed to this department by J. W. Throckmorton, governor of Texas, in relation to Indian outrages committed in that State, accompanied by a copy of an act of the Legislature of Texas, providing for raising troops for defence, together with

sundry newspaper extracts and a statement of the honorable Mr. Black, a member of the legislature; all of which are referred to in the governor's communication.

A telegram from Governor Throckmorton, dated September 20, addressed to the President, and the answer thereto, relating to the same subject, are also herewith submitted.

The papers above mentioned have been laid before the President, and considered by him in connection with the report of Major General Sheridan to you, dated at headquarters, New Orleans, October 3, 1866, enclosing a telegram to him from Governor Throckmorton, dated September 20, 1866, and your telegraphic reply addressed to General Sheridan, dated October 8, 1866.

The representations of Governor Throckmorton and the statements that he transmits deeply impress the President with the obligation and necessity of affording relief and protection to the people of Texas from Indian outrages to the utmost extent within the power of the federal government, and he is of opinion that if troops stationed in the interior can be advantageously employed for that purpose on the frontier, it should be promptly done.

He desires, therefore, that you take such proper measures and give such instructions as may verify the actual condition of affairs in Texas and afford immediate and adequate protection to the people on the frontier of Texas. If this protection can be afforded by the regular military forces of the United States, he deems it preferable to calling out and organizing a local military force. With this expression of his wishes the subject is referred to you for the prompt investigation and action which the urgency of the case seems to require.

Your obedient servant,

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

General GRANT.

STATE OF TEXAS, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Austin, September 29, 1866.

SIR: Accompanying this communication I forward for your information an act of the legislature of this State, which requires me to call into the service one thousand mounted men for the defence of the frontier against the attacks of numerous bands of Indians, now waging a deadly warfare against our people. The sixth section of this act requires that I shall tender the service of these troops to the general government. In obedience thereto, I make the tender, and trust the authorities will accept the service of this command, or part thereof, for such length of time as may be deemed advisable. The frontier is suffering great devastation; murder, rapine, and the most revolting outrages are of daily occurrence.

Unless the government will send efficient and immediate protection, the State will be compelled to undertake it without a dollar in the State treasury to defray the necessary expenditures.

The troops stationed in the interior of the State are of no service whatever. The laws can be enforced, and every class of our population be protected in all their rights, without the aid of the military, and I most respectfully ask that the troops be withdrawn.

I have corresponded fully with General Sheridan upon all the questions herein referred to, and also furnished him a copy of the act herein enclosed.

I also forward you memoranda of Indian depredations that have occurred within the last few months. The statements herein are only partial accounts, and by no means constitute the half of what has actually occurred within the last twelve months.

I respectfully request that you will make these facts known to the President, in order that he may be fully advised as to the condition of our State.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant.

J. W. THROCKMORTON,
Governor of the State of Texas.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.

STATE OF TEXAS, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Austin, September 25, 1866.

A statement now on file in this office from Hon. Mr. Black, a member of the legislature from Uvalde county, shows that since May, 1865, ten persons have been murdered and three carried into captivity in that county. Five Mexicans in Kinney, three in Maveric, and four in Webb county have been murdered. In the last named counties the perpetrators were Kickapoo Indians.

J. W. LANE,
Private Secretary.

P. S.—About 15th September, instant, Enoch Jones and son, and two freedmen, while cutting hay in Jack county for the government, were murdered by the Indians.

J. W. L.

[Telegram.—Received 10.20 a. m., 27th.]

AUSTIN, TEXAS, *September 26, 1866.*

President JOHNSON :

Our frontiers are rapidly depopulating from Indian depredations. I am requested by the legislature, unless immediate assistance is afforded by the government, to call out one thousand men for its defence. I am authorized to place this force under the control and at the disposition of the general government for such time as may be required. They can be put on the line of operation in three weeks. I have informed General Sheridan of the distressed condition of the frontier people.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. W. THROCKMORTON,
Governor of Texas.

[Telegram.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, September 28, 1866.

Governor THROCKMORTON, *Austin, Texas :*

Your telegram of the 26th instant has been referred by the President to this department. Major General Sheridan, commanding the military division of which Texas forms a part, is now on a visit to that State, and upon his report being received the action of the government on your request for troops will be communicated to you. In the meantime it would be well for you to confer with General Sheridan on the subject.

E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
*Washington, D. C., October 11, 1866.*Major General SHERIDAN,
Commanding Department of the Gulf, New Orleans:

Despatches from the governor of Texas to the President, and newspaper extracts, show Indian hostilities to exist on the frontier of that State to an extent requiring immediate attention. Your despatches on the same subject have been received and shown to the President. Please report again the latest information you have on the subject, and in the meantime give such protection as you can with the means at hand. If it is necessary to break up any interior posts take such as you think may be best spared.

U. S. GRANT, *General.*HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D. C., October 12, 1866.

GENERAL: My despatch of yesterday was sent to you on receipt of the enclosed, which is forwarded for your information. Great care will have to be observed to see that no just cause of complaint can be urged against the army for not giving proper protection to the citizens of Texas against Indian hostilities; at the same time it is equally important that loyal and law-abiding citizens should have protection against the violently disposed in their midst. I am satisfied that you have done and are doing the very best that can be done. Your attention, however, is called to the enclosed, that you may know the apprehensions and desire of the President, and cause such inspection as will enable you to report satisfactorily on the points that give him uneasiness.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT, *General*Major General P. H. SHERIDAN,
Commanding Department of the Gulf, New Orleans, La.

[Duplicate cipher telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, La., October 12, 1866.

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 11th.

I have no additional news regarding hostility on the Texas frontier, and still believe that there is a great deal of buncombe in the reports.

I have a company of cavalry stationed within a few miles of where the alleged massacre took place, and have no reports from it, and doubt whether it really occurred.

I will, however, send additional troops to the frontier without delay, and hope that the nine (9) companies of the seventeenth infantry, which are now in the north, will be sent to me at once.

I have notified the governor of Texas that I would send an inspector to the frontier, and that I would render such protection as the forces within my control would permit of, and would establish posts in the early spring.

I do not doubt but that the secret of all this fuss about Indian troubles is the desire to have all the troops removed from the interior, and the desire of the loose and lazy adventurers to be employed as volunteers against the Indians under the acts of the State legislature.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General United States Army.

General U. S. GRANT,
Commanding Armies of the United States, Washington, D. C.

OCTOBER 13, 1866.

Respectfully referred to the Secretary of War for information. More troops will be sent to General Sheridan immediately—if, indeed, some are not already on the way—which will enable him to give all the protection that troops can give against Indian hostilities. Occasional murders will take place on our frontiers, and would if our people were all soldiers.

U. S. GRANT, *General.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, La., October 15, 1866.

GENERAL: I have directed General Heintzelman, commanding the district of Texas, to concentrate all the available force of the fourth and sixth cavalry (21 companies) at such remote points on the frontier of Texas as are most suitable for its protection against Indians.

The movement of this mounted force will depend upon the necessity for its actual presence for the protection of the frontier people. Should it appear from truthful accounts that this force is inadequate, additional troops will be sent.

Great difficulty will be encountered in maintaining this force at remote points, and General Heintzelman is put on his good judgment before occupying those remote places.

The movement of troops in Texas is a fat job for contractors, and the pressure to get up Indian difficulties very great.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General United States Army.

Major General J. A. RAWLINS,
Chief of Staff, Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, La., October 20, 1866.

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of the General-in-chief, dated 12th instant, enclosing report of Governor Throckmorton, of Texas, in reference to Indian depredations on the frontiers of that State.

I have despatched Major G. A. Forsyth, a capable and intelligent officer, to the frontier, with instructions to stop *en route* and consult with General Heintzelman and Governor Throckmorton.

I will go over to Galveston next week and see General Heintzelman in person on the same subject.

I have notified Governor Throckmorton of the action which I have taken, and if he still desires to call out troops, I will be compelled to say it will be unnecessary.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General United States Army.

Brevet Major General J. A. RAWLINS,
Chief of Staff, Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D. C., October 20, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of 5th instant, urging upon the general government the acceptance of a regiment of volunteers from the State of Texas, to be used in defending the frontier of that State against the incursions of hostile Indians, &c. In reply thereto I would state that General Sheridan has already sent as large a force to the portion of the frontier of Texas infested by Indians as probably can be supplied with forage and provisions during the coming winter. If a large force should still prove necessary, there are enough United States troops on their way or under orders to report to General Sheridan to supply the deficiency. It is deemed, therefore, unadvisable to accept the service of volunteers, whose pay and maintenance would have to be provided for hereafter by a special appropriation of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 U. S. GRANT, *General.*

His Excellency J. W. THROCKMORTON,
Governor State of Texas, Austin, Texas.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, October 20, 1866.

GENERAL: * * * * *

I feel but little security from professions of Texan loyalty, and have been very reluctant to scatter the troops beyond their ability to concentrate for their own protection.

The moral standard in Texas is best illustrated by the noise they make over the occasional murder of a white man by Indians on the extreme frontier, while nothing is said or done over the murder of very many negroes in the settled portions of the State.

I will try and arrange affairs in Texas so as to give no excuse to the governor to call out troops.

* * * * *

Very truly, your obedient servant,
 P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General.

General U. S. GRANT,
Commanding Armies of the United States.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, La., December 20, 1866.

GENERAL: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the information of the General-in-chief, a copy of the report made by Major George A. Forsyth, ninth cavalry, United States army, who was sent by me in October last to ascertain concerning matters on the northwestern Texas frontier.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General United States Army.

Brevet Major General J. A. RAWLINS,
Chief of Staff, Washington, D. C.

NEW ORLEANS, LA., *December 16, 1866.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that, in obedience to Special Orders No. 49, paragraph 3, dated headquarters department of the gulf, New Orleans, October 17, 1866, and special instructions contained in a letter of the same date from the acting assistant adjutant general at department headquarters, I went to Galveston, and after an interview with Brevet Major General S. P. Heintzelman, commanding the district of Texas, continued my journey to Austin, where, after consultation with the governor of the State of Texas relative to the Indian troubles on the northwestern frontier, I proceeded with an escort from the sixth United States cavalry to Weatherford, in Parker county, where it was stated the Indians had been committing extensive depredations.

From Brevet Captain Daniel Madden, sixth cavalry, who with his company (L) was stationed at this point, and various residents of the town, I obtained the following information:

On or about August 20, 1866, a band of Indians attacked the ranches of Messrs. Sullivan and Blackwell, who live about seven miles northeast of the town of Weatherford; the men were absent, and the Indians killed two of their children and carried off two others, viz: Thomas Jefferson Sullivan and John C. Frémont Blackwell. On the same day they attacked a teamster within three miles of Weatherford, who escaped with the loss of his team. Upon reporting the fact at post headquarters, Lieutenant Nesmith with twenty men immediately started in pursuit, but the Indians, abandoning the trail, scattered through the country, and it was impossible to overtake them. On the 2d of September last a Mr. John Montgomery, of Willow Creek, fifteen miles northeast of Weatherford, was killed by a party of five Comanches, who immediately fled, pursued by a party of settlers, who failed to overtake them. No word was sent to the post, until forty-eight hours after the occurrence; and I think it necessary to state at this part of my report, that, with the single exception above mentioned, the settlers have invariably failed to give prompt and timely information to the post commanders at Weatherford and Jacksboro', alleging to the post commanders as a reason therefor that they were afraid of venturing out of their ranches for fear of being attacked while on their way to the posts. The result is, that the Indians have from twenty-four to forty-eight hours the start of the troops, who with their generally worthless horses are unable to overtake them.

I also met at this place a Mrs. Margaret Patrick, formerly Mrs. Sprague, who was captured by the Comanches in 1864, while living on Elm creek, near Fort Belknap. Her eldest daughter was killed and scalped before her eyes, and Mrs. Patrick and two younger daughters carried into captivity. She remained with these Indians for eighteen months, and was finally ransomed by the Indian agents in Kansas.

Mrs. Patrick says that, from what she saw while a captive, she is convinced that parties in Kansas and New Mexico are in league with the Indians, whom they encourage to make incursions upon the Texas border for the purpose of stealing horses and cattle, which they purchase of them at some designated point in the Indian territory, for a small price in goods, small-arms, and ammunition; also, that the Indians only kill those whom they accidentally meet, or who may be in their way; and their principal reason for carrying off women and children is the certainty of their being able to obtain a heavy ransom for them. In her opinion the practice of the Indian agents in ransoming women and children is a direct encouragement for the Indians to capture them.

She also says that not only the Comanches and Kiowas are concerned in these outrages, but also those tribes known as the "old reserves," the Caddoes, Arapahoes, and others, are engaged in them.

From Weatherford I went to Jacksboro', in Jack county, where I found two companies of the sixth United States cavalry, under command of Brevet Major

George C. Cram, United States army, from whom and others I obtained the following statements regarding Indian depredations on that frontier :

On the 21st of June last a party of four cattle-herders, while watching their herds near Van Dooras crossing, on the Little Wichita, were attacked by Indians, and after a hard fight, in which one of their number was killed, were compelled to abandon their cattle, and make for Decatur, in Wise county, which was the nearest settlement.

On the 26th of June, a Mr. Alvin Clark, of Springtown, in Parker county, was killed. Some time during September last a band of Indians attacked the house of a Mrs. Babb, a widow living about fourteen miles west of Decatur, in Wise county, killing Mrs. Babb, and carrying off two of her children, together with a young woman who was staying at the same house. About the same time the same band attacked and badly wounded a young woman in the same county, who was returning with a bucket of water from a spring situated within a few rods of her home. Fortunately two of her brothers happened to be in the house, and hearing her scream, came to her rescue, and drove off the Indians with their rifles. The young woman has, I am told, completely recovered from her wounds.

During the early portion of this month (September) the Indians killed a Mr. Box, of Cook county, and carried off his wife and four children; and on the 30th of October they killed a Mr. Lofton, of Wise county.

On the 11th of September, twelve miles from Jacksboro', a party of Indians attacked a train consisting of a grass-cutting machine and three hay wagons, which Mr. Enoch Jones, of Grayson county, was bringing down to cut hay for the use of that post. Mr. Jones, his son, and two negroes who were in his employ, were killed. Word did not reach the post until late the next day, and though a party promptly started in pursuit and followed their trail until their horses broke down, it was of course unsuccessful.

The above are all the well-authenticated cases in which people have been killed, wounded, or captured on the northwestern frontier of Texas that I have been able to collect. Others may and probably have occurred within the last two years. In numerous instances ranches have been attacked, but wherever the settlers have shown a disposition to fight, the Indians have soon retired; occasionally they have been killed by the settlers, and it is reported that four determined men not only successfully defended their ranch from the attack of a band of twenty-five Indians, but became in turn the assailants and drove their enemies before them, killing one, wounding others, and capturing some of their horses.

This, however, I regret to say, is an isolated case. As a general thing the settlers do not show that bravery for which as frontiersmen they were formerly renowned. They seem to think the Indians much more formidable than they formerly were, and state that they no longer fear them, but will fight them in equal numbers. Unfortunately, many of the settlers are in the habit of carrying nothing but an army revolver, and as the Indians carry long-range rifles, they have an advantage over them.

I am convinced that the depredations on this frontier are carried on by both the wild and semi-civilized tribes of Indians now in the Indian territory, who are encouraged, and in some cases led, by white men.

From camp Cooper to Jacksboro' the Comanches and Kiowas are most feared, while from Buffalo Springs to Red River Station the people seem to think that the "old reserves," viz., the Caddoes, Cheyennes, and Arapahoes, are the most to be dreaded.

I was informed by the settlers at Red River Station that the Indians are accustomed to encamp in large numbers in the "Nation," opposite the Big Wichita river, and crossing the Red river, which in that section of the country is fordable for nine months in the year, break up into small bands of from five to thirty,

and come down into the settlements to plunder. As soon as they accumulate horses enough they push rapidly for the frontier, driving out what cattle come in their way, and, meeting at a designated point, proceed together to their common rendezvous, when, upon the return of the whole party, the encampment is broken up and the stock driven back into the "Nation" and sold.

On one occasion a party of eight settlers from Red River Station pursued a band of ten Indians who had stolen some of their horses. The trail finally led into a beaten path, and soon after they came up with and attacked them; a running fight ensued until about 3 p. m., when, to the surprise of the settlers, they found that the Indians had been heavily re-enforced, and they soon made an effort to surround them with about a hundred and twenty warriors. This they avoided by falling back, and finally succeeded in escaping under cover of night. All of the settlers on the frontier unite in the opinion that the Indians will not cease their plundering until the United States troops are authorized to go into the "Nation" and hunt down the parties engaged in these marauding expeditions.

From Jacksboro' I went to Fort Belknap, and thence to Camp Cooper. This place, Cooper, exists only in name. It is situated at the base of a high bluff on the Clear Fork river. A few old stone buildings, now in ruins, mark the spot. There is also a tumble-down log hut or two and the remains of some *adobe* barracks. It was never well located for a post, and the only advantage it could ever have possessed was its proximity to the Indian agency, some three or four miles down the river. Wood is very scarce in the immediate vicinity, and there are several much more favorable localities for a military post within eight or ten miles of the spot. From Belknap to Cooper the distance is about forty-two miles, and the country is without a single civilized inhabitant until you reach Belknap, and there is no one living between Belknap and Jacksboro', a distance of thirty-five miles. At Fort Belknap I found about half a dozen families, who had congregated there for mutual protection. They were not aware of any recent Indian depredations in that vicinity, but were pretty thoroughly stampeded, scarcely daring to venture away from the post.

* * * * *

Jacksboro'.—At this point I considered my duty accomplished, and having fulfilled my instructions, started for New Orleans *via* McKinney, Dallas, Waco, and Austin. During my trip I have followed the following border counties: Throckmorton, Young, Jack, Clay, Wise, and Montague. All counties north and west on this frontier of those above mentioned are merely paper counties, uninhabited by white people, and as far beyond civilization as they were when the State was first settled.

The counties of Hardeman, Welbarger, Wichita, Knox, Baylor, Archer, and even Throckmorton, exist only in name, and for the convenience of the land office at the State capital. They have never been organized, and have never been inhabited by whites except when army posts may have been established within their limits. The Texan frontier has actually receded from the day the United States troops left it until their arrival at Jacksboro', and it is to-day from sixty to one hundred miles nearer the centre of the State than it was in 1861.

I do not think it practicable to supply any post west of Fort Belknap during the present winter, and that point is far enough west to completely protect with the addition of frequent scouting parties towards the Clear Fork river, all the lower counties that are inhabited from Indian forays.

* * * * *

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
GEO. A. FORSYTH,

Major Ninth United States Cavalry.

Brevet Major General GEORGE L. HARTSUFF,
Assistant Adjutant General, Department of the Gulf.

LOUISIANA.

[General Orders No. 76.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA,
New Orleans, Louisiana, December 20, 1865.

I. The courts of the State of Louisiana are prohibited from exercising jurisdiction over cases where officers, enlisted men, scouts, or camp followers of the United States army are charged with offences for acts done in their military capacity, or pursuant to orders from competent military authority; nor will they assert jurisdiction in cases where loyal citizens are charged with offences consisting in acts of defence or aggression against the forces of the late so-called Confederate States. Cases of this character belong exclusively to the federal authorities, and will, on proper complaint or representation, be investigated and determined by them.

II. A *nolle prosequi* will be entered in every case included in the foregoing paragraph by the proper prosecuting officer and the court in which the indictment may be pending, and no bench warrant, or other process, shall issue on the indictment, or if issued, will be returned unexecuted.

By order of Major General E. R. S. Canby:

WICKHAM HOFFMAN,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS BATON ROUGE,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, April 30, 1866.

MAJOR: In obedience to General Orders No. 33, current series, department of Louisiana, I have the honor to make the following report:

The condition of the country is about the same as it has been for some time, but I think that many are more outspoken in their hostility to the government than before the President's proclamation was issued. It is quite common to hear prominent men say thus: "If Congress forces on us such measures, another *tea party* will be gotten up," and other expressions of this kind. I have every reason to believe that the feelings of the people are becoming daily imbittered against the government, as a result of the leniency shown them.

Many of the very men who were classed among the Union men before the war closed are now eager to show their respect for the "lost cause," and this in my opinion results more or less from the fact that they will lose office or caste if they do not hate Yankees. The only way to make this people loyal is to "make treason odious."

The freedmen are generally at work, and are very desirous to have their children educated. I do not hear of any bad treatment, but they can get no justice from the courts when their interests are opposed to the interests of the white man.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. J. EDGERTON,

Col. 65th U. S. Col'd Inf., Commanding Regiment and Post.

Major WICKHAM HOFFMAN,

A. A. General, Department of Louisiana, New Orleans.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF SHREVEPORT,
Shreveport, La., May 16, 1866.

SIR: In obedience to instructions contained in General Orders No. 33, current series, from the headquarters department of Louisiana, I have the honor to
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transmit the following report of the country now under my command. My experience from personal observation has convinced me that the general feeling of the people is very bitter towards the government of the United States.

Many accept "the situation" with former prejudices and opinions. The civil authorities have within the past few months greatly improved in efficiency. Existence of a military force has given courage and confidence to a few who are desirous of restoring law and order, and has restrained the disloyal and turbulent portion of the community. There is a general prejudice against those who have settled here temporarily from the north. That portion of the people who have any respect for the government, and treat United States officers (or those new-comers) with respect and courtesy, can only do so at the sacrifice of all social and political relations with their former friends and neighbors.

The people at Marshall, Texas, are more social and cordial to strangers who may locate among them, whether from north or south.

At Jefferson, Texas, there is scarcely any Union sentiment. The merchants refuse to give freight to any steamer that has transported United States troops on Red river.

Within the limits of this command the freedmen are well treated generally. They are orderly and well disposed, and the planters express much satisfaction with the new system of labor, and hope to make it a success.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. S. MUDGETT,

Col. 80th U. S. Col'd Inf., Commanding Post.

Major WICKHAM HOFFMAN,

A. A. General, Department of Louisiana.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF SHREVEPORT,

Shreveport, La., June 15, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to report, in compliance with General Orders No. 33, from headquarters department of Louisiana, dated New Orleans, Louisiana, April 16, 1866, that there has been no change in the general character of matters pertaining to the condition of the country, people, &c., within the limits of my command, since my last report of May 15th, requiring any specific mention, except in De Sota parish.

It has been currently reported to the agent of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, as well as to these headquarters, that there have been many outrages committed against the colored people in that parish, and that there are irresponsible parties banded together for the purpose of defying the officers of the civil law and the United States authorities. These parties cannot be reached by the better class of citizens, who are afraid to take action against them, and in my opinion detachments of infantry would be powerless towards reaching them. I would, therefore, respectfully recommend that a company of cavalry be ordered to this post. Without a cavalry detachment it will be impossible for the agent of the bureau or the commanding officer here to render that full protection to the freedmen which their condition requires, and to exert that wholesome fear of the United States authority which certain classes of the people in many sections of this territory should be made to feel.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. S. MUDGETT,

Col. 80th U. S. Col'd Inf., Commanding Post.

Lieutenant NATHANIEL BURBANK,

A. A. Gen., Department of Louisiana, New Orleans.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF ALEXANDRIA,
Alexandria, La., July 15, 1866.

SIR: In compliance with General Orders No. 33, headquarters department of Louisiana, April 16, 1866, I have the honor to report that very little change is observable in the people of this section since my last report. What change there is, however, is for the worse. The indications are becoming more decided that Union men, whether of northern or southern birth, are living in extreme jeopardy of their lives. There is a very bitter feeling against Mr. Frisby, late colonel of the 92d colored troops, who is largely engaged in planting some twenty miles from Alexandria. The only ground, so far as I can learn, for this hostility is in the fact that Colonel Frisby treats his laborers decently, and accords to them the common rights of humanity, which course of conduct, his persecutors allege, is demoralizing the labor on other plantations; yet the labor on Colonel Frisby's plantation is not demoralized, but, on the contrary, is the most effective in the parish. Suits have been instituted against him on frivolous charges, and at the preliminary trial allusions were made by the prosecuting attorney to the fact that Colonel Frisby had commanded colored troops, in a manner calculated to excite the feelings of the people.

Negroes are constantly coming in from this and the adjoining parishes with complaints which indicate a state of things disgraceful to humanity, and which must prove destructive to the material prosperity of the country.

The supervisors of labor on most of the plantations go armed, and hold the hands in complete intimidation. Whipping, if that is the proper name for knocking down, kicking, and shooting men, is still practiced, and there seems to be with a large class an unyielding determination to re-establish practically, if not in theory, the defunct "peculiar."

The appeal to civil authority is, so far as I have seen, absolutely futile. When the justices do act, it seems to be with reluctance.

One case has been related to me this morning, in which Mr. Jerry Holland, of Winn parish, took all the clothing from a colored woman, stripping her stark naked in the presence of several men. She begged to be allowed to go into a house to take off her clothes, but it was not allowed. Also another case, in which a Mr. Moore, of Montgomery, Winn parish, beat a colored man because he was going to Missouri and proposed to take his wife with him. She had been working for Mr. Moore, but was under no contract, and had worked out the time engaged for.

There are in nearly all sections, however, men who are really friendly to the negro, and who seem to deprecate the lawlessness of others; but this class appears to have no confidence in the civil law, and seldom dares do anything further than to give the freedmen good advice.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ORRIN McFADDEN,

Lieut. Col. 80th U. S. Col'd Inf., Commanding Post.

Lieutenant NATHANIEL BURBANK,

Acting Assistant Adjutant General, Dept. of Louisiana.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, Louisiana, August 1, 1866.

GENERAL: You are doubtless aware of the serious riot which occurred in this city on the 30th ultimo.

A political body, styling itself the convention of 1864, met on the 30th ultimo, as it is alleged, for the purpose of remodelling the present constitution of the State. The leaders were political agitators and revolutionary men, and the action of the

convention was liable to produce breaches of the public peace. I had made up my mind to arrest the head men if the proceedings of the convention were calculated to disturb the tranquillity of the department, but I had no cause for action until they committed the overt act.

In the meantime official duty called me to Texas, and the mayor of the city, during my absence, suppressed the convention by the use of the police force, and in so doing attacked the members of the convention and a party of two hundred negroes, with fire-arms, clubs, and knives, in a manner so unnecessary and atrocious as to compel me to say that it was murder.

About forty whites and blacks were thus killed, and about one hundred and sixty wounded.

Everything is now quiet, but I deem it best to maintain a military supremacy in this city for a few days, until the affair is fully investigated.

I believe the sentiment of the general community is great regret at this unnecessary cruelty, and that the police could have made any arrests they saw fit without sacrificing lives.

P. H. SHERIDAN,

Major General United States Army.

General U. S. GRANT,

Commanding Armies of the United States, Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE GULF,

New Orleans, Louisiana, August 1, 1866.

Lieut. Gen. U. S. GRANT, *Commanding Armies U. S., Washington, D. C.:*

You need feel no uneasiness about the condition of affairs here. I think I can arrange matters without difficulty.

P. H. SHERIDAN,

Major General United States Army.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE GULF,

New Orleans, Louisiana, August 2, 1866.

GENERAL: The more information I obtain of the affair of the 30th ultimo in this city, the more revolting it becomes. It was no riot. It was an absolute massacre by the police which was not excelled in murderous cruelty by that of Fort Pillow. It was murder, which the mayor and police of the city perpetrated without the shadow of necessity. Furthermore, I believe it was premeditated, and every indication points to this.

I recommend the removal of this bad man. I believe it would be hailed with the sincerest gratification by two-thirds of the population of the city.

There has been a feeling of insecurity on the part of the people here on account of this man, which is now so much increased that the safety of life and property does not rest with the civil authorities, but with the military.

P. H. SHERIDAN,

Major General United States Army.

General U. S. GRANT,

Commanding Armies of the United States, Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE GULF,

New Orleans, Louisiana, August 3, 1866.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report quiet in the city, but considerable excitement in the public mind.

There is no interference on the part of the military with the civil government, which performs all its duties without hindrance.

I have permitted the retention of the military governor appointed during my absence, as it gives confidence and enables the military to know what is occurring in the city. He does not interfere with civil matters.

Unless good judgment is exercised there will be an exodus of northern capital and Union people, which will be injurious to the city and to the whole country.

I will remove the military governor in a day or two.

I again strongly advise that some disposition be made to change the present mayor, as I believe it would do more to restore confidence than anything that could be done.

If the present governor could be changed also it would not be amiss.

P. H. SHERIDAN,

Major General United States Army.

General U. S. GRANT,

Commanding Armies of the United States, Washington, D. C.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D. C., August 3, 1866.

Major General SHERIDAN, *New Orleans, Louisiana:*

Continue to enforce martial law so far as may be necessary to preserve the peace, and do not allow any of the civil authorities to act if you deem such action dangerous to the public safety. Lose no time in investigating and reporting the causes that led to the riot and the facts which occurred.

U. S. GRANT, *General.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, Louisiana, August 6, 1866.

GENERAL: I have the honor herewith to transmit a copy of a telegraphic despatch forwarded President Johnson, as it gives a brief synopsis of the occurrences of the 30th ultimo, with my opinions concerning the same.

I am, general, yours, respectfully,

P. H. SHERIDAN,

Major General United States Army.

General U. S. GRANT,

Commanding Armies of the United States, Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, Louisiana, August 5, 1866.

His Excellency ANDREW JOHNSON, *President United States:*

I have the honor to make the following reply to your despatch of August 4. A very large number of colored people marched in procession on Friday night, July 27, and were addressed from the steps of the City Hall by Doctor Dostie, ex-Governor Hahn, and others.

The speech of Dostie was intemperate in language and sentiment; the speeches of the others, so far as I can learn, were characterized by moderation. I cannot give you the words of Dostie's speech, as the version published was denied, but from what I have learned of the man I believe they were intemperate.

The convention assembled at twelve o'clock on the 30th ultimo, the timid members absenting themselves because the tone of the general public was ominous of trouble. I think there were about twenty-six members present.

In front of the Mechanics' Institute, where the meeting was held, there were assembled some colored men, women and children, perhaps eighteen or twenty; among those outside and inside there might have been a pistol in the possession of every tenth man.

About one o'clock a procession of say from sixty to one hundred and thirty colored men marched up Burgundy street and across Canal street towards the convention, carrying an American flag. These men had about one pistol to every tenth man, and canes and clubs in addition.

While crossing Canal street a row occurred. There were many spectators on the street, and their manner and tone towards the procession unfriendly. A shot was fired, by whom I am not able to state, but believe it to have been by a policeman, or some colored man in the procession; this led to other shots and a rush after the procession to the Institute. On arrival at the front of the Institute there was some throwing of brickbats by both sides.

The police, who had been held well in hand, were vigorously marched to the scene of disorder.

The procession entered the Institute with the flag, about six or eight remaining outside. A row occurred between a policeman and one of these colored men, and a shot was again fired by one of the parties, which led to an indiscriminate fire on the building through the windows by the policemen. This had been going on for a short time when a white flag was displayed from the window of the Institute, whereupon the firing ceased and the police rushed into the building.

From the testimony of wounded men and others who were inside the building, the policemen opened an indiscriminate fire upon the audience until they had emptied their revolvers, when they retired, and those inside barricaded the doors. The door was broken in and the firing again commenced, when many of the colored and white people escaped through the door and out, or were passed out by the policemen inside; but as they came out the policemen who formed the circle nearest the building fired upon them, and they were again fired upon by the citizens that formed the outer circle.

Many of those wounded and taken prisoners, and others who were prisoners and not wounded, were fired upon by their captors and by citizens. The wounded were stabbed while lying on the ground, and their heads beaten with brickbats. In the yard of the building, whither some of the colored men had partially secreted themselves, they were fired upon and killed or wounded by policemen. Some were killed and wounded several squares from the scene; members of the convention were wounded by the police while in their hands as prisoners, some of them mortally.

The immediate cause of this terrible affair was the assemblage of this convention. The remote cause was the bitter and antagonistic feeling which has been growing in this community since the advent of the present mayor, who, in the organization of his police force, selected many desperate men, and some of them known murderers.

People of clear views were overawed by want of confidence in the mayor and fear of the "thugs," many of whom he had selected for his police force. I have frequently been spoken to by prominent citizens on this subject, and have heard them express fear and want of confidence in Mayor Monroe.

Ever since the initiation of this last convention movement, I must condemn the course of several of the city papers for supporting, by their articles, the bitter feeling of bad men.

As to the merciless manner in which the convention was broken up, I feel obliged to confess strong repugnance.

It is useless to attempt to disguise the hostility that exists on the part of a great many here towards northern men, and this unfortunate affair has so precipitated matters that there is now a test of what shall be the status of northern men, whether they can live here without being in constant dread or not—whether they can be protected in life and property and have justice in the courts.

If this matter is permitted to pass over without a thorough and determined prosecution of those engaged in it, we may look out for frequent scenes of the same kind, not only here but in other places.

No steps have as yet been taken by the civil authorities to arrest citizens who were engaged in this massacre, or policemen who perpetrated such cruelties. The members of the convention have been indicted by the grand jury, and many of them arrested and held to bail.

As to whether the civil authorities can mete out ample justice to the guilty parties on both sides, I must say unequivocally that they cannot. Judge Abell, whose course I have closely watched for nearly a year, I now consider one of the most dangerous men that we have here to the peace and quiet of the city.

The leading men of the convention, King Cutler, Hahn, and others, have been political agitators, and are bad men.

I regret to say that the course of Governor Wells has been vacillating, and that during the late trouble he has shown very little of the man.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General United States Army.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, La., August 7, 1866.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report a rapid change for the better throughout the city.

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P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General United States Army.

General U. S. GRANT,
Commanding Armies of the United States, Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, La., August 13, 1866.

General U. S. GRANT, *Washington, D. C.:*

The military board, called by General Baird to investigate the occurrences in this city of July 30, is progressing as rapidly as possible.

I see in the papers, by reports of officials here, an attempt made to cast blame on the military for not being present on the 30th ultimo. There could have been no object in its being present, except to keep the police from perpetrating a revolting massacre. Its absence for this reason I regret.

From the accounts of my own scouts, who saw the affair from first to last, from my own officers and disinterested and truthful persons, I believe that at least nine-tenths of the casualties were perpetrated by the police, citizens stabbing and smashing in the heads of many who had been already wounded or killed by policemen.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, August 9, 1866.

MY DEAR GENERAL: I enclose to you an anonymous letter.

I believe I know the author, and he is a very worthy man.

I regard the letter as I do all letters of this kind, but whether the circumstances related are correct or not, it shows the animus of the persons whose names are mentioned, better than I could tell you.

I am, general, very respectfully your obedient servant,

P. H. SHERIDAN,

Major General.

General U. S. GRANT,

Commanding Armies of the United States.

CANAL STREET, NEW ORLEANS,
August 3, 1866.

GENERAL: I overheard a conversation last evening, of which, as a friend, I think it my duty to inform you. Mayor Monroe and one of the editors of the Crescent, one of the Picayune, Judge Abell, and two of the members of the common council, were conversing together concerning the riot, &c., &c. Mr. Monroe called you all the vulgar names he could command language to express—a damned dirty puppet, and if they would all join him he would take his force alone and make every federal officer and soldier and every other damned northern son of a b——h leave the city sooner than he made them leave the Mechanics' Institute. Judge Abell said he would be one of a party that would go some dark night and tar and feather you and General Baird; the editors of the Crescent and Picayune said they would furnish the tar, &c., &c. Monroe said he had not got through with the riot yet. "Let that blow over a little," says he, "and we will make this city too hot for him." Says he, "Sheridan and Baird thinks I am all right. I want the d——d hounds to think so for the present." He slapped the editor of the Picayune on the shoulder: says he, "I have got men that can clean out Yankees as well as niggers," &c. The two councilmen did not say so much, but the Crescent and Picayune men and Judge Abell joined Monroe, and acquiesced in vilifying yourself and comrades. All of the conversation was carried on in a low tone of voice. I have taken the trouble to inform you of these facts, for I have received numerous acts of kindness from your staff officers, as well as yourself, to whom I am personally known. I have been in the confederate service over three years. I want now to live in peace and make a livelihood for my wife and children, but if scenes of this kind are to be advised and talked of by those whom we should look to for protection, I consider a duty I owe to society and the fair name of our State to do what I can to prevent. If it was not for the public press of this city, and such men as Mr. Monroe, we could once more live and prosper, I am satisfied, under the old flag, in peace and harmony. At a proper time, when I think it will do, I will make myself known to you personally, or one of your staff.

BUSINESS MAN OF CANAL STREET.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D. C., August 16, 1866.

Major General SHERIDAN, *New Orleans, Louisiana:*

In view of the threat contained in an anonymous letter you send to me, I advise increasing your force about the city, from other parts of your command.

As soon as they can be organized, two more companies will be sent to each of your infantry battalions; besides, the three companies that have never yet joined will be sent as soon as the cholera disappears.

U. S. GRANT, *General.*

[In cipher.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, Louisiana, August 17, 1866.

GENERAL: I am in receipt of your telegram of the 16th instant.

Everything is very quiet and in fine condition here.

As soon as it was found that the military would be allowed to maintain the supremacy in the city, there was a general backing down.

I have no fear of my ability to take charge of this city, and consider the force here adequate, unless there was some great disturbing cause.

As to the anonymous threats, I am not afraid of them; and as to idle threats of driving the troops out of the city, there would not be much of the city left when it was done.

I am all right, and will take care of myself.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. H. SHERIDAN,

Major General United States Army.

General U. S. GRANT,

Commanding Armies of the United States, Washington, D. C.

NEW ORLEANS, *February 1, 1866.*

General RAWLINS, *Chief of Staff:*

In coming down the river and while here I have talked freely with officers and citizens as to affairs in general. Opinions of course differ a good deal, but on one point among Union people there is entire unanimity, namely, that troops and martial law must be retained here until the labor system and northern men who have come here become firmly established, and looked on by the southern people as a permanent part of their condition. Mr. ———, a leading business man, told me that in his opinion, save in the large cities, northern men could not remain after the withdrawal of military power, and that the negroes would be far worse off than before the war, as they would no longer be property to be protected. He also said that in case of foreign war the sympathy of the people here would be with the enemy, and that their sympathy would become active assistance if there was any possibility in thus obtaining what they have heretofore sought. Canby's opinion is just about the same. Sheridan is more hopeful, but says if martial law were revoked, through the courts, through insults in the street, it would become exceedingly unpleasant for officers to remain here.

A good deal of northern capital is coming here, but I have met and heard of several cases in which, despite the enormous profits offered, and the great desire of the planters for it, it has returned, in apprehension that it might not be safe there.

Sheridan says this part of the country is rapidly becoming northernized; that the railroads and business are passing into the hands of northern people; that the labor question is settling itself; that everything is going on as well as could be expected, and all that is necessary is to let things be as they are; that

the presence of troops, in no large number, but with the knowledge that they will interfere whenever necessary, is all that is needed; that the natural laws will settle the questions of labor and business, but that this presence of troops and power of control will be long needed, till the present bitter feeling has partly died away and the new state of things becomes permanent. Every one who has spoken of the feeling here says it was very submissive at the close of the war; that it became very bad when the large number of pardons seemed to promise general amnesty, but again became better when the flow of pardons was checked, without, however, becoming what it was at first.

I should except Humphreys; he found the feeling along the Mississippi river very good—entirely without bitterness. But he saw planters whose very subsistence depended on what he might do to the levees. As they visited him they would not be apt to show bitterness, even if they felt it, and his estimate would necessarily be a favorable one.

It seems to me that Sheridan's idea of retaining the power of control till the new state of things becomes permanent is entirely right; that with it these difficult questions will settle themselves; that without it a state of things here might arise that would make the Union one only in name.

Very truly yours,

C. B. COMSTOCK.

NEW ORLEANS, *February 3, 1866.*

General RAWLINS, *Chief of Staff:*

Since the note I sent you day before yesterday I have had more conversation with General Baird in reference to the affairs of his bureau. He is not a radical, and his opinion of the actual state of affairs here does not differ materially from those of Sheridan and Canby. He has one idea that had not occurred to me before, and which I have not heard mentioned, namely, that with the large number of northern men already in this country, in case of withdrawal of martial law and open hostility against the northerners and cases of oppression of negroes, the northern whites would unite with the negroes for defence against the southerners, and the result would be a second edition of the Kansas war, made a thousand times worse by being a war of races on the part of the South.

Of the necessity of retaining power to act with a military force whenever necessary, until time has settled the questions, now so uncertain, of labor and protection of northern men, there is but one opinion here among officers and Union men. Canby thinks the question of representation a different one; that proper representatives should be admitted, as having a quieting effect on the people here, but martial law retained.

The country about Shreveport and the neighboring part of Texas seems to be the least reconstructed of any in this part of the south. An officer cannot travel there without constant insult, and in some counties not without a guard. A. J. Smith says they are just as bad there as during the war, and have not been half enough whipped. I have spoken before of the feeling becoming bad some months after the war. Baird tells me that the people here then thought all power would be at once restored to them and troops withdrawn; that an officer could scarcely go to the St. Charles hotel, without insult; that officers' wives could not get attendance at the table and were informed that they were not desired there; but that on the stoppage of pardons, the retention of provisional governors and the northern elections, their opinions changed, and their conduct too. Beckwith says an officer could not stay here after the withdrawal of troops.

I do not speak of this withdrawal of troops as deeming it probable or near, but to show officers' estimate of the bitterness that still exists.

Canby thinks it may be possible to relax military control after six or eight months when it is definitely settled that the negroes are to be treated like other laborers, and that they will behave and do well. Baird estimates that nine-tenths of the negroes in the State are at work. I saw very few as I came down the river, especially on the coast, and was told by planters that they could not be depended on, and could not even be got to come to the plantations. I think not one-fifth the number necessary to take care of the plantations were on them. The question of levees may have had influence on enterprise.

Sheridan has R. Clay Crawford at Fort Jackson. He persuaded many officers here that he was connected with Senator Patterson and under the auspices of the government. His official reports were addressed to General Lew. Wallace.

Bagdad is again in the hands of the imperials, and all is quiet on the Rio Grande, save the loud-mouthed citizens at Matamoras.

C. B. COMSTOCK.

GALVESTON, *February 7, 1866.*

General RAWLINS, *Chief of Staff :*

I arrived here yesterday and hope to get away to-morrow for Brazos—two days on this infernal gulf in a norther, and the prospect of five or six more.

I have talked with the officers and some of the people here, and from what I see, think the feeling rather more bitter than at New Orleans, as if A. J. Smith's opinion, that they were only about half whipped, was true. One man, an ex-confederate navy officer, was very savage on a negro regiment brought here for fatigue duty, denounced it as an outrage and intended humiliation of the people; would evidently like the privilege of shooting them when they ran across. I told him why they came, and he was a little quieter, though I don't suppose he thought it sufficient reason. A squad of them were marching down street the other day and met some white men, who did not give way. The corporal undoubled files so as to get them through easily; but one of the citizens, thinking a negro hit him with his elbow in passing, struck the soldier with his cane, whereupon soldier number two hit citizen an astonisher under his ear. Of course was an outrage, and in good old times the negroes would have been lynched. In the present case, investigation showing the negroes not in fault, the citizens were advised to let the soldiers alone in future, to their great indignation and disgust. Some of the citizens, rebels, find great fault with General Gregory, charging him with putting erroneous ideas in the heads of the negroes, telling them they can break their contracts when they please, &c.

I have had quite a large talk with him, and while I think he probably tells some plain truths to the unreconstructed in a plain way, also think him a very good man for his place; determined to make the whites do their part, and just as determined to make the negroes do theirs, his idea evidently being that the negro should have precisely the same rights as the white man—no more and no less.

After all, when we think that a year ago 400,000 blacks in this State were slaves; that to-day they are free; that now nine-tenths of those blacks are working well at from \$8 to \$15 per month and found, or for from one-fourth to one-half the crop they raise; that the planters are anxious for still more colored labor, and that so far it is working steadily, we ought to be surprised that such a great change has been so easily made and has progressed so far. In 1860 there were 180,000 slaves here, General Gregory tells me, and now 400,000. This shows how many have been run into Texas for safety.

The labor question here and in Louisiana is rapidly settling itself. Canby thought it would be fixed in six or eight months permanently; Gregory thinks in a year. This is surely all we could hope for; but here, as in Louisiana, every one says, no withdrawal of martial law or troops, if Union men are to stay

here. Several here have asked to be notified whenever it was contemplated, that they might leave first.

I do not know that I spoke in my letter from New Orleans of one thing said to me by several citizens as well as by officers—that the day of large plantations is over; that to raise cotton and to control the labor well the planters already see that the number of hands must be small. Without my reference to it General Gregory spoke of the same thing here, and says it is inevitable; indeed, that thirty per cent. of the cotton raised this year, which he thinks will be as large a crop as was ever raised, will be by small planters, many of them Germans, not employing more than eight or ten hands.

When southern plantations are like northern farms the great element of difference between north and south will have disappeared with slavery.

The citizens with whom I have spoken think the negroes will raise about half the crop they would raise if slaves. This differs materially from General Gregory's estimate, and the truth is doubtless between the two. Three-fourths of a crop for the first year of emancipation is far better than would have been hoped.

Very truly yours,

C. B. COMSTOCK,
Brevet Brigadier General and Aid-de-Camp.

General Sheridan, in his report of November 24, 1866, published with the annual report of the Secretary of War for 1866, in speaking of the condition of affairs in his department, says, that "the Texas troops did not intend to surrender;" that while they were destroying their arsenals and carrying home with them their arms, it was their constant boast that they were not conquered, and that they would renew the fight at some future day."

* * * * *

"The condition of civil affairs in Texas was anomalous, singular, and unsatisfactory. I found the provisional governor, backed by a small portion of the population, had for his standard of loyalty 'abhorrence for the rebellion and glory in its defeat;' while his successor as actual governor had for his standard of loyalty 'pride in rebellion—that it was a righteous but lost cause, being overpowered by the federal forces.' Both of these representatives of the civil law, entertaining opposite standards for the loyalty of their subjects, I was required to support, and did it to the best of my ability; but it has been embarrassing in the extreme. Governor Hamilton, the provisional governor, was clamorous for more troops, and in several communications to me asserted that the civil law could not be carried out; that freedmen would be killed and Union men driven from the State, without military support, which I gave whenever it was possible. Governor Throckmorton, the present governor, wants all the troops moved from the settled portions of the State, asserting that the civil law was all right; that justice would be done to freedmen, Union men, and our soldiers, in the courts. But justice is not done. To give you an instance of this: two soldiers were shot at Brenham, Texas, about two months ago; they were unarmed and offered no provocation. The grand jury could find no bill against their would-be-assassins, but found a bill against Brevet Major Smith, seventeenth infantry, for burglary, because he broke into the house of some citizen in his attempt to arrest these men.

"My own opinion is that the trial of a white man for the murder of a freedman in Texas would be a farce; and in making this statement, I make it because truth compels me, and for no other reason.

"During the last six months Indian depredations have taken place on the remote frontier. Their extent is not defined as yet, but they are not very alarming, and I think that the governor has to some extent been influenced by exaggerated reports, gotten up in some instances by frontier people to get a

market for their produce, and in other instances by army contractors to make mouey.

"I have ordered two regiments of cavalry to the frontier, and placed a regiment of infantry at Austin to be moved if necessary.

"It is strange that over a white man killed by Indians on an extensive frontier the greatest excitement will take place, but over the killing of many freedmen in the settlements nothing is done. I cannot help but see this, and I cannot help but tell it to my superiors, no matter how unpleasant it may be to the authorities of Texas."

* * * * *

"In Louisiana there was about as much, if not more, anomaly in civil affairs than in Texas."

"The civil affairs were much mixed up. Governor J. Madison Wells was legitimately holding the position of governor; but a new election was to occur in the summer or fall, and although, from the antecedents of the governor, who supported the federal authority, I had reason to expect good judgment, still, either on account of the approaching election, (in which he was a candidate for re-election,) or because he thought it best, he was filling a number of vacancies in offices throughout the State by returned confederates. I did not know this, as it was none of my business, until I learned it by the constant appeals made to me by men who were turned out to give place to new-comers whom they did not think deserving; and I only speak of it now because it led afterwards to bitterness and shedding of blood, in which the military were to some extent involved.

"The governor was re-elected and the legislature met; but it was found that the governor had one will and the legislature had another. Each hated the other and trouble was sure to come. Not only was the legislature in antagonism with the governor, but all or nearly all the subordinate civil authorities of the State were against him. Many of these he had himself appointed, if they still held over after the election. Then the governor commenced making appeals to the military authorities to support him, and when it was proper and legitimate to serve the ends of justice such support was given; but when it was to satisfy partisan or political purposes it was refused, and the military assumed the position that politics were outside of the profession, and that it could not be called on, legitimately, to serve the interests of either side. This bitter political feeling finally culminated in the massacre of the 30th of July, 1866. I have thought that had I been in the city this slaughter might have been avoided; but I did not expect it to occur, and I was led to this belief by a conversation which I had about the first of June last with Judge Durell, who was the president of the Louisiana convention of 1864, and who told me that he would decline to call it together. He asked if it could have military support; I said it could not; that I would not allow the military to be used for party purposes; but that if the parties in the State came into collision, it would be my duty to maintain the peace of the country, as I had believed for some time past that the safety of life and property did not rest with the civil authorities when there was any great disturbing cause.

"In Florida there were no political issues involving the military authorities, although much annoyance occasionally came from arrests of officers and soldiers for acts alleged to have been committed during the rebellion. The people of Florida appeared to realize the fact that it would not make much difference to them what party was in power, and that their best interest was to take off their coats and go to work to repair the disaster of the rebellion."

* * * * *

[General Orders No. 3.]

To protect loyal persons against improper civil suits and penalties in late rebellious States.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, January 12, 1866.

Military division and department commanders, whose commands embrace or are composed of any of the late rebellious States, and who have not already done so, will at once issue and enforce orders protecting from prosecution or suits in the State or municipal courts of such States, all officers and soldiers of the armies of the United States, and all persons thereto attached or in anywise thereto belonging, subject to military authority, charged with offences for acts done in their military capacity, or pursuant to orders from proper military authority; and to protect from suit or prosecution all loyal citizens or persons charged with offences done against the rebel forces, directly or indirectly, during the existence of the rebellion, and all persons, their agents or employes, charged with the occupancy of abandoned lands or plantations, or the possession or custody of any kind of property whatever, who occupied, used, possessed, or controlled the same, pursuant to the order of the President or any of the civil or military departments of the government, and to protect them from any penalties or damages that may have been or may be pronounced or adjudged in said courts in any of such cases; and also protecting colored persons from prosecutions in any of said States charged with offences for which white persons are not prosecuted or punished in the same manner and degree.

By command of Lieutenant General Grant:

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

[General Orders No. 44.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, July 6, 1866.

Department, district, and post commanders in the States lately in rebellion are hereby directed to arrest all persons who have been or may hereafter be charged with the commission of crimes and offences against officers, agents, citizens, and inhabitants of the United States, irrespective of color, in cases where the civil authorities have failed, neglected, or are unable to arrest and bring such persons to trial, and to detain them in military confinement until such time as proper judicial tribunal may be ready and willing to try them.

A strict and prompt enforcement of this order is required.

By command of Lieutenant General Grant:

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, November 22, 1866.

Hon. E. M. STANTON, *Secretary of War:*

Enclosed please find copy of a communication addressed to Major General Sheridan, under date of October 17, 1866, giving my construction of the President's proclamations upon certain military orders. The construction is the same

that I understood you to entertain at the time. The orders referred to have not yet been revoked, nor has any construction of the effect of the President's proclamation upon these orders been officially announced to any but General Sheridan's command.

I would therefore submit whether my construction of the proclamation as above stated is correct, so that we may have a uniformity of action upon this matter throughout the different commands.

It is evident to my mind that the provisions of the civil rights bill cannot be properly enforced without the aid of Order No. 44, or a similar one. Even in the State of Kentucky, General Jeff. C. Davis states that he cannot enforce it without the aid of this order.

U. S. GRANT, *General.*

To the foregoing communication no answer was ever received; but in answer to a Senate resolution, dated January 8, 1867, asking for information in relation to violations of the act entitled "An act to protect all persons in the United States in their civil rights and furnish the means of their vindication," and what steps had been taken to enforce the same, the President with his message of February 19, 1867, submitted among other papers Order No. 44, which led me to suppose that he regarded it as still in force. At this time Congress was discussing and maturing plans of legislation of the maintenance and enforcement of law and order in the States lately in rebellion. I therefore deemed it unnecessary to take further action in the premises, but await the result of congressional action.

The preceding correspondence and orders show briefly and generally the condition of the fifth military district (Florida, Texas, and Louisiana) prior to the passage of the military reconstruction bill. As the basis in part of this correspondence, and exhibiting more in detail the condition of affairs in different localities, the reports of subordinate commanders, so far as they are on file in this office, are also herewith submitted. All of these reports have reached here through the regular military channel.

Third. Correspondence in regard to the difficulties in Baltimore, touching the police commissioners and other matters prior to the election in 1866.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, October 24, 1866.

His Excellency A. JOHNSON, *President of the United States:*

I have the honor to enclose to you the within report from General Canby, commander of this military department, upon the threatened violence in the city of Baltimore previous to the approaching elections. Upon receiving your verbal instructions of the 20th instant, to look into the nature of the threatened difficulties in Baltimore, to ascertain what course should be pursued to prevent it, I gave General Canby, whose department embraces the State of Maryland, instructions, also verbal, to proceed to Baltimore in person, to ascertain as nearly as he could the cause which threatened to lead to riot and bloodshed. The report submitted is given in pursuance of these instructions.

Since the rendition of General Canby's report I had a long conversation with him, and also with Governor Swann, of the State of Maryland. It is the opinion of General Canby and the statement of Governor Swann, that no danger of riot need be apprehended unless the latter should find it necessary to remove the present police commissioners of Baltimore from office and to appoint their successors. No action in this direction has been taken yet, nor will there be until Friday next, when the trial of the commissioners before the governor is set to take place. I cannot see the possible necessity for calling in the aid of the

military in advance of even the cause, (the removal of said commissioners,) which is to induce riot.

The conviction is forced on my mind that no reason now exists for giving or promising the military aid of the government to support the laws of Maryland. The tendency of giving such aid or promise would be to produce the very result intended to be averted. So far there seems to be merely a very bitter contest for political ascendancy in the State.

Military interference would be interpreted as giving aid to one of the factions, no matter how pure the intentions or how guarded and just the instructions. It is a contingency I hope never to see arise in this country, while I occupy the position of general-in-chief of the army, to have to send troops into a State, *in full relations with the general government*, on the eve of an election, to preserve the peace. If insurrection does come, the law provides the method of calling out forces to suppress it. No such condition seems to exist now.

U. S. GRANT, *General*.

DEPARTMENT OF WASHINGTON,

Washington, D. C., October 23, 1866.

General U. S. GRANT,

Commanding U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.:

I have the honor to report that I have visited Baltimore for the purpose indicated in your verbal instructions of Saturday, the 20th instant. The controversy now pending grows out of a provision in the present State constitution, which disfranchises persons who gave aid to or sympathized with the rebellion.

Effect was given to this provision by very stringent laws, but it is alleged that during the past year attempts have been made to evade these laws by including in the registry of voters persons who are not under the constitution entitled to vote. This on the ground that the oath required is illegal and void, and not binding in conscience or in law. The correction of the registry is required by law to be completed on the 31st of October of each year. For this reason, and under an opinion of the attorney general of the State, the registry of 1865 controlled at the late municipal election, and the issue now presented was not so prominently exhibited.

About 14,000 names have been added in the registry of 1866 for the city of Baltimore, and about 10,000 in the remaining parts of the State, or about 28,000 in the entire State. Of this increase forty or fifty per cent. is due, it is alleged, to the registration of persons who, under the constitution and laws of the State, are not entitled to vote. It is contended by the one party that the simple registration is conclusive as to the right to vote, and by the other that it is only a *prima facie* evidence of that right; that it is subject to challenge, and upon proof of disqualification to register.

The new registry becomes effective after the 31st instant, and will, of course, control at the coming State election, and the present contest, divested of all side issues, is for the power to admit to vote, or to exclude from voting, persons who are, or who are alleged to be, disqualified by the State constitution.

I know nothing of the charges against the police commissioners beyond what is stated in the public prints, and these relate mainly to duties that are committed by the constitution and by law to the judges of the elections. As these officers are amenable under the law to heavy penalties, and can easily be reached by ordinary legal proceedings, the present attempt appears to be an effort to secure political power by indirect means, and through that power to admit persons to vote who are disqualified by the State constitution, and must remain disqualified until that constitution is changed. It is so regarded by a large part of the population of Baltimore, who look upon it as an attempt to subvert the constitution of the State by indirect means, and are prepared to resist it.

The city was quiet, but the feeling upon this point is deep and intense. I had no means of ascertaining the extent of any organizations for this purpose, but I have no doubt they exist, as I was informed by the police commissioners that they had been offered support in the city, but had declined it because they relied upon the innocence of the charges against them, and believe that the governor would be convinced of this as soon as he ascertained their true character.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. R. S. CANBY,
Brevet Major General, Commanding.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
Washington, D. C., October 25, 1866.

SIR: From recent developments, serious troubles are apprehended from a conflict of authority between the executive of the State of Maryland and the police commissioners of the city of Baltimore. Armed organizations, it is alleged, have been formed in the State, and threats have been made that should a collision occur armed bodies from other States would enter Maryland with the view of controlling its people in the settlement of questions exclusively local in character. The governor of Maryland has therefore deemed it expedient and proper to issue a proclamation, bearing date the 22d instant, warning all persons against such unlawful and revolutionary combinations.

In the event of serious insurrectionary disorders, the government of the United States might be called upon to aid in their suppression; and I therefore request that you will inform me of the number of federal troops at present stationed in the city of Baltimore, or vicinity, that would be available for prompt use should their services be required to protect the State from invasion and domestic violence, and to sustain the properly constituted authorities of Maryland.

Very respectfully yours,

ANDREW JOHNSON.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

The previous paper was referred by the honorable Secretary of War on the 26th of October to General Grant, who returned it with the following indorsement:

Respectfully returned.

When the President mentioned to me one week ago his apprehensions of difficulties in the city of Baltimore, at or previous to the election, I caused an investigation to be made into the origin of the troubles, with the view of recommending such action as I might think should be taken by the military branch of the government. The direction—if what was said in conversation might be regarded as direction—coming directly from the President, my report on the subject was made directly to him, without sending copy to the War Department. For the information of the Secretary of War I therefore now attach copy of that report.

A return of all the troops in this military department shows the aggregate to be 2,224, of which 'for duty' 1,550, every one of whom may, in view of facilities by rail and steamer, be regarded as in the vicinity of Baltimore, and full two-thirds of them "would be available for prompt use should their services be required to protect the State from invasion and domestic violence."

U. S. GRANT, *General.*

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES UNITED STATES, *October 27, 1866.*

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
Washington, D. C., November 1, 1866.

SIR: In the report of General Grant of the 27th ultimo, enclosed in your communication of that date, reference is made to the force at present stationed in the military department of Washington, (which embraces the District of Columbia, the counties of Alexandria and Fairfax, Virginia, and the States of Maryland and Delaware,) and it is stated that the entire number of troops comprised in the command is 2,224, of which only 1,550 are enumerated as "effective." In view of the prevalence in various portions of the country of a revolutionary and turbulent disposition, which might at any moment assume insurrectionary proportions and lead to serious disorders, and of the duty of the government to be at all times prepared to act with decision and effect, this force is not deemed adequate for the protection and security of the seat of government.

I therefore request that you will at once take such measures as will insure its safety, and thus discourage any attempt for its possession by insurgent or other illegal combinations.

Very respectfully, yours,

ANDREW JOHNSON.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON, *Secretary of War.*

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, November 2, 1866.

General E. R. S. CANBY, *Commanding Department of Washington:*

Enclosed I send you orders just received from the President of the United States. They fully explain themselves. As commander of the military department including the State of Maryland, you will take immediate steps for carrying them into execution. There are now six or eight companies of infantry ready organized in New York that have been ordered to Baltimore, on their way to their regiments here in Washington and in Virginia. Either visit Baltimore or send a staff officer there to stop these troops at Fort McHenry until further orders. Also hold one of the infantry regiments on duty in this city in readiness to move at a moment's notice. By having cars ready to take a regiment all at once, they will be practically as near Baltimore here as if in camp a few miles from that city. These are all the instructions deemed necessary in advance of troops being legally called out to suppress insurrection or invasion. Having the greatest confidence, however, in your judgment and discretion, I wish you to go to Baltimore in person and to remain there until the threatened difficulties have passed over. Proper discretion will no doubt go further towards preventing conflict than force.

U. S. GRANT, *General.*

P. S.—The orders referred to have not as yet been received. When received they will be forwarded to your address, which you will please communicate.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, November 3, 1866.

General E. R. S. CANBY, *Commanding Department of Washington:*

I enclose, herewith, a copy of the President's instructions referred to in General Grant's letter to you yesterday.

C. B. COMSTOCK,
Brevet Brig. General, Aide-de-Camp.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
Washington, D. C., November 2, 1866.

SIR: There is ground to apprehend danger of an insurrection in Baltimore against the constituted authorities of the State of Maryland, on or about the day of the election soon to be held in that city, and that in such contingency the aid of the United States might be invoked under the acts of Congress which pertain to that subject. While I am averse to any military demonstration that would have a tendency to interfere with the free exercise of the elective franchise in Baltimore, or be construed into any interference in local questions, I feel great solicitude that, should an insurrection take place, the government should be prepared to meet and promptly put it down. I accordingly desire you to call General Grant's attention to the subject, leaving to his own discretion and judgment the measures of preparation and precaution that should be adopted.

Very respectfully, yours,

ANDREW JOHNSON.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON, *Secretary of War.*

[Confidential.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, November 2, 1866.

General G. G. MEADE, *Commanding Department of the East;*

General Grant desires me to say that there is in Baltimore very high political feeling, which may possibly result in collision and bloodshed. It is reported that organizations of ex-soldiers, called "boys in blue," exist there and threats have been made that similar organizations from Pennsylvania would pour into Baltimore if there should be in that city a serious collision between the two political parties.

Such an invasion would inevitably cause serious bloodshed and might lead to the most deplorable consequences. The general desires that you obtain all the information that you can in reference to such movements, if any should be contemplated, and using your influence in the way you deem most efficient to prevent such organizations from entering Maryland from Pennsylvania, and report at once by telegraph for orders as to the use of troops in case such an attempt should be made.

C. B. COMSTOCK,
Brevet Brig. General, Aide-de-Camp.

[Telegram.—Received, 5 p. m.]

BALTIMORE, November 3, 1866.

General GRANT:

The troops from New York, five hundred and ninety, arrived at one o'clock to-day; only fifty of them were armed.

E. R. S. CANBY.

[Telegram.—Received, 5 p. m.]

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH, *War Department*

General U. S. GRANT:

There is a good deal of excitement in the city, but it appears to be subsiding. The new police commissioners were arrested to-day, and in default of bail have

been committed. They are charged with inciting a riot; this will bring the case at once before the superior court and court of appeals, both of which are now in session.

My office is No. 12 North Calvert street.

E. R. S. CANBY.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, November 4, 1866.

Major General E. R. S. CANBY, *Baltimore, Maryland:*

I will be at the Eutaw House at 8.30 this evening. Would like to see you Judge Bond, the police commissioners, and one or two leading members of the governor's party.

U. S. GRANT, *General.*

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH, *War Department.*

[Telegram.—Received 4.30 p. m.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF WASHINGTON,
Baltimore, November 4, 1866.

General U. S. GRANT, *Commanding Armies United States:*

I have directed General Emory to hold four companies of the remaining battalion of the twelfth in readiness to come to this city. This is not done from any greater indication of trouble, but because the recruits from New York are entirely inexperienced. The troops ordered from Washington will arrive this evening. The commissioners appointed by the governor, it is understood, will be released to-morrow on a writ of *habeas corpus*.

E. R. S. CANBY, *Major General.*

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Baltimore, Maryland, November 5, 1866.

Secretary STANTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

This morning collision looked almost inevitable. Wiser counsels now seem to prevail, and I think there is strong hope that no riot will occur. Propositions looking to the harmonizing of parties are now pending.

U. S. GRANT, *General.*

[Telegram.—Received 6 p. m.]

BALTIMORE, *November 6, 1866.*

General U. S. GRANT, *Commanding Armies United States:*

The election has passed off quietly. No disturbances of any kind have been reported.

E. R. S. CANBY,
Brevet Major General.

Fourth. Correspondence in regard to a proposed mission of the General of the army to Mexico in the year 1866.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, October 27, 1866.

GENERAL: I am directed by the President to communicate to you the request contained in the accompanying letter of the President, dated October 26, 1866, addressed to the Secretary of War, and also a printed copy of the instructions of the Secretary of State, dated October 25, 1866, addressed to the Hon. Lewis D. Campbell, United States minister to Mexico, referred to in said letter; both papers being herewith enclosed.

You will please favor me with your answer, to be communicated to the President.

Your obedient servant,

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

General GRANT,
Commanding Armies of the United States.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
Washington, D. C., October 26, 1866.

SIR: Recent advices indicate an early evacuation of Mexico by the French expeditionary forces, and that the time has arrived when our minister to Mexico should place himself in communication with that republic.

In furtherance of the objects of his mission, and as evidence of the earnest desire felt by the United States for the proper adjustment of the questions involved, I deem it of great importance that General Grant should, by his presence and advice, co-operate with our minister.

I have therefore to ask that you will request General Grant to proceed to some point on our Mexican frontier most suitable and convenient for communication with our minister; or (if General Grant deems it best) to accompany him to his destination in Mexico, and to give him the aid of his advice in carrying out the instructions of the Secretary of State, a copy of which is herewith sent for the General's information.

General Grant will make report to the Secretary of War of such matters as in his discretion ought to be communicated to the department.

Very respectfully, yours,

ANDREW JOHNSON.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, October 25, 1866.

SIR: You are aware that a friendly and explicit arrangement exists between this government and the Emperor of France to the effect that he will withdraw his expeditionary military forces from Mexico in three parts, the first of which shall leave Mexico in November next, the second in March next, and the third in November, 1867, and that upon the evacuation being thus completed, the French government will immediately come upon the ground of non-intervention in regard to Mexico which is held by the United States.

Doubts have been entertained and expressed in some quarters upon the question whether the French government will faithfully execute this agreement. No such doubts have been entertained by the President, who has had repeated and even recent assurances that the complete evacuation of Mexico by the French will be consummated at the periods mentioned, or earlier, if compatible with climatical, military, and other conditions.

There are grounds for supposing that two incidental questions have already engaged the attention of the French government, namely :

First. Whether it should not advise the departure of the Prince Maximilian for Austria to be made before the withdrawal of the French expedition.

Second. Whether it would not be consistent with the climatical, military, and other conditions before mentioned, to withdraw the whole expeditionary force at once, instead of retiring it in three parts and at different periods.

No formal communication, however, upon this subject has been made by the Emperor of the French to the government of the United States. When the subject has been incidentally mentioned, this department, by direction of the President, has replied that the United States awaits the execution of the agreement for evacuation by the French government, at least according to its letter, while they would be gratified if that agreement could be executed with greater promptness and despatch than are stipulated.

Under these circumstances the President expects that within the next month (November) a portion at least of the French expeditionary forces will retire from Mexico, and he thinks it not improbable that the whole expeditionary force may be withdrawn at or about the same time.

Such an event cannot fail to produce a crisis of great political interest in the republic of Mexico. It is important that you should be either within the territory of that republic, or in some place near at hand, so as to assume the exercise of your functions as minister plenipotentiary of the United States to the republic of Mexico.

What may be the proceedings of the Prince Maximilian, in the event of partial or complete evacuation of Mexico, of course cannot now be certainly foreseen. What may be the proceedings of Mr. Juarez, the President of the republic of Mexico, in the same event cannot now be definitely anticipated.

We are aware of the existence of several political parties in Mexico, other than those at the head of which are President Juarez and Prince Maximilian, who entertain conflicting views concerning the most expedient and proper mode of restoring peace, order, and civil government in that republic. We do not know what may be the proceedings of those parties in the event of the French evacuation.

Finally, it is impossible for us to foresee what may be the proceedings of the Mexican people in case of the happening of the events before alluded to. For these reasons it is impossible to give you specific directions for the conduct of your proceedings in the discharge of the high trust which the government of the United States has confided to you. Much must be left to your own discretion, which is to be exercised according to the view you may take of political movements, as they shall disclose themselves in the future.

There are, however, some principles which, as we think, may be safely laid down in regard to the policy which the government of the United States will expect you to pursue. The first of these is, that as a representative of the United States you are accredited to the republican government of Mexico, of which Mr. Juarez is President. Your communications as such representative will be made to him, wheresoever he may be, and in no event will you officially recognize either the Prince Maximilian, who claims to be emperor, or any other person, chief, or combination as exercising the executive authority in Mexico, without having first reported to this department, and received instructions from the President of the United States.

Secondly, assuming that the French military and naval commander shall be engaged in good faith in executing the agreement before mentioned for the evacuation of Mexico, the spirit of the engagement on our part in relation to that event will forbid the United States and their representative from obstructing or embarrassing the departure of the French.

Thirdly, what the government of the United States desires in regard to the

future of Mexico is not the conquest of Mexico, or any part of it, or the aggrandizement of the United States by purchases of land or dominion, but on the other hand they desire to see the people of Mexico relieved from all foreign military intervention, to the end that they may resume the conduct of their own affairs under the existing republican government, or such other frame of government as, being left in the enjoyment of perfect liberty, they shall determine to adopt in the exercise of their own free will, by their own act, without dictation from any foreign country, and of course without dictation from the United States.

It results as a consequence from these principles, that you will enter into no stipulation with the French commanders, or with the Prince Maximilian, or with any other party, which shall have a tendency to counteract or oppose the administration of President Juarez, or to hinder or delay the restoration of the authority of the republic. On the other hand, it may possibly happen that the President of the republic of Mexico may desire the good offices of the United States, or even some effective proceedings on our part, to favor and advance the pacification of a country so long distracted by foreign invasion, combined with civil war, and thus gain time for the re-establishment of national authority upon principles consistent with a republican and domestic system of government. It is possible, moreover, that some disposition might be made of the land and naval forces of the United States, without interfering within the jurisdiction of Mexico, or violating the laws of neutrality, which would be useful in favoring the restoration of law, order, and republican government in that country.

You are authorized to confer upon this subject with the republican government of Mexico and its agents, and also to confer informally, if you find it necessary, with any other parties or agents, should such an exceptional conference become absolutely necessary, but not otherwise. You will by these means obtain information which will be important to this government, and such information you will convey to this department with your suggestions and advice as to any proceedings on our part which can be adopted in conformity with the principles I have before laid down.

You will be content with thus referring any important propositions on the subject of reorganization and restoration of the republican government in Mexico, as may arise, to this department for the information of the President.

The General of the United States possesses already discretionary authority as to the location of the forces of the United States in the vicinity of Mexico. His military experience will enable him to advise you concerning such questions as may arise during the transition stage of Mexico from a state of military siege by a foreign enemy to a condition of practical self-government. At the same time it would be in his power, being near the scene of action, to issue any orders which may be expedient or necessary for maintaining the obligations resting upon the United States in regard to proceedings upon the border of Mexico. For these reasons, he has been requested and instructed by the President to proceed with you to your destination, and act with you as an adviser recognized by this department in regard to the matters which have been herein discussed.

After conferring with him, you are at liberty to proceed to the city of Chihuahua, or to such other place in Mexico as may be the residence of President Juarez; or in your discretion you will proceed to any other place in Mexico, not held or occupied at the time of your arrival by enemies of the republic of Mexico, or you will stop at any place in the United States or elsewhere near the frontier or coast of Mexico, and await there a time to enter any portion of Mexico which shall hereafter be in the occupation of the republican government of Mexico.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Hon. LEWIS D. CAMPBELL,
Minister to Mexico.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, October 27, 1866.

Your letter of this date, enclosing one from the President of the United States of the 26th instant, asking you to request me "to proceed to some point on our Mexican frontier most suitable and convenient for communication with our minister; or (if General Grant deems it best) to accompany him to his destination in Mexico, and to give him the aid of his advice in carrying out the instructions of the Secretary of State," is received. Also, copy of instructions to Hon. Lewis D. Campbell, minister to Mexico, accompanying your letter, is received.

The same request was made of me one week ago to-day, verbally, to which I returned a written reply, copy of which is herewith enclosed.

On the 23d instant, the same request was renewed in cabinet meeting, where I was invited to be present, when I again declined respectfully as I could the mission tendered me, with reasons.

I now again beg most respectfully to decline the proposed mission for the following additional reasons, to wit:

Now, whilst the army is being reorganized and troops distributed as fast as organized, my duties require me to keep within telegraphic communication of all the department commanders, and of this city, from which orders must emanate. Almost the entire frontier between the United States and Mexico is embraced in the departments commanded by Generals Sheridan and Hancock, the command of the latter being embraced in the military division under Lieutenant General Sherman, three officers in whom the entire country has unbounded confidence.

Either of these general officers can be instructed to accompany the American minister to the Mexican frontier, or the one can through whose command the minister may propose to pass in reaching his destination.

If it is desirable that our minister should communicate with me he can do so through the officer who may accompany him, with but very little delay beyond what would be experienced if I were to accompany him myself. I might add that I would not dare counsel the minister in any matter beyond stationing of troops on the United States soil, without the concurrence of the administration. That concurrence could be more speedily had with me here than if I were upon the frontier. The stationing of troops would be as fully within the control of the accompanying officer as it would of mine.

I sincerely hope I may be excused from undertaking a duty so foreign to my office and tastes as that contemplated.

U. S. GRANT, *General.*

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

[Private.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, October 21, 1866.

On further and full reflection upon the subject of my accepting the mission proposed by you in our interview of Wednesday, I have most respectfully to beg to be excused from the duty proposed. It is a diplomatic service for which I am not fitted either by education or taste. It has necessarily to be conducted under the State Department, with which my duties do not connect me. Again, then, I most respectfully but urgently repeat my request to be excused from the performance of a duty entirely out of my sphere, and one, too, which can be so much better performed by others.

U. S. GRANT, *General.*

His Excellency A. JOHNSON,
President of the United States.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, October 30, 1866.

GENERAL: The President, by the accompanying letter addressed to the Secretary of War, has relieved you from the duties specified in his letter of the 26th instant, which was transmitted to you, and has assigned them to Lieutenant General Sherman. You will please transmit to the Lieutenant General the President's instructions of this date, together with the accompanying papers, viz: a copy of the President's letter of the 26th instant to the Secretary of War and of my letter transmitting the same to you, also a copy of the instructions by the Secretary of State to the Hon. Lewis D. Campbell, minister of the United States to Mexico. You will please favor me with the answer of Lieutenant General Sherman, stating when it will suit his convenience to enter upon the specified duty.

Very respectfully,

EDWIN M. STANTON.
Secretary of War.

General U. S. GRANT.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
Washington, D. C., October 30, 1866.

SIR: General Ulysses S. Grant having found it inconvenient to assume the duties specified in my letter to you of the 26th instant, you will please relieve him from the same and assign them in all respects to William T. Sherman, Lieutenant General of the army of the United States. By way of guiding General Sherman in the performance of his duties, you will furnish him with a copy of your special orders to General Grant, made in compliance with my letter of the 26th instant, together with a copy of the instructions of the Secretary of State to Lewis D. Campbell, esq., therein mentioned. The Lieutenant General will proceed to the execution of his duties without delay.

Very respectfully, yours,

ANDREW JOHNSON.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

The papers mentioned in the preceding communications were transmitted as directed; and General Sherman at once entered upon the specified duty.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
U. S. GRANT, *General.*

Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

List of papers.

Lieutenant Colonel F. F. Flint, seventh infantry, Tallahassee, May 1, 1866.
Lieutenant Colonel F. F. Flint, seventh infantry, Tallahassee, June 1, 1866.
General J. G. Foster, Tallahassee, August 11, 1866.
General J. G. Foster, Tallahassee, August 28, 1866.
First Lieutenant F. E. Grossman, seventh infantry, Lake City, Florida, June 6, 1866.
First Lieutenant F. E. Grossman, seventh infantry, Lake City, Florida, June 20, 1866.

First Lieutenant F. E. Grossman, seventh infantry, Lake City, Florida, July 1, 1866.

First Lieutenant F. E. Grossman, seventh infantry, Lake City, Florida, July 17, 1866.

First Lieutenant F. E. Grossman, seventh infantry, Lake City, Florida, July 31, 1866.

First Lieutenant F. E. Grossman, seventh infantry, Lake City, Florida, August 31, 1866.

Captain D. R. Smith, eighty-second United States colored troops, St. Augustine, Florida, May 15, 1866.

Colonel John T. Sprague, seventh infantry, St. Augustine, Florida, May 31, 1866.

Colonel John T. Sprague, seventh infantry, St. Augustine, Florida, June 15, 1866.

Colonel John T. Sprague, seventh infantry, St. Augustine, Florida, July 5, 1866.

Colonel John T. Sprague, seventh infantry, St. Augustine, Florida, August 15, 1866.

Colonel John T. Sprague, seventh infantry, St. Augustine, Florida, August 31, 1866.

Captain Thomas James, jr., eighty-second United States colored troops, Sea Horse Key, Florida, June 30, 1866.

Captain Thomas James, jr., eighty-second United States colored troops, Cedar Keys, Florida, July 15, 1866.

Captain D. R. Smith, eighty-second United States colored troops, Mellonville, Florida, June 15, 1866.

Captain D. R. Smith, eighty-second United States colored troops, Mellonville, Florida, June 30, 1866.

Captain D. R. Smith, eighty-second United States colored troops, Mellonville, Florida, July 31, 1866.

Colonel John T. Sprague, seventh infantry, Jacksonville, Florida, April 30, 1866.

Captain Charles C. Rawn, seventh infantry, Jacksonville, Florida, August 29, 1866.

Captain H. A. Harris, eighty-second United States colored troops, Key West, Florida, May 31, 1866.

Captain James Cullen, seventh infantry, Gainesville, Florida, July 2, 1866.

Second Lieutenant L. Smith, fifth artillery, Fort Brooke, Tampa, Florida, November 1, 1866.

Brevet Brigadier General James Shaw, jr., United States volunteers, San Antonio, Texas, March 19, 1866.

Brevet Brigadier General James Shaw, jr., United States volunteers, San Antonio, Texas, April 3, 1866.

Brevet Brigadier General James Shaw, jr., United States volunteers, San Antonio, Texas, May 1, 1866.

Brevet Brigadier General James Shaw, jr., United States volunteers, San Antonio, Texas, April 16, 1866.

Lieutenant Colonel R. Kennicott, thirty-seventh Illinois veteran volunteer infantry, Houston, Texas, March 21, 1866.

Major A. H. Longholder, twelfth Illinois cavalry, Houston, Texas, March 25, 1866.

First Lieutenant A. J. Norton, twelfth Illinois cavalry, Huntsville, Texas, March 25, 1866.

Lieutenant Colonel H. B. Dox, twelfth Illinois cavalry, Houston, Texas, March 25, 1866.

Lieutenant Colonel E. H. Powell, tenth United States cavalry, Houston, Texas, March 27, 1866.

Brevet Major T. H. Lathrop, United States army, Houston, Texas, July 5, 1866.

Provisional Judge G. H. Noonan, eighteenth district Texas, Castroville, Texas, March 23, 1866.

Captain William C. Wilson, thirty-seventh Illinois veteran volunteer infantry, Brenham, Texas, March 25, 1866.

Captain John J. De Lacy, twelfth Illinois cavalry, Millican, Texas, March 25, 1866.

Lieutenant Colonel James R. Lynch, forty-eighth Ohio volunteers, Galveston, Texas, March 25, 1866.

A. M. Bryant, United States agent, Grayson county, Texas, March 25, 1866.

Major General H. G. Wright, Galveston, Texas, April 24, 1866.

Major W. F. Baker, tenth United States colored troops, Galveston, Texas, March 25, 1866.

Captain Collins Chesbrough, eighteenth New York cavalry, Post Yorktown, Texas, March 26, 1866.

Major William Davis, eighteenth New York cavalry, Yorktown, Texas, March 29, 1866.

Major William Davis, eighteenth New York cavalry, Yorktown, Texas, April 14, 1866.

Major William Davis, eighteenth New York cavalry, Yorktown, Texas, April 27, 1866.

Major William Davis, eighteenth New York cavalry, Yorktown, Texas, April 24, 1866.

Captain Gallés Fairman, thirty-seventh Illinois infantry, Richmond, Texas, March 26, 1866.

Captain G. Haraszthey, eighteenth New York cavalry, Clinton, Texas, March 28, 1866.

Captain Gaza Haraszthey, eighteenth New York cavalry, Clinton, Texas, April 13, 1866.

Lieutenant Colonel O. E. Pratt, seventh United States colored troops, Indianola, Texas, March 28, 1866.

Captain Harlan P. Spaulding, seventh United States colored troops, Victoria, Texas, March 28, 1866.

Captain Harlan P. Spaulding, seventh United States colored troops, Victoria, Texas, April 26, 1866.

First Lieutenant John C. Cashen, eighteenth New York volunteers Helena, Texas, March 29, 1866.

First Lieutenant John G. Cashen, eighteenth New York volunteers, Helena, Texas, April 15, 1866.

Captain A. W. Evans, sixth United States cavalry, Waco, Texas, April 3, 1866.

Captain A. W. Evans, sixth United States cavalry, Waco, Texas, April 18, 1866.

Captain S. P. Gillespie, Fort Inge, Texas, April 7, 1866.

Captain S. P. Gillespie, Fort Inge, Texas, April 11, 1866.

Captain S. P. Gillespie, Fort Inge, Texas, April 26, 1866.

Captain John Moran, thirty-seventh Illinois volunteers, Beaumont, Texas, March 25, 1866.

Captain John Moran, thirty-seventh Illinois volunteers, Beaumont, Texas, April 10, 1866.

Captain H. Lossberg, twelfth Illinois cavalry, Columbia, Texas, March 25, 1866.

Captain George H. Merrill, thirty-seventh Illinois volunteers, Columbus, Texas, March 25, 1866.

Captain George H. Merrill, thirty-seventh Illinois volunteers, Columbus, Texas, April 10, 1866.

First Lieutenant L. C. Manzer, thirty-seventh Illinois volunteers, Post Wharton, Texas, March 25, 1866.

First Lieutenant L. C. Manzer, thirty-seventh Illinois volunteers, Post Wharton, Texas, April 10, 1866.

Lieutenant Colonel O. E. Pratt, seventh United States infantry, Indianola, Texas, April 12, 1866.

Captain Thomas Chapman, thirty-seventh Illinois volunteers, Hempstead, Texas, March 25, 1866.

Chief Justice H. Christian *et al.*, Belton, Texas, April 12, 1866.

Brevet Brigadier General L. G. Sturgis, Austin, Texas, April 13, 1866.

Captain Ira W. Clafin, sixth cavalry, Lagrange, Texas, April 13, 1866.

Captain W. H. Redman, twelfth Illinois cavalry, Livingston, Texas, April 16, 1866.

Captain Thomas McCarty, seventh cavalry, Lavacca, Texas, April 25, 1866.

Captain George H. Henderson, Bastrop, Texas, April 28, 1866.

Brevet Major General G. W. Getty, Brownsville, Texas, May 1, 1866.

Captain and Brevet Major A. V. Lowell, eightieth United States colored infantry, Jefferson, Texas, September 3, 1866.

B. F. McFarland, (4 indorsements,) Mount Enterprise, Texas, March 30, 1867.

Major General P. H. Sheridan, New Orleans, Louisiana, October 15, 1866.

Major General P. H. Sheridan, New Orleans, Louisiana, October 16, 1866.

Major General P. H. Sheridan, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 11, 1866.

Major General P. H. Sheridan, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 11, 1866.

George A. Forsyth, Waco, Texas, November 2, 1866.

Major E. P. Loring, tenth United States colored heavy artillery, Port Hudson, Louisiana, April 14, 1866.

Major E. P. Loring, tenth United States colored heavy artillery, Port Hudson, Louisiana, April 21, 1866.

Major E. P. Loring, tenth United States colored heavy artillery, Port Hudson, Louisiana, April 30, 1866.

Brevet Brigadier General Watson Weber, fifty-first United States colored infantry, Alexandria, Louisiana, April 30, 1866.

Brevet Brigadier General A. Watson Webber, fifty-first United States colored infantry, Alexandria, Louisiana, May 15, 1866.

Lieutenant Colonel Orrin McFadden, Alexandria, Louisiana, June 16, 1866.

Captain Albert Loring, tenth United States colored heavy artillery, Fort Livingston, Louisiana, April 30, 1866.

Colonel A. G. Edgerton, sixty-fifth United States colored infantry, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, May 15, 1866.

Colonel A. J. Edgerton, sixty-fifth United States colored infantry, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, May 31, 1866.

Lieutenant Colonel A. J. Edgerton, sixty-fifth United States colored infantry, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, July 21, 1866.

First Lieutenant O. H. Violet, sixty-fifth United States colored infantry, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, July 14, 1866.

First Lieutenant William H. Webster, twenty-second regiment Veteran Reserve Corps, Columbia, Louisiana, August 31, 1866.

First Lieutenant William H. Webster, twenty-second regiment Veteran Reserve Corps, Columbia, Louisiana, September 21, 1866.

Lieutenant Colonel Martin Flood, Veteran Reserve Corps, Shreveport, Louisiana, September 10, 1866.

Lieutenant Amos S. Collins, Veteran Reserve Corps, Marksville, Louisiana, September 17, 1866.

First Lieutenant James Degray, Veteran Reserve Corps, Clinton, Louisiana, September 20, 1866.

Brevet Major James Cromie, Natchitoches, Louisiana, October 12, 1866.

HEADQUARTERS, POST OF TALLAHASSEE, FLA.,

May 1, 1866.

SIR : In compliance with instructions from department headquarters, I have the honor to submit the following report :

As far as I am informed, the section of country under my jurisdiction is, as a general thing, in a quiet and tolerably prosperous condition. There is considerable bitterness of feeling existing among the various classes of the people against the government and Union citizens, both north and south. But among the better classes this feeling is kept under pretty good subjection, and they seem, upon the whole, disposed to accept the condition of affairs as a necessity imposed upon them by a powerful government, as an unavoidable result of the terrible conflict, so fatal to their cause, and like sensible people, having a due regard to their own interests and safety, they quietly submit, though by no means lovingly, to a government and policy not of their choice. Time alone under judicious and impartial execution of just and proper laws and policy, can produce a favorable change of feeling. A sound discretion in the selection of officers, both civil and military, to fill the various and numerous offices, would materially aid in bringing about a more harmonious and prosperous condition of affairs.

Unfortunately, the important and often delicate duties have sometimes devolved upon persons of weak minds, contracted views, and strong prejudices, and office-seekers of this class are sufficiently numerous, and as applicants, too frequently successful, whose administration sadly retards the work of reconciliation and reconstruction.

I believe that Union citizens cannot freely express their love or admiration for our country, our government, and approval of the policy adopted, without incurring at least the displeasure, and sometimes the actual enmity of their neighbors, the southern people. No act of personal violence in consequence of such expression of sentiments in this district has come to my knowledge. Undoubtedly, the presence of troops has a wholesome restraining influence upon persons of this class.

The general treatment of the freedmen, from what I have learned, is all that could be desired. There are, of course, exceptional cases. There are, also, frequent well-grounded complaints against the freedmen for violations of contracts, idleness, neglect of duty, and culpable disregard of the interests of their employers ; vagrancy, theft, and sometimes violence, upon the person or property of whites.

Many have been under charge of the guard at this post during the past three months for these offences, and placed there by agents of the Freedmen's Bureau for punishment after conviction. Exorbitant wages and unreasonable conditions are too frequently demanded by them for their services, and insolence and refusal to do what they had agreed to do follow proper and necessary convictions for their faults and improprieties as servants. I have been informed by some of the freedmen in this city that they have considered the wages they have asked as too high, but that they dared not work for less ; that they feared the colored people, who compelled them by threats to demand such high prices, thus clearly indicating the existence of a combination to prevent, if possible, work being done at reasonable and customary rates. They exult over the change of condition that has taken place, and claim that they are now masters of the position, and declare that they will work only upon their own terms. Much forbearance and patience are necessary on the part of all well-disposed citizens, and while it is proper and expected that the freedmen should be kindly, humanely, and justly treated, they should be required to work and conduct themselves with propriety, and to render faithful service to their employers at

reasonable rates of compensation, and the necessary means for prompt and rigid enforcement of the same should be fully provided.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. F. FLINT,

Lieutenant Colonel Seventh Infantry, Commanding.

Brevet Brigadier General CHARLES MUNDEE,

A. A. G., District of Florida, Tallahassee, Fla.

A true copy :

CHARLES MUNDEE,

Assistant Adjutant General.

Official copy :

GEORGE L. HARTSUFF,

Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA,

June 1, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, so far as I am aware, no material change in the general condition of affairs in the country under my jurisdiction has occurred since my last report on this subject. As an indication of the feeling still existing among the "southern people" in this section of the State, I would mention that, about two weeks ago, they had a "festival and promenade concert" in this city, ostensibly for the purpose of raising funds for the rebel Gee, who is now being tried for his life at Raleigh, North Carolina. As I am informed, it proved to be a grand and joyous secession ovation, and afforded an admirable opportunity for a reunion of "southern people" of all ages and sexes, which was pretty generally improved. Most liberal contributions, of various kinds, were sent in, and the mottoes and emblems used on the occasion most clearly and unmistakably indicated the peculiar sentiments of the large assembly, so promptly gathered in behalf of so worthy an object of their charity and warmest sympathy.

I have been informed that there were only two officers of the volunteer organization present on this occasion. I am happy to state that no officer or enlisted man of the regular army countenanced, by his presence, the secession demonstration. Efforts were made to induce some members of the seventh infantry band to attend as musicians; but, to their credit be it known that they unhesitatingly refused to play for such an assemblage, and this of their own free will and accord.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. F. FLINT,

Lieutenant Colonel Seventh Infantry, Commanding.

Brevet Brigadier General CHARLES MUNDEE,

Assistant Adjutant General, Department of Florida.

A true copy :

CHARLES MUNDEE,

Brevet Brigadier General and A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,

December 3, 1867.

Official copy :

Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA,
ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Tallahassee, Florida, August 11, 1866.

COLONEL: I have the honor to make the following report of the condition of affairs in this department on the 1st of this month. Generally the people, in their acts, evince a purpose to conform to the requirements of the government, and to obey all laws. The few evidences of feeling evinced by them show that the bitter feelings arising from the war and its result still remain, although suppressed, and seem to be more evident of late. Time alone can remedy this. The treatment of the laborers is generally good, and the laborers are working well. There are quite a number of complaints of injustice by the whites towards the blacks, and of idleness and breach of contracts on the part of the latter, but these are promptly corrected by proper orders issued in each case. Generally all offences that are properly referred to the civil tribunals are submitted to them for decision, and as little arbitrary action taken as is possible.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER,

Major General, Commanding Department.

Brevet Lieutenant Colonel GEORGE LEE,

A. A. G., Military Division of the Gulf, New Orleans, La.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

Official copy:

Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES OF FLORIDA,
Tallahassee, Florida, August 28, 1866.

COLONEL: I have the honor to make the following semi-monthly report of the condition of affairs in this State:

No marked change has occurred in the condition of the freedmen, or in their treatment, by the whites. Generally this is satisfactory. The freedmen work as well as usual; some planters affirm that they work better than while in slavery, while others, and even some agents of the bureau, complain of their indolence and want of industry and economy. I very much fear that the freed people will not save much from their earnings this year. They are generally inclined to spend all their wages as fast as earned, and not to lay by for a time of need. I hope they will more fully realize this necessity in another year. The present wages paid are not sufficient to enable the freed people to meet their necessities, except by the most rigid economy; therefore the price of labor must be higher in another year. Those freed people who work for a share of the crop will be much better off at the end of the year than those who work for wages, and I believe this to be the best method of agreement between the planters and their laborers. I approve of the contract system between these parties, as it seems absolutely necessary in planting to have a perfect guarantee that the laborers will secure the crop, otherwise they might desert their employers at a critical time, and cause the loss of the crop and the ruin of the planter. These contracts should all be made between Christmas and New Year's, to continue for one year. In almost all other avocations, trades, and services, I think the contract system should be dispensed with, and that all conditions as to price and period of labor should be left to be regulated by the laws of supply and demand. The temper of the people remains as previously reported, as far as can be judged.

The only report received since the 15th (that from Cedar Keys) expresses the belief that the people in that vicinity are as disloyal to the government as they were three years ago. This may be, and probably is, true of a considerable class of the community, not only at Cedar Keys, but throughout the State, and includes all those who have personal cause for bitterness against the United States or its officers or soldiers; all the ignorant and prejudiced whites, who, under the influence of excitement and bad whiskey, sometimes are led to ventilate their curses and secession proclivities, as well as hatred of the d—d Yankees. Very few of the intelligent and influential people of the State indulge in this course, but rather maintain a firm position of acquiescence in all the requirements of law and of the government.

* * * * *

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER,

Major General Commanding.

Brevet Lieutenant Colonel GEORGE LEE

A. A. G., Department of the Gulf, New Orleans, La.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES,

Lake City, Florida, June 6, 1866.

SIR: In obedience to instructions received, I have the honor to submit herewith the following semi monthly report, viz:

Public feelings and sentiments have not changed since my last report. In my opinion it will require years before the people of this section will become thoroughly reconciled with the results of the war. Though everybody appears peaceable and quiet, still it cannot but be noticed that there exists a strong undercurrent of feeling, and that the apparent quiet submission is, after all, nothing more than one made absolutely necessary by the overthrow of the confederacy. The majority of the people within the jurisdiction of this post never would have voluntarily thrown aside arms, and, as a necessary consequence, their present obedience to the laws of the country is tendered more from fear of consequences in case of non-compliance therewith than through a desire to do that which is considered right by the government. At the same time I believe they conform to the requirements of existing laws, with the sincere intention to do the best in their power to show that they accept the results of the war, no matter how distasteful to them they may be, as unavoidable, and mean to abide by them. I have heard no public expressions of dislike towards the people of the north, taken as a whole, but find that certain of the radicals in Congress have but little of the love of the people of this section. It may not be amiss to state that the President of the United States is regarded by men of all classes in this community as the one most likely to succeed in restoring the south to peace and prosperity.

But few of the freedmen complain of harsh treatment at the hands of their employers. Just now they are kept busy in the fields attending to the crop, which is in most instances in a less prosperous condition than might have been looked for had the laborers worked more faithfully. Many of the planters complain that their cotton fields are grassy, and that this might have been prevented had the freedmen attended to their work with greater zeal. This lack of industry on the part of the freedmen seems to be looked upon by most of the planters as a necessary consequence of their freedom, many asserting that the colored man in his new status never will work as well as he did while a slave. In aggravated cases of idleness on the part of the freedmen, some few of the planters have undertaken to chastise them in person, which proceedings, how-

ever, are discountenanced by the majority of the citizens. The relation between employers and freedmen hired as laborers is, in my opinion, on the whole, satisfactory at present; the close of the year will show whether the planters will comply with their part of the contracts, for most of the freedmen employed on plantations work for a certain portion of the crop, while those engaged in the lumber business, on railroads, and as mechanics, receive fair monthly wages, and appear to be content. In this connection it may be proper to state that the punishments awarded to offending freedmen by the different courts of justice within this jurisdiction are, in my opinion, in many cases too severe, owing principally to the fact that the colored people are either too ignorant or otherwise too poor to employ counsel to defend them. As a case in point, I beg leave to quote a case recently tried in Baker county. A freedwomen, convicted of having assaulted another one whom she had discovered in the act of adultery with her husband, was fined fifty dollars. Being unable to pay this fine, according to the law of the State, she is hired out to some one who gives security for the payment of the fine, and has to work probably twelve months before she is again permitted to work free of restrictions. I have been assured by an able lawyer that this woman would have been acquitted had she been defended by counsel, or, at any rate, would have received but a mere nominal punishment, and that the presiding judge did not inform her of her right to employ counsel. In this town of Lake City I have heard fines of hundreds of dollars imposed upon freedmen who will probably become old men before these fines are settled.

Union people in this section have not been molested of late, though many of those who fought in the confederate army have anything but a favorable opinion of refugees, who, together with those who actually deserted from the ranks of the confederate army, are termed and considered deserters.

Many of those who remained loyal throughout the war are apprehensive of danger; but I must confess that I have heard nothing recently to lead me to suppose that their fears are well founded.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. E. GROSSMAN,

First Lieut. 7th U. S. Infantry, Commanding Post.

Lieutenant J. M. J. SANNO,

A. A. G., District East Florida, St. Augustine, Fla.

A true copy :

CHARLES MUNDEE,

Breret Brigadier General and A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES TROOPS,
Lake City, Florida, June 20, 1866.

SIR: I beg leave to report that the section of country within the jurisdiction of this post is tranquil at present. On the 2d instant a serious affray occurred at Lake Butler, Bradford county, twenty-four miles southeast from here. It was at first reported that three men had been killed upon that day, but, upon inquiry, I have ascertained the following facts, viz:

A family difficulty had existed for several months past between one Johnson and one Wells, the latter the son-in-law of the former. Parties had been formed and all concerned met by mutual agreement at Lake Butler, on the day aforesaid, to come to a settlement. It appears that high words were used, and that Johnson, the father-in-law, when appearing among the opposing parties, was assaulted by Wells and others. In self-defence Johnson used his knife, and with one cut laid bare the heart of Wells, who received several more cuts from

parties unknown, and was left dead. The brother of Wells then attempted to shoot Johnson, but the pistol failing to go off, he struck Johnson in the face with it, felled him to the ground, and then with a piece of plank beat him about the head, horribly mutilating his face and totally destroying his eyesight. Johnson was taken off insensible. Johnson's son, in defence of his father, attacked Wells, who received several bad cuts, which were supposed to be fatal at the time. Young Johnson, and a man named Burt belonging to the Johnson party, were also dangerously wounded; however, it is now said that all the wounded will recover. It was found impossible at the coroner's inquest, and since, to elicit any reliable information as to the true state of affairs, all the witnesses present having been more or less connected with the affair.

Some two weeks ago a Dr. Cook, living in Columbia county, attempted to cut the throat of a freedman working upon his plantation. Upon the complaint of the freedman, Dr. Cook was promptly arrested and committed for trial before the next county criminal court.

One Pascal, living a few miles from here, shot a freedman last week, inflicting a slight flesh wound in the thigh. Mr. Pascal gave himself up to the civil authorities immediately after, and was released, *pro tempore*, upon furnishing bail.

The citizens of this town had a festival, a few days ago, got up for the purpose of collecting a sufficient amount to defray the expenses of enclosing the burial-ground of the confederate dead. Many attended, but everything passed off harmoniously.

The freedmen, in some few instances, are deserting their employers, but generally remain according to contracts made. Many are idle, and the planters are generally disappointed in their crops.

Public sentiment toward the North and Union people has not changed since my last report.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. E. GROSSMAN,

First Lieut. 7th Infantry, Commanding Post.

Lieutenant J. M. J. SANNO,

A. A. A. G., District East Florida, St. Augustine, Fla.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES,
Lake City, Florida, July 1, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith the following semi-monthly report, viz:

Nothing of note has occurred during the past fifteen days to disturb the peaceful quiet prevailing in this town, and throughout Columbia county. The freedmen generally attend to their work, though perhaps not as industriously as might be desired, and the few who wished to annul the contracts made in the spring have done so in a legal manner before Brevet Colonel A. Mahoney, sub-assistant commissioner at this town.

Both classes, white and black, are far from being accustomed to their new relative positions. The whites are very apt still to expect and exact the deference and respectful submission formerly observed toward them by the blacks, while the latter, imbued with very extravagant ideas about their freedom, consider themselves fully on a level with their former masters, and seldom fail to show by word and action that such is their opinion. Hence many little collisions, of almost hourly occurrence, which, though trifling in their nature at present, may, by repetition, become a source of standing disagreement between the two races. Mutual forbearance, which alone can insure lasting harmony, is certainly not practiced by either party in this section.

Most of the prisoners tried before the different courts in this section are freedmen, who are, in most cases, guilty of some offence against the laws, but I think it undeniable that, though the acts committed are intrinsically wrong, and therefore ought to be punished, a white man would not be tried in this community for many minor offences for which I have seen freedmen sentenced.

To sentence a negro to several dollars' fine for carrying a revolver concealed upon his person, is in accordance with an ordinance of the town; but still the question naturally arises in my mind, "Why is this poor fellow fined for an offence which is committed hourly by every other white man I meet in the streets?"

Again, whenever the statute fails to provide a fixed punishment for a certain offence, leaving it optional with the court, for instance, to fine anywhere from five dollars to a hundred, it is my opinion that the freedmen will invariably be sentenced to a higher fine than white men would be, had they committed the same offence. Courts and juries, so far from making allowance for the fact that the freedmen are in many instances too ignorant to know that they are doing wrong, appear to act upon the principle that all the blacks are naturally bad, and undeserving of a liberal construction of the laws in their cases.

The sentiments of the whites of this section towards the northern people, as a class, remain unchanged since my former reports, though, individually, I have no reason to complain of their conduct, either towards myself or any of my men. Many of the planters hail peace as a harbinger of future prosperity, and are therefore disposed to abide by existing laws, bury the past, and attend to their business, in order to recover a portion of the fortune lost in consequence of the war. On the other hand, the small-town politicians of 1861 are politicians still, and, though less loud now than then in their denunciations, they still love to speak of the downtrodden South and her wrongs, which sentiments find a ready echo in the breasts of the younger men of the community, who are either too ignorant or too bigoted to understand that obedience to the laws is their best policy.

A few planters within the jurisdiction of this post last spring introduced white laborers from the north. In every case of this kind which has come under my observation, the experiment has proved a total failure. The laborers leave their employers within a few months after arriving in the State, and complain that the promises made to them in New York are not fulfilled here; that the rations furnished are poor and insufficient, and that they have failed to receive the monthly wages offered. I have now under investigation the case of three white men, hired at New York by Colonel Hardee, of this town, who state that they were badly treated and threatened with violence by their employer, and who finally left him, and being without means, enlisted in my company.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. E. GROSSMAN,

First Lieut. 7th U. S. Infantry, Commanding Post.

Lieutenant J. M. J. SANNO,

A. A. G., District East Florida, St. Augustine, Fla.

A true copy:

CHARLES MUNDEE,

Brevet Brigadier General and A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES,
Lake City, Florida, July 17, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith the following semi-monthly report, viz:

There is no change in public sentiment among the whites of this section. The freedmen give but partial satisfaction to their employers. Crops are tolerably fair, cotton rather better than the corn crop.

Since my last report I was detailed as sub-assistant commissioner of the bureau, but have heard, as yet, but few complaints from the planters or freed-people. A man named Gomillion, residing in the southwestern portion of Columbia county, on the 5th instant, discharged the contents of a double-barreled shot-gun at a freedman named Lewis, both shots taking effect and wounding him in the thighs and knees of both legs, and, according to the opinion of the physician who dressed the wounds, disabling Lewis for life. Witnesses to the affair came to this town and procured a warrant for the arrest of the criminal, which was placed in the hands of the sheriff, who, upon his arrival at the residence of Gomillion, ascertained that the latter had left for St. John's county. Here the matter seems to rest, further pursuit having been abandoned.

The fourth of July passed without the slightest attempt on the part of the citizens of this vicinity to celebrate the day.

The state of health of the troops at this post is excellent.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. E. GROSSMAN,

First Lieut. 7th U. S. Infantry, Commanding Post.

Lieutenant J. M. J. SANNO,

A. A. G., District East Florida, St. Augustine, Fla.

A true copy:

CHARLES MUNDEE,

Brevet Brigadier General and A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES,
Lake City, Florida, July 31, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith the following semi-monthly report, viz:

The political sentiments of many of the leading citizens of this town and vicinity seem to have undergone a remarkable change within the past few weeks, so much so that a meeting of conservative Union men was called here on the 20th instant, which was tolerably well attended. During the meeting several gentlemen addressed the assembly, and I was both surprised and gratified to hear the loyal sentiments uttered by them. The stars and stripes for the first time since my arrival at this town were mentioned with due respect in public, and actually received a cheer, and the orators spoke of the people of the north in most flattering and friendly terms. Resolutions offered and passed were expressive of the desire of those present to return to the old Union, and to abide by it, and to support the President of the United States. A few delegates to a convention to be held at Tallahassee were elected, most of whom were men noted for their opposition to secession at the outbreak of the rebellion. The lower class of the whites here follow their leaders, and if unforeseen circumstances do not arise to prevent it, this town and vicinity bid fair to become loyal before long.

The freedmen are still busily at work in the fields, and appear content, though many planters claim that this year's crop is inferior to that of former years. I think myself that the corn crop of this section, owing to the recent dry weather,

is not as good as it might have been, but see no reason to find fault with the cotton crop, which is more than middling wherever the fields have been properly tended. Some plantations which were left entirely to freedmen to cultivate, without the supervision of a white man, have produced, no doubt, a poorer crop than those upon which the owners of the land superintended the work; but this, in my opinion, is owing principally to the fact that the freedmen unaccustomed to planning work for twelve months ahead undertook to work more land than the number of hands and animals justified. Of course, they discovered their mistake before now, but, endeavoring to save all they had planted, it necessarily followed that no portions of the land received proper attention; cotton became grassy, and corn will hardly produce three bushels to an acre. On the other hand, wherever judicious planters have apportioned the amount of land to be worked by each of their freedmen, and superintended the manner of working in person, very fair crops have been the result, and I have heard it asserted frequently by planters so situated that they are perfectly satisfied with free labor, and would not have their slaves back again, even were this possible.

Very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

F. E. GROSSMAN,

First Lieut. 7th U. S. Infantry, Commanding Post.

Lieutenant J. M. J. SANNO,

A. A. A. G., District East Florida, St. Augustine, Fla.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES,
Lake City, Fla., August 31, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following semi-monthly report, viz:

The white citizens of this section are quietly attending to their own affairs. I find them generally averse to political discussions; when, however, they express themselves, they appear to be very much in favor of the reconstruction policy of the President of the United States, and hopeful of seeing the southern States represented in the United States Congress before long.

Of course, there are a few extremists here and there who pretend to have lost all confidence in the stability of our government, and delight in prophesying another war between the radical and conservative parties. But men of this stamp are rare, and the mass of people seem to dislike listening to their utterances.

The freedmen are generally hard at work housing the corn crop and picking cotton, a few isolated cases excepted. I have heard of no complaint made by or against them. The close of the year will demonstrate whether planters intend to deal justly by their laborers. It is my opinion that there will be many disputes to settle rising from the division of the crops.

As a general thing, I believe the whites hereabouts are inclined to suffer the freedmen to enjoy the privileges guaranteed to them by the civil rights bill, and whenever certain rights are denied them to which they should be entitled, I find that want of knowledge of the provisions of the act of Congress is principally the cause thereof. For instance, I ascertained that the judge of probate, of Bradford county, who required freedmen to obtain license to carry guns, when told that he acted illegally, asserted that he had never heard of that particular bill. Mail facilities being of the poorest, people in remote sections of the county have no opportunity to post themselves. In my opinion it would result to the advantage of the freedmen if copies of the civil rights bill and Freedmen's Bureau bill could be sent to the different judges of county criminal courts, judges of probate, and justices of the peace.

The corn crop of Columbia, Lawrence, Hamilton, and Bradford counties is not as good as might have been hoped; still it is supposed that enough corn has been raised for home consumption. The cotton crop is fair, though the rust has injured it slightly within the past two weeks. The sanitary condition of the post and vicinity is good. A few days ago a freedman died with Asiatic cholera in this town, but no apprehensions are entertained that there will be any more cases. The house occupied by the above freedman during his illness has been thoroughly disinfected, and the parties who buried him have been quarantined in the outskirts of the town. My company grounds and quarters are kept under thorough police, and my sick report shows but very few sick.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. E. GROSSMAN,

Lieut. 7th U. S. Inf., Brevet Captain U. S. A., Com'd'g Post.

Lieutenant J. M. J. SANNO,

A. A. G., District of East Florida, St. Augustine, Fla.

Official copy :

GEORGE LEE,
Brevet Colonel, A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES TROOPS,
St. Augustine, Florida, May 15, 1866.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that the people of this post and vicinity show a friendly feeling toward the government, and appear to be good Union citizens; the freedmen show a desire to work, and, in fact, are quite ambitiously engaged in the different pursuits of life, and are very well treated by the white citizens.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. R. SMITH,

Captain 82d United States Colored Troops.

Brevet Brig. Gen. CHARLES MUNDEE,

Assistant Adjutant General, Department of Florida.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
December 3, 1867,

Official copy :

Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT EAST FLORIDA,
St. Augustine, May 31, 1866.

GENERAL: I presume commanders of posts have misapprehended the instructions as contained in your letter of the 24th ultimo, and send their reports in reference to the state of feeling among citizens around their posts direct to headquarters. Instructions have been given to correct this. In connection therewith I would remark that the state of feeling towards the general government is, as it has always been, respectful from necessity, and obeyed from policy and personal interest. The general condition of the country is prosperous; the freedmen are industrious; the treatment of freedman, so far as individual acts are concerned, is good; but there is a determination on the part of State, county, and town officials to make the freedman know and feel his inferiority.

This is done by arrests for trifling offences and the imposition of fines, to which are attached enormous fees. The freedman is made to feel that he is still a slave from the administration of civil law. In time this evil may correct itself, but communities place themselves in jeopardy by such acts of manifest injustice, and unless a proper sentiment is encouraged the result will be violent acts of retaliation. The attention of the most influential citizens has been called to this subject, and the authorities, particularly in Jacksonville, are beginning to realize the impolicy of attempting to govern the freedmen by unfounded and trivial complaints, and fines, and fees.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN T. SPRAGUE,

Colonel 7th United States Infantry, Commanding.

A true copy :

CHARLES MUNDEE,
Brigadier General and A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,

December 3, 1867.

Official copy :

Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA,

June 15, 1866.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that the general condition of the country in this vicinity is good; the crops are improving rapidly after a hard rain; the feelings of the people to the government are pacific, not, however, from any affection for the government, but from necessity, and the sentiment towards the Union citizens is one of questionable propriety and fidelity, but the feeling generally is improving; good counsels and proper advices, as well as the general prosperity of the country, encourage an active and kindly disposition towards the government. The treatment towards freedmen is judicious and proper when under the supervision of competent authority.

I have the honor to be, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN T. SPRAGUE,

Colonel 7th Infantry, Commanding.

Brevet Brig. Gen. CHARLES MUNDEE,

A. A. G., Department of Florida, Tallahassee, Fla.

A true copy :

CHARLES MUNDEE,
Brevet Brigadier General and Assis't Adj't Gen'l.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT EAST FLORIDA,

St. Augustine, Florida, July 5, 1866.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report my return to this post, and improve the opportunity to report upon the general condition of the country coming under my observation as commander of this district and post.

Within the last ten days I have visited Jacksonville, Baldwin, Starke, Waldo, Gainesville, Bronson, and Cedar Keys, my entire route being in a well-settled and prosperous part of the State. The cotton crop promises exceedingly well.

Corn is limited for the want of rain. The success of the freedmen's labor has been very encouraging. Contracts and verbal agreements have been entered into between the planters and freedmen, and been carried out, up to this period, with marked fidelity. Some of the largest and most experienced slave owners acknowledge that the conduct of the freedmen has far exceeded their expectations, both in labor, general conduct, and obedience to personal advice and to law. Difficulties and embarrassing questions have been brought to my notice; sometimes wrongs and injustice have been attempted, but the interposition of proper authority soon satisfied all parties and secured just dues. The freedman has a shrewd appreciation of justice, and soon becomes restless and dissatisfied under harsh treatment and the apprehension of injustice. In all instances within my observation, and from inquiry, the freedmen have been easily controlled by kindness and justice. The laws are obeyed, and good order prevails through this section of the State. The military exercise a wholesome control. When the civil officers have refrained from acting in emergency the military authorities have come in and demanded that the civil officers of the State should exercise their functions and bring offenders to justice. Where injustice and violent acts have been perpetrated upon freedmen, parties have been arraigned before the military, and the right of a citizen demanded under the laws of the State. There is, however, a disposition to exercise severity towards the freedmen at all times. Until the new relations become adjusted and familiarized, there must be a constant feud between the former slaveholder and the freedmen. The change is sudden, and it will take time and the authority of the general government to settle this relation harmoniously.

The appearance of the freedmen in this State is very striking in their neat and improved clothing, their personal deportment, and general conduct and obedience to law.

The loyalty of the citizens within this command, and the feeling towards Union citizens and the government, is difficult to determine. The conduct of all in language and deportment is becoming and respectful, but a more open, frank, and candid intercourse would be acceptable. If the general government was dependent upon the thoughts, wishes, and feelings of citizens in this quarter, it would soon be crushed; or if Union men were without protection they would feel sensibly the effect of strong prejudices and an enduring hate. Time and prosperity will do away with this, but now I seldom find a Union man who boldly advocates the policy of the government, from the fear of retaliation from those around him who have been subdued by military power.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN T. SPRAGUE,

Colonel Seventh U. S. Infantry, Commanding.

Brevet Brig. Gen. CHARLES MUNDEE,

A. A. G., Department of Florida, Tallahassee.

A true copy :

CHARLES MUNDEE.

Brevet Brigadier General and A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA,

August 15, 1866.

GENERAL: The general condition of the section of country around this post is bad. The crops have been destroyed for want of rain, and there is a feeling of discouragement among the whites and freedmen.

The action and feeling among the people towards the government is without

any open opposition or dissatisfaction, and the same sentiment is evinced towards Union citizens. The treatment towards freedmen is correct.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN T. SPRAGUE,

Colonel 7th U. S. Infantry, Commanding.

Brevet Brig. Gen. CHARLES MUNDEE,

Assistant Adjutant General, Department of Florida.

A true copy :

CHARLES MUNDEE,

Brevet Brigadier General and A. A. G.

Official copy :

GEORGE LEE,

Brevet Lieut. Colonel, A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA,

August 31, 1866.

GENERAL: The general condition of affairs around this post in regard to crops is discouraging. Almost every crop has failed from extreme heat and the want of rain. The sweet potato crop looks favorable. The action and feeling of the people towards faithful and well-trying Union citizens—those who declaim openly for the Union and the punishment of traitors—are of a most active and hostile character.

There is a band of twelve mounted armed men, under a Mr. Moses Barber, who are ranging through the country fifteen and twenty miles south of this post, who threaten Union citizens and require them to pay for cattle taken by federal soldiers during the war. This band have gone towards Mellonville and Tampa Bay. Barber has gone to Georgia temporarily on business. All information is now being obtained upon this subject. When troops are again located at Mellonville this class of men will be under close observation. At the present time the want of horses prevents them from being pursued as they ought to be.

The freedmen are treated kindly, when military authority is in the vicinity, and they are generally attentive to their work; but the short crops will cause great suffering among them in the coming six months.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN T. SPRAGUE,

Colonel 7th U. S. Infantry, Commanding.

Brevet Brig. Gen. CHARLES MUNDEE,

A. A. G., Department of Florida, Tallahassee, Fla.

A true copy :

CHARLES MUNDEE,

Brevet Brigadier General and A. A. G.

Official copy :

GEORGE LEE,

Brevet Colonel, Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS CEDAR KEYS, FLORIDA,

Sea Horse Key, June 30, 1866.

LIEUTENANT: In obedience to letter of instructions, dated headquarters department of Florida, April 24, 1866, I have the honor to report that the actions of the people of this vicinity toward the government are loyal, but the sentiments of the majority are, in my opinion, quite to the contrary. No diffi-

culties between the Union men and the late rebels have been brought to my notice so far. Their treatment of the freedmen is good; the latter get good wages and seem quite contented.

I visited the Crystal and Withlacochee rivers about two weeks ago. I found the inhabitants of that section industrious, and seemed well disposed towards the government, their treatment of the freedmen good, and they are well satisfied with the new system of labor.

My observations being quite limited I have nothing of interest to report at this time.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS JAMES, JR.,

Captain 82d U. S. Colored Troops, Commanding Post.

Lieutenant J. M. J. SANNO, A. A. G.,

District of East Florida, St. Augustine, Florida.

A true copy :

CHARLES MUNDEE,

Brevet Brigadier General and A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS CEDAR KEYS, FLORIDA,

July 15, 1866.

LIEUTENANT: In obedience to letter of instructions, dated headquarters department of Florida, April 24, 1866, I have the honor to report that the actions and feelings of the people of this vicinity toward the government are, as per last report, generally loyal. No ill-treatment of Union men has been brought to my notice, and their treatment of the freedmen is generally very good.

I am, lieutenant, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS JAMES, JR.,

Captain 82d U. S. Colored Infantry, Commanding Post.

First Lieutenant J. M. J. SANNO,

A. A. G., District East Florida.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

Official copy :

Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES TROOPS,

Mellonville, Florida, June 15, 1866.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that the inhabitants of this vicinity have thus far shown themselves to be good Union people. I have heard of no complaints of the ill-treatment of freedmen, but, quite to the contrary, have heard them spoken of as being industrious, &c. I have just returned from New Smyrna, and found the feelings of the inhabitants there quite similar to that of the people of this vicinity.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. R. SMITH,

Captain 82d U. S. Colored Troops, Commanding Post.

Brevet Brig. Gen. CHARLES MUNDEE,

A. A. G., Department of Florida.

A true copy :

CHARLES MUNDEE,

Brevet Brigadier General and A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES TROOPS,
Mellonville, Florida, June 30, 1866.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that the feelings of the inhabitants of this post appear to be loyal. The negroes are well treated and are doing well.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. R. SMITH,
Captain 82d U. S. Colored Troops, Commanding Post.

Brig. Gen. CHARLES MUNDEE,
Assistant Adjutant General, Department of Florida.

A true copy :

CHARLES MUNDEE,
Brevet Brigadier General and A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES TROOPS,
Mellonville, Florida, July 31, 1866.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that the inhabitants of this post show a loyal feeling toward the government; that the colored people are well treated, and appear to be industrious, and in fact everything works very harmoniously.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. R. SMITH,
Captain 82d U. S. Colored Infantry, Commanding Post.

Brevet Brig. Gen. CHARLES MUNDEE,
Assistant Adjutant General, Department of Florida.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

Official copy :

_____,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT EAST FLORIDA,
Jacksonville, April 30, 1866.

GENERAL: The general condition of the country coming under the jurisdiction of this post is prosperous. The freedmen are working faithfully and industriously, and there are a large class of citizens from the north who are seeking investments in lands and in saw-mills. The citizens belonging to the city are laboring to obtain a living and to collect what little remains of their property after a desolating war. Their conduct towards the general government is pacific from necessity, but their feelings are strong and revengeful, and there is but little kindly feeling towards men from the north. It is hard for the citizens in this section to submit without a murmur to their fate; time alone can heal their troubles, aided by the visible hand of the general government. The treatment of the freedmen is generally good, but there are acts of injustice which are corrected by the bureau intrusted with this duty.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JOHN T. SPRAGUE.

A true copy :

CHARLES MUNDEE,
Assistant Adjutant General.

JACKSONVILLE, *Florida, August 29, 1866.*

SIR: In obedience to letter of instructions from headquarters department of Florida, Tallahassee, Florida, August 24, 1866, I have the honor to report that the citizens of the country under my jurisdiction are, as far as I have been able to ascertain, generally well disposed, or at least do not openly manifest enmity to the government. The freedmen are for the most part at work, and no complaints have been made by them to me of ill-treatment. The feeling towards northern men and southern Union men is not (especially among the lower and more ignorant class) such as might be desired, although the expression of it does not go beyond unfriendly words. A short time ago an attack was made on a Dr. Myron L. Mickles, of this town, by Colonel Titus, of Nicaraguan notoriety, on account of a difficulty growing out of a difference of opinion in regard to the acts of the President and Congress. As the matter was taken in hand by the civil authorities and properly dealt with, I did not interfere.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES C. RAWN,

Captain Seventh U. S. Infantry, Commanding Post.

Lieutenant J. M. J. SANNO,

Adj. 7th Inf., A. A. A. G., Eastern District of Florida.

A true copy :

CHARLES MUNDEE,

Brevet Brigadier General and A. A. G.

Official copy :

GEORGE LEE,

Brevet Lieutenant Colonel, A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS KEY WEST, FLORIDA,

May 31, 1866.

SIR: In compliance with your letter dated April 24, 1866, I have the honor to report that since I have been in Key West, the majority of the inhabitants have been very friendly towards the freedmen, as I have had very few complaints, and those of a very simple nature, which were very easily settled satisfactory to both parties. I have not mixed very much with the people, and never once heard any one express their opinion in regard to the subject in question.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

H. A. HARRIS,

Captain 82d U. S. Colored Troops, Commanding Post.

The ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL,

Department of Florida.

A true copy :

CHARLES MUNDEE,

Brevet Brigadier General and A. A. G.

[Extract.]

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES,

Gainesville, Florida, July 2, 1866.

COLONEL :

* * * * *

I have the honor to report that the citizens of the county of Alachua, generally speaking, are loyal and law-abiding citizens. There are a few restless spirits

who have created disturbance, much to the annoyance and mortification of the community.

The civil officers are disposed to perform all parts of these duties. There are a few cases in which warrants have been issued when parties have not been brought forward for trial, but in all these the accuser and accused have become reconciled, and the causes have been dismissed for want of prosecution.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES CULLEN,

Captain 7th U. S. Infantry, Commanding Post.

Colonel JOHN T. SPRAGUE,

Commanding District East Florida.

FORT BROOKE, TAMPA, FLORIDA.

November 1, 1866.

SIR: In regard to the feeling toward the government and Union people, treatment of freedmen, &c., in the counties under my jurisdiction, I have the honor to make the following report:

The people are upwardly loyal, and will be so as long as there are any troops stationed here: The feeling towards the Union men, &c., is not very satisfactory. It mostly arises from the matter of property taken from men while serving in the Union army, refugees and freedmen, either confiscated by the so-called confederate government, or taken by persons without any pretended authority. I have had a number of such cases brought to my notice and the claimants invariably state that they cannot get justice in the State courts. All these cases will have to be settled either by the bureau or United States district courts. In regard to treatment of freedmen, I have had only one complaint. A Thomas Clark was charged with stealing a gun tube, which he claimed to have found in the yard of his own house, was tried, but, as Mr. Motley, then agent for Freedmen's Bureau, states, was not allowed to bring any witnesses before the court; was found guilty and sentenced to receive thirty-nine lashes; and judging from the condition of his back, the sentence was executed in a very brutal manner.

Captain G. D. Greene, October 29, 1866, applied for an armed detachment for a few days, (which was sent,) stating that "it was impossible to carry out his instructions without an armed force; being treated with threatening and abuse, and the authority vested in him set at defiance."

From the best information I can get, the main trouble in this section proceeds from men who have in their possession property of Union soldiers, refugees, &c., which was either sequestered or stolen from them during the war. For recovering this property, I am satisfied the Union men can get no justice in the civil courts. In some cases it will have to be restored by the military authorities. With the exception of a few slight cases of sickness, the health of the command is very good.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. SMITH,

Second Lieut. 5th Artillery, Commanding Post.

J. H. LYMAN,

Acting Assistant Adjutant General, District of Florida.

Official copy:

GEORGE L. HARTSUFF,

Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,

December 5, 1867.

Official copy:

Assistant Adjutant General.

POST OF FERNANDINA, FLORIDA,

November 1, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the condition of the country to the 31st ultimo.

There has been no further change in the state of affairs at this place, which I suppose is from the fact of the stand taken by the military authorities, which virtually prevents the execution of writs of ejection, by obeying instructions to keep the peace.

The bad feeling between the two parties is not quite so strong as when the excitement in regard to the land cases was so unsettled. I think the action taken by me has proved of good to the community, as it has done much to allay this feeling. This feeling has by no means been eradicated, but it does not show itself by excited conversations among and between the different parties. The presence of United States troops here has given a feeling of security to the inhabitants—that is, among the better disposed. The northern portion are anxious to have them remain; the violent portion of the southern class are loud in their denunciation of them, and evinces itself in coarse and undignified articles in the weekly paper, directed not only against the commanding officer of the troops here, but against both district and sub-district commanders. I should think that the better portion are satisfied, and willing to take their legal course, without resorting to force, although this feeling is to a great extent latent. There has been some excitement in regard to the possession of horses, and by parties owned in town; those parties claim to have bought them from United States officers during the war, as being private horses captured from persons living in, or serving in, the rebel army. Those parties returning after the war are attempting to reobtain possession of the said horses. The affair resolved itself exactly into the form that the ejection cases took; that is, the sheriff served writs on the parties having the horses, who notified him they would resist the taking of them.

No further action was taken by either party, as it would have caused a difficulty and brought on a violation of a notification of the then commanding officer in regard to a breach of the peace.

The conduct of the men under my command towards citizens, and in general, has been very good indeed. A great many citizens have expressed to me their satisfaction of their demeanor.

I think if things are conducted as they have been until the United States court meets, it will be by far the best for all parties concerned.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALONZO A. COLE,

Capt. 7th Inf. and Brevet Major U. S. A., Com'dg Post.

J. M. J. SANNO,

First Lieut. 7th Inf. A. A. A. G., Sub-dist. East Florida.

Official copy:

GEORGE L. HARTSUFF,

Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,

December 5, 1867.

Official copy:

Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS CENTRAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, March 19, 1866.

COLONEL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 13th, requiring a report of the feelings of the people towards the government, &c.

I have the honor to report that, so far as I have been able to observe, the larger part of the citizens and the planters are well disposed; that they have made contracts with their hands and are faithfully carrying out the terms thereof; that they have accepted the new order of things, and are disposed to quietly acquiesce in all requirements of the government. With all this, however, there is no true Union sentiment—they do only what they are obliged to do. A Union man is proscribed; he cannot obtain employment of a rebel; their families do not associate, and I have been told by Union men that they could only remain where troops were stationed.

Complaints are reaching these headquarters of outrages committed on Union men and freedmen at various places remote from military posts. They are committed by a lawless and desperate set of men, without character or property, but who rule communities as they have done years before, by terror. They possess an influence to which their number does not entitle them. Quiet and peaceable men dare not interfere, and purchase immunity for themselves by their silence. They cannot be reached by civil law; for juries, in most places, either do not wish or do not dare to correct them. My letters of the 10th and 12th instant support these statements.

Brevet Major Kelly, fourth United States cavalry, who was present soon after Captain Noolan was shot, near Yorktown, reported on his return that there was great danger of the captain being murdered while lying there wounded, and unless a large force were sent down, Anderson would be rescued as soon as he was able to move. Major Kelly also stated that affairs were in as bad a condition at Helena. I have therefore sent two (2) companies to Yorktown and one (1) to Helena, all eighteenth United States cavalry. I have in each case selected prudent, careful officers, and have placed Major Davis, eighteenth United States cavalry, at Yorktown, in charge of the places Clinton, York, and Helena. I do not anticipate any further trouble from either of these places; the moral effect of a United States force is generally all that is wanted. The well-disposed people in all of these places ask for troops to be sent them.

I have ordered the reports required by your letter, and my report of the 1st April will cover those from the several posts within this district.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES SHAW, Jr.,

Brevet Brigadier General U. S. Volunteers, Commanding.

Colonel C. H. WHITTELEY,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
December 3, 1867.

Official copy :

Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS SEPARATE BRIGADE,
 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, April 3, 1866.

COLONEL: In compliance with letter of instruction dated Headquarters Department of Texas, March 13, 1866, requiring semi-monthly reports of the feelings

of the people toward the government, &c., I have the honor to forward copies of reports received from the several posts within this district :

The report of Colonel Pratt, marked A, represents very correctly the feeling in Indianola, as I am compelled to believe from a residence there since June last. To a transient visitor it is not so apparent as in places further removed from the coast, where there is a large colored population. As a seaport its people mingle more with the outside world, and attend more to trade than politics.

In the report of Captain Spaulding, marked B, the influence of lawless and desperate men in society at large is noted, and the dread of peaceable citizens to interfere and punish such men as they deserve. As Captain Spaulding says : "This fact gives rise to the opinion that such acts are approved by them," (i. e., the whole community.)

The reports from Clinton, Yorktown, and Helena, marked C, D, and I, go to confirm the opinion I have expressed in previous reports. Report marked F shows the fear of Union men in regard to such gangs of desperadoes, and G the necessity of military force to enable civil authorities to enforce the law. The communication of D. Cleveland, major, marked I, shows the disposition of many men in this community, and the necessity of an agent of the Freedmen's Bureau at this point. I referred the case to Judge Longworth, at Sulphur Springs, as the parties live within ten miles of that place. I also forwarded two communications from Governor Hamilton, K and L.

I have ordered one company of the sixth United States cavalry to Parker county, from Pilot Point, where they had been to enable the treasury agent to collect property, and one company 4th Michigan volunteers to Wood county.

I have not yet received reports from Austin, Lavacca, Goliad, Gonzales, Waco, or La Grange. At San Antonio I can report no change. Since orders have been received to send newspapers to headquarters department, the rebel papers of the city have been more guarded in their expressions. The order has had a good effect.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES SHAW, JR.,

Brevet Brigadier General, Commanding.

Brevet Colonel C. H. WHITTELSLEY,

Assistant Adjutant General, Department of Texas.

HEADQUARTERS U. S. ARMY,

November 20, 1867.

Official copy :

Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS CENTRAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS,

San Antonio, Texas, May 1, 1866.

COLONEL: I have the honor to forward reports from the posts in this command, in regard to the feelings of the people towards the government, toward Union men and freedmen, &c.

I would call your attention to the reports from Yorktown, dated April 24 and 27. No trace of the murderers have yet been found. The report from Clinton, April 13, gives a correct view of affairs in that vicinity. Unless troops are kept in the range of towns from Hallettsville through Clinton, Yorktown, Helena, to Goliad, the condition of the freedmen will be worse than when in slavery, and all Union men will be driven from the country.

The communication from citizens of Belton, Bell county, to General Sturgis,

show their views of the feelings in the country. Governor Hamilton was in this city when I received that communication, and after consulting with him, I ordered a detachment of the 4th Michigan to that post, but countermanded the order by telegraph, after receiving your despatch saying that all white volunteers would be mustered out.

Governors Pease and Hamilton addressed the citizens of San Antonio about a week since, told them plain truths, and were listened to with attention. Could such speeches be delivered in every town, and the people induced to listen, there would be some hopes for the State.

The great want is of a Union newspaper. There is but one in the city, (the Express,) and that a weekly, and I think but one other (Flake's Bulletin) in the State. The whole tendency of the press of Texas is disloyal, but seldom any single article sufficiently so to convict them.

I can report no change in the feeling in this city. I send communication from General Sturgis asking to be relieved from making a report, which I have disapproved. His report is not yet received.

I also send Ledger of 25th.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES SHAW, JR.,

Brevet Brigadier General Commanding.

C. H. WHITTELSKY,

Brevet Colonel and Assistant Adjutant General.

Official copy:

R. F. HALSTED,

Brevet Lieut. Col. and A. A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS CENTRAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS,

San Antonio, April 16, 1866.

COLONEL: The non-arrival of despatches from many posts, and very meagre reports from others, deprive me of data on which to base my own.

The peace and quiet of such places as Clinton, Yorktown, Helena, &c., (as shown by reports,) is a striking comment on the necessity of military force. Never before, since I have been in the State, have I heard such reports from these places. The rare presence of a small body of troops has brought quiet and peace to the communities that have been before under a reign of terror. At San Antonio, I notice no change in feeling towards the government. The rebels appear to approve of all the acts of the President, but are very bitter towards Congress. The Union men are gloomy and despondent. Many of them are talking of leaving the State.

Towards northern men, either permanently or temporarily here, the feeling is *bitter*, unless such men renounce their own views and pander to the feelings and prejudices of the ex-rebels. (I erase the *ex*; they are as much rebels to-day as they ever were. I speak of the mass.)

Judge Bell said the other night, in a speech delivered in this city: "A sad feature, in the present state of affairs, is the strong rebel sentiment of the women. They teach treason to their children, and hatred of the *Yankees*. The conversation of the little ones shows the training they were receiving at home." I believe that Judge Bell was right. Such feelings and instructions are deeply to be deplored.

Since my last, no new cases of oppression of freedmen have been brought to my notice.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES SHAW, JR.,

Brevet Brig. Gen. U. S. Volunteers, Commanding.

C. H. WHITTELSKY,

Brevet Colonel and Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS THIRTY-SEVENTH ILLINOIS INFANTRY, V. V.,
Houston, Texas, March 21, 1866.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that, so far as I have observed, the people of the neighborhood where my command is stationed are, as a whole, legally loyal; that a better part of the community (those really interested) are well disposed towards the government, and are doing their best to have their State come up to the requirements of the Constitution.

The officers and men of my command have almost universally been courteously treated by the citizens. Towards northern men the citizens appear even better disposed than I would have expected. It is true they entertain little love for them as yet. Though I am personally acquainted with many northern men here, I have never, as yet, heard any complaints of ill treatment.

In regard to treatment of freedmen, I know of no place in the United States where the black man is more kindly treated than here in Texas. It is a fact that there are quite a number of men in Texas who utter disloyal sentiments, and are guilty of many other outrages against law and order, but they belong to a class of outlaws and vagabonds, few of whom are natives, and scarce any of them can claim to be citizens, or to have any interest in the welfare of the country.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. KENNICOTT,

Lieutenant Colonel 37th Illinois V. V. Inf., Commanding Reg't.

D. L. PROUDFIT,

Capt. and A. A. A. G., Eastern District of Texas.

HEADQUARTERS 13TH ILLINOIS CAVALRY VOLUNTEERS,
Houston, Texas, March 25, 1866.

CAPTAIN: In compliance with endorsement on letter from headquarters department, dated March 13, 1866, I have the honor to report that the people living in the vicinity of the camp appear to me to have become loyal to the government, and I have not heard of a single instance in which a northern man, refugee, or freedman, has been treated any other than as a friend and neighbor.

I have obtained from Captain E. M. Pratt, commanding company E, twelfth Illinois cavalry volunteers, at Jasper, that the citizens of that county are loyal towards the government, and that the negroes are protected in that section of the State by the citizens themselves, and that harmony exists throughout the county. During the past two months, while Captain Pratt has been stationed at Jasper, there has been no complaint made to him, by either northern man, refugee, or freedman, against the southern residents of the county, and the condition of the county appears to him to be in a good state. Planters are progressing with their plantations, and their freedmen employes appear to be fully satisfied with their condition.

Having received no reports from the companies stationed at Millican, Leona, Crockett, Livingston, Huntsville, and Columbia, it is impracticable for me at the present time to report the condition of affairs in those sections.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

A. H. LONGHOLY,

Major Commanding.

Captain D. L. PROUDFIT,

A. A. A. G., Eastern District of Texas, Houston, Texas.

Official copy:

C. H. WHITTELSEY,

Brevet Colonel and Assistant Adjutant General.

A true copy:

GEO. L. HARTSUFF,

Assistant Adjutant General.

CAMP COMPANY I, TWELFTH ILLINOIS CAVALRY VOLUNTEERS,
Huntsville, Texas, March 25, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report to you, as commanding the post of Huntsville.

I have conversed freely with the citizens of this place and surrounding county, and also with the freedmen, and I find that the negroes are generally well treated, and are orderly and quiet, and are all at work, having mostly made contracts for a year.

The citizens are opposed to having an agent of the Freedmen's Bureau here. I do not think there is any person residing here who would accept appointment as such, the prejudice is so strong against the Freedmen's Bureau. I have not learned of any abuses being practiced on the negroes; they all appear to be contented.

There are a few northern men in town; they are not openly insulted or injured, but their society is avoided as much as possible by most of the citizens.

I think from what I have observed that the people are well disposed towards the United States government, and are willing, with very few exceptions, to obey the law and preserve good order. The men of my company had no trouble or quarrels with any of them.

The county court is now in session; there are only a few cases to be tried, and the session will not probably last over a week.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. J. NORTON,
First Lieutenant 12th Illinois Cavalry.

Captain D. L. PROUDFIT,
Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

Official copy:

C. H. WHITTELSEY,
Brevet Colonel and Assistant Adjutant General.

A true copy:

GEO. L. HARTSUFF,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF HOUSTON,
Houston, Texas, March 25, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to report, in compliance with your instructions of the 13th instant, that I have witnessed no manifestations of ill will towards northern people in the post under my command, though it has been represented to me that there is, in some localities, a bitter feeling towards any but southern men; but such representations have not been made to me officially, nor with sufficient data to enable me to judge as to their accuracy.

There is, undoubtedly, a strong prejudice against the freedmen, requiring the continuance of the Freedmen's Bureau.

There is a great diversity of feeling toward the government; some are content to have peace, and willing to accept the situation in good faith, particularly those who have seen the most and the hardest fighting; generally, those who during the war were non-combatants feel more bitterly our success and their defeat.

As a general thing I should say the substantial men are most friendly, and that most of the insubordinate feeling is manifested by politicians and other adventurers.

With but few exceptions, all seem restless with regard to the presence of the military.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. B. DOX,

Lieut. Col. 12th Illinois Cavalry, Commanding Post, Houston.

Captain D. L. PROUDFIT,

Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS,

Houston, Texas, March 27, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, requiring a semi-monthly report of the condition of this district, as relates to the feelings of the people towards the government, northern men, refugees, freedmen, &c,

In reply, I would respectfully state that I deem it impossible for an officer with an apparent authority to make anything like an adequate report of the condition of the country, in these particulars, based wholly upon his own observation. My report, if kept strictly within the provision of your letter, would be very meagre, as I can make no statement that I can substantiate by "proof positive," that would have any essential weight on either side.

At the risk, however, of aiding the error that the report is expected to correct, I give it as my conviction that there can be found in Texas but little of the "milk of human kindness" towards the government, or towards northern men.

This opinion was formed by conversing with Union residents upon the subject, and from various indications more readily seen and felt than delineated. The presence of the millitary seems to be a source of continual irritation yet. Although the feeling of bitterness dies out but slowly, I think the good sense of the people prompts them to "accept the situation" in good faith, so far as relates to any intention of committing any overt act in future. I have seen no indication of any organization having in view another outbreak, such as some have alleged to exist. There seems to be a disposition generally to treat freedmen kindly, as the competition for help makes it for the interest of the planters so to do.

I think, however, that public opinion would seldom award the negro his just dues were there no other tribunal.

This report is too general for a strict compliance with instructions, but I have not the data from which to make a report more minute and detailed.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. H. POWELL,

Lieut. Colonel 10th United States Cavalry, Commanding.

Brevet Colonel C. H. WHITTELSY,

Assistant Adjutant General, Department of Texas.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF HOUSTON, TEXAS,

Houston, July 5, 1866.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report that on the 4th I fired the national salute and paraded the men of my command, giving them the benefit of a Fourth of July dinner. I also raised a flag-staff, and hoisted over my camp the United States flag.

I have further the honor to report the United States flag was raised by the

citizens, for the first time since the capitulation, over the public buildings of the city of Houston, including the court-house, the council chamber, and the banks of the city. Although there was no universal expression of sentiment, several citizens properly "kept the day," and no one, in word or act, evinced any hostility to the government.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. H. LATHROP,

Brevet Major U. S. Army, Commanding Post, Houston.

Brevet Colonel C. H. WHITTEELSEY,

A. A. G., Department of Texas, Galveston, Texas.

Official copy :

C. H. WHITTEELSEY,

Brevet Colonel, Assistant Adjutant General.

CASTROVILLE, *March* 23, 1866.

SIR: I take the liberty to transmit herewith a letter addressed to me by C. C. McKinney, chief justice of Uvalde county, in regard to a vacancy in the office of sheriff. Also, a letter from Mrs. Dougherty, the wife of a former sheriff of Uvalde county, in relation to the killing of her husband, in March, A. D. 1865, while in the act of discharging his duty.

My object in sending these letters is to enable you to comprehend the true posture of affairs in that remote section of country. I will state, by way of explanation, that the sheriff, Dougherty, had a warrant to arrest William B. Owens, for the murder of a man named Robinson, and that William B. Owens is the person styled in the letter of Mrs. D. as Old Man Owens.

At the spring term of the district court for Uvalde, held in May, 1865, all the parties concerned in this matter were indicted. An effort was made to arrest them through the agency of the military, but the attempt was abortive, and the accused made good their escape. Several of those who were indicted for the rescue of Owens, and the killing of Dougherty, have since returned to the county, and threaten vengeance against any and all who should have the temerity to molest them, or any one of them.

I have heretofore been successful in repressing every indication of defiance to the laws, and have required sheriffs to perform their whole duty in criminal cases, let what would eventuate from such an action. Hence the difficulty to get a sheriff in this instance, for it is morally certain that as soon as he should succeed in making an arrest, an attempt would be made to waylay and murder him—at least, such is the impression that pervades that community. This state of things is deplorable in the extreme, and the strong demand per public exigency calls for a speedy and efficacious remedy.

It cannot have escaped the attention of the most casual observer, that on this frontier there is a manifest tendency to ignore all legal authority. I would, therefore, most respectfully suggest that a squad of soldiers (say twenty) be sent to Uvalde county to assist the civil authorities in executing the laws, and, if expedient, that the officer in command be commissioned by your excellency to act as sheriff of said county. This demonstration on the part of the government, even if temporary, will have a most salutary effect, and will relieve the citizens of the county from an extra hazardous task. It will also proclaim, in most unequivocal terms, that no man within the limits of this State, no matter what may be his position, or where he may reside, will be permitted to commit crime with impunity.

It may be proper to state that these difficulties have not arisen from political differences.

I have the honor to be your excellency's most obedient servant,

G. H. NOONAN,

Provisional Judge, Eighteenth District.

His Excellency A. J. HAMILTON,
Provisional Governor of Texas.

HEADQUARTERS POST,
Brenham, Texas, March 25, 1866.

CAPTAIN: In compliance with instructions from district headquarters, dated the 17th instant, I have the honor to submit the following report:

The people of this post and throughout Washington county are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, well disposed towards the government, and willing to comply with the laws thereof. I had no complaints from freedmen on account of ill treatment; they are receiving good wages, and seem to be well contented, and I learn from the planters that they, too, are agreeably disappointed with the new system of labor; nearly all express satisfaction, and I have heard many say that if slavery could be re-established they would vote against it; though it must be acknowledged that there are some malcontents, who seem unable to fully express their disgust and hatred for the government, and the people of the north; but I find they are men of low standing in society, and looked upon with scorn by all good citizens, and I would be very unjust to condemn a community on the actions of a few desperadoes or idiots. Many of the latter class, I am happy to say, are going to Mexico.

There is a great evil, to which I would respectfully call the notice of the general commanding—that is, the underhanded robberies perpetrated upon citizens, both white and black, by officers and soldiers of our army. While commissary and quartermasters' stores were transported via this post for Austin, large trains were continually plying between the two places. These trains were frequently obliged to impress forage for the animals along the route and leave memorandum receipts for the same. At times the owners of the forage would, after much trouble, obtain vouchers for the value of the forage. Many have not been able to obtain vouchers, which are but little better than nothing, from the fact that only certain individuals are able to obtain cash on vouchers from the quartermasters' department. There are citizens in this vicinity who have called on the quartermasters' department at Houston repeatedly to have their vouchers cashed, but always the same excuse, "No funds;" yet quartermasters' clerks are anxious to purchase the same vouchers at a large discount.

Again: officers and soldiers of our army have been going through the country collecting property under the pretence of its being government property, but without investigating whether the United States had any real claim thereon or not, and in many instances such property has been sold at private sales and then retaken by other parties. Wagon-masters and teamsters in our service are frequently guilty of this kind of robbery; one party will sell government mules or horses to citizens, claiming the same to be their own private property, &c., while the second party will follow up and retake the same. An instance of that character was reported to me a few days since, and occurred near Independence, in this county, on the 18th instant. It appears that three men, claiming to be members of company D, twelfth Illinois cavalry, stationed at Millican—and I have no doubt that they really were members of said command—had contracted to furnish a certain planter five mules at twenty-five (\$25) dollars per head. The mules were bought on the day mentioned, but on account of some difficulty be-

tween a party of citizens and said soldiers, in which the police had to interfere and arrest two of the soldiers, who gave their names as Edward Ott and G. H. Fallett, company D, twelfth Illinois cavalry, they only disposed of one mule, said to be branded "U. S."

All such proceedings have a tendency to embitter the people against the government and against soldiers and northern men, who are looked upon by a large portion of the people as being representatives of the government.

To show that the feeling of the people in this vicinity is not so very bitter towards northern men, I would respectfully state that some of the most prominent citizens of the county have been endeavoring to persuade the men of my company, and discharged soldiers from Austin, to remain in the State and settle among them.

I have the honor to be, captain, your most obedient servant,
WM. C. WILSON.

Captain Company A, 37th Illinois V. V. Infantry.

Captain D. L. PROUDFIT,
Tenth U. S. Colored Troops, A. A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF MILLICAN,
Millican, Texas, March 25, 1866.

Captain PROUDFIT, *Acting Assistant Adjutant General:*

I have the honor to make the following report relative to the condition of the people at this post: The majority of the inhabitants of this place and vicinity are quiet and law-abiding citizens. This class consists of the most prominent men—those who are residents, wealthy, and influential. They submit passively to the government authorities, look upon secession as a dead letter, are willing to accept the issue, and hope for an early restoration of their relations with the federal Union. Their acts towards freedmen, in most instances, are just and equitable. They have entered into contracts, and but few cases where freedmen have been misused or defrauded have been reported at this post. They understand that they need their services, and the way to render them most efficient is to fully compensate them for their labor and use them well; that it was no act of theirs that placed them in their present position, and there should be no blame attached to them; and in many instances there are strong attachments existing between the former owner and the freedmen. With this class I have no complaint from outrages.

There is another class, "greatly in the minority," of the braggadocio style. This class is composed chiefly of transient residents, some who depend wholly upon gaming for a livelihood; others who trade and traffic, roaming from town to town; others who lounge around town, having no employment. This class, when under the influence of liquor, find fault with the government authorities and vent their wrath upon the Yankees and niggers, yet at the same time their associations are with the latter. Some cases have come before me where the freedmen have been maltreated and defrauded; invariably they are among the latter class. I have no complaints from refugees and returned Union men.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JOHN J. DE LACY,
Captain Company D, 12th Ill. Cav., Commanding Post.

HEADQUARTERS FORTY-EIGHTH OHIO, POST OF GALVESTON,
Galveston, Texas, March 25, 1866.

CAPTAIN: In accordance with instructions from headquarters eastern district of Texas, I have the honor to make the following report of the condition of this

post in relation to the feelings of the people towards the government, towards northern men, permanently or transiently here, and also towards refugees and freedmen, viz :

From what information I have been able to obtain, the influential and responsible citizens are generally favorably disposed towards the government, and are anxious and willing to resume the old relations with the government, and from their language and actions seem disposed to assist the present officials in carrying out the regulations and laws in force.

There is a class, however, who, although they profess to be loyal and desire the return of old relations to the federal government, from their actions, and sometimes language, are quite the reverse. They are not, however, the majority, and it is to be hoped will soon see the necessity of doing away with any opposition to all good and loyal proceedings. There are so many, however, who do not seem to care which way or in what manner things work civilly; who either lack their intention of becoming good and loyal citizens, or who lack the energy of making known or carrying out their sentiments—"drones." Some few are disposed to do anything and everything to cause a conflict between the present authorities; incite and excite soldiers and freedmen to commit misdemeanors, as if thereby they desired to bring the government into disrepute. The same can be said of the feelings of the citizens towards northern men permanently or transiently located here. I have noticed this much, that it is almost impossible for northern men, laborers in search of employment, to be able to obtain it. Mechanics are eagerly sought after, and obtain good wages.

The feelings of the citizens towards refugees I do not know so much about, as there are not many of that class here.

Freedmen are treated variously by different persons, and from what I have seen and heard, I am inclined to believe, would be badly used and maltreated in too many instances were it not for the protection afforded them by the Freedmen's Bureau and military authorities. This may be accounted for, however, in several reasonable ways, the principal one of which is, the acts of the freedmen, their former slaves, are looked upon prejudicially, and a different construction put upon them than otherwise would be were they still slaves; but the reasonable portion of the citizens are disposed to treat them, if not kindly, at least like human beings.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES R. LYNCH,

Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding.

Captain D. L. PROUDFIT,

Assistant Adjutant General Eastern District of Texas.

GALVESTON, TEXAS.

DEAR SIR: You will find below an order, or rather a commission, from Lieutenant Colonel Brown, commanding seventh Indiana cavalry, as follows:

HEADQUARTERS, POST OF SHERMAN, *January 26, 1866.*

Judge A. M. Bryant, chief justice of Grayson county, Texas, is hereby authorized to collect all government property which may come to his knowledge in northern Texas. He may appoint sub-agents for this duty at his discretion.

THOMAS M. BROWNE,

Lieut. Col. 7th Indiana Cavalry, Commanding U. S. Troops.

In pursuance of the above authority, I appointed George P. Boyd agent to act for the government:

THE STATE OF TEXAS, County of Grayson:

To all whom it may concern: Know ye that I, A. M. Bryant, having been appointed United States agent to collect any and every species of property belonging to the government, or to the so-called Confederate States, do hereby appoint George P. Boyd sub-agent in and for the county and State aforesaid, and also for Cooke, Collin, and Fannin.

Given under my hand this 29th day of January, A. D. 1866.

A. M. BRYANT,
United States Agent.

I would most respectfully represent to you, general, that a few days after the appointment to collect property for the government, he met with a man who had a United States revolver; he demanded it; the party refused, but finally yielded to the demand. The ex-rebels became greatly offended, and a certain captain of the late rebel army managed to get a justice of the peace of this county to issue a warrant against Boyd, and took said pistol from Boyd. Boyd reported the case to me, and made oath to the facts, as the law directs in such cases. I issued a warrant, directed to the sheriff of said county, to summon the party before me to show cause, if any, why they detained property belonging to the government. The writ was executed, and the parties appeared. After investigation, I ordered the property to the possession of Boyd. At the last term of the district court true bills were found against Boyd; also against me, on a charge of false imprisonment; also a suit brought in the civil court against me for ten thousand dollars damages. Now, sir, Mr. Boyd's great sin is this: he left this county shortly after the commencement of the war, joined the federal army in Missouri, and served through the war with great credit to himself. In consequence of he and brother leaving the county, and fighting for the government, the traitors murdered his father, an old man seventy-five years of age. My great sin consists in my opposition to secession, and having accepted the office of chief justice of this county from the hand of Governor Hamilton. The party who is pressing Boyd and I was an enrolling officer for the confederacy; the lawyer prosecuting us was a rebel captain; the sheriff was also a captain in the rebel service; the jury before whom we are to be tried are all traitors. Application was made through Colonel Aberts, commanding this post, to General Wright for relief; the general ordered the parties released through Colonel Aberts, and in all similar cases. I do hope that you, general, will indorse this proceeding, and, if possible, have Boyd and myself relieved from any proceedings in the courts of this State. Our only hope for safety, in person or property, is in the military arm. The next grand jury of this county are composed in part of men who, four years ago, inaugurated mob-law in this county, and sat in judgment on the life and liberty of Union men, and condemned several to death. Fortunately these cases were sent up to Tyler, where they entered into bonds for their appearance, and then fled the country and thus saved themselves.

I assure you that the conduct of Colonel Aberts and his command merits the good and favorable consideration of not only his superiors, but the respect of every good and loyal citizen in northern Texas. Your prompt attention is most respectfully solicited.

Your friend, respectfully,

A. M. BRYANT.

General GETTY,
Commanding Department, District of Texas.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
Galveston, Texas, April 24, 1866.

COLONEL: I have the honor to forward herewith copies of reports received from the headquarters and different posts of the eastern and central districts, departments of Texas, showing the sentiments of citizens of the districts towards the United States government, freedmen, &c.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. G. WRIGHT,
Major General Commanding.

Brevet Colonel GEORGE L. HARTSUFF,
A. A. G., Military Division Gulf, New Orleans, La.

Official copy :

GEORGE L. HARTSUFF,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS TENTH UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS,
Galveston, Texas, March 25, 1866.

SIR: In compliance with your order of 17th instant, I have the honor to report that, having had no conversation of a political nature with any particular citizen in this vicinity for the past month, I am unable to base my report, as to the condition and feeling of the people in this vicinity towards the general government, upon any present opinion expressed direct to myself.

It is my opinion, based upon personal observation, and reported conversation from reliable sources, that there is a feeling here antagonistic to the United States government; and, without the aid of the military, the civil authorities would be entirely too weak for the protection of personal property and the execution of the laws, leaving the freedmen, with little or no protection, in a condition worse than slavery.

I think many northern men doing business here are careful about expressing opinions in favor of the government, and it is my opinion it would materially interfere with their business were they to do so.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
W. T. BAKER,

Major 10th U. S. Colored Troops, Commanding Regiment.

Captain D. L. PROUDFIT,
Assistant Adjutant General, Eastern District of Texas.]

HEADQUARTERS POST AT YORKTOWN, TEXAS,
March 26, 1866.

CAPTAIN: In pursuance with instructions received from headquarters central district of Texas, dated March 19, 1866, I have the honor to make the following report:

Since the arrival of troops at this post no trouble or excitement has been noticed; the people are quiet. I have had no arrests as yet to make, and until I receive orders to make an arrest anticipate no trouble.

The only circumstance of a suspicious nature that has transpired since our arrival was a notice that I received last night (the 25th instant) that a party of these men had assembled on the Sandy, some fifteen miles from here, and held a meeting; the purpose of the meeting is unknown, but it is supposed to be to

release the man Anderson, who is at present in Clinton. I immediately reported to Major Davis, who took prompt means to meet them if such was their purpose.

With regard to freedmen, there have been no reports whatever; in fact, there seem to be but few negroes in and about Yorktown.

The Germans all seem loyal, and are willing in many instances to give all the information they can obtain in relation to these suspicious characters; the majority, however, seem to wish not to give any information, or make complaint, giving as reason that this has been the only way they kept out of trouble, so far.

Captain Nowlan is still here—is improving very fast, and will be in a short time able to move about. The German, Ridel, who was shot the same night, is also improving.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

COLLINS CHESBROUGH,

Captain Co. H, 18th N. Y. V. Cav., Com. Post of Yorktown.

Captain GEO. R. SHERMAN,

Assistant Adjutant General, San Antonio, Texas.

HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT 18TH N. Y. CAV. VOL'S,
Yorktown, Texas, March 29, 1866.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to forward you a prisoner named Wat. Anderson, who has been in custody in Clinton and Yorktown since the night of the affair in which Captain Nowlan was shot.

This man Anderson is the man who grabbed Captain Nowlan by the arm, at the time he was shot. He is a very notorious character, and is one of the leaders of a band of desperadoes that have been infesting this part of the county.

The loyal and peaceful citizens in and around this and the adjacent country all express great fear and anxiety relative to this man and his gang.

In about three or four days I will forward charges which will convict him before a military commission; as by that time I shall have the names of some witnesses which I have not at present.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM DAVIS,

Major, Com'g Detachment 18th N. Y. Volunteer Cavalry.

Captain GEO. R. SHERMAN,

Assistant Adjutant General, Central District of Texas.

HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT 18TH N. Y. CAVALRY,
Yorktown, Texas, April 14, 1866.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report in accordance with instructions received from headquarters central district of Texas, the following facts: That since my last report matters at these posts present a favorable aspect. For the present the citizens conduct themselves in a quiet and orderly manner.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM DAVIS,

Major, Com'g Detachment 18th N. Y. Cavalry.

Captain GEO. R. SHERMAN,

Acting Assistant Adjutant General, Central District, Texas.

Official copy:

GEO. L. HARTSUFF,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT OF 18TH N. Y. CAVALRY,

Yorktown, Texas, April 27, 1866.

CAPTAIN: In accordance with instructions received from headquarters central district of Texas, I have the honor to make the following report:

Since the last report there has been a vast change in the expression of the American portion of the population in this vicinity. From different sources we continually receive reports to the effect that we will "be attacked and wiped out," and that any soldiers found outside their command will be murdered; and to the law-abiding portion of the people, *i. e.*, the Germans, it has become a common threat "that as soon as the soldiers go from here you will all suffer."

The murder of two soldiers which was perpetrated on Monday last, and which I have already reported, is, in the opinion of some of the well-disposed part of the people of this vicinity, just a commencement of a series of such outrages, provided the gang can get more such opportunities. The only safety, in my opinion, is for soldiers to travel in squads, of from six to ten men, under charge of an officer, or good non-commissioned officer.

As far as respecting the law is concerned, with the exception of the Germans, there is no such thing. It is now an open boast of these people that the "best thing they want is to be tried by a civil jury."

In my opinion, United States troops can find plenty of work in this particular section of Texas for several years to come. At present the six-shooter is the only law they think is necessary, and the sooner it is stopped the sooner Texas will be fit to govern herself.

The German population are in great dread of the final departure of the troops in this vicinity. Many say that it will be perfectly useless for them to try to live here after their withdrawal.

The least symptom of favor shown to a person wearing the uniform of the United States is looked on as full and sufficient cause to use a six-shooter on the person showing the favor.

In regard to the detection of the murderers of the two soldiers, I am still on the alert, and shall let no opportunity escape me which will be likely to aid or assist in capturing and bringing to justice these desperadoes. As yet nothing positive as to the identity of the murderers is proved, but I have strong hopes to be able to report more favorably in a short time.

I am going with Captain Chesbrough and a detachment of men on the trail of the suspected parties. I shall start to-night and shall likely be absent from five to eight days, and it is our determination not to leave any opportunity for the guilty parties to escape, for I consider it due time such men should be brought to summary justice, as this is not the first time United States soldiers have been murdered.

Captain Chesbrough took from a citizen yesterday who had a discharge from the first Texas (federal) cavalry two (2) six-shooters. Several of the reliable citizens about here report him a very bad man before the war. I report this, for the man may come to your headquarters for an order to have the pistols returned, and, in case he does, you will know why the pistols were confiscated. The man in question served nearly — years in the confederate army.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM DAVIS,

Major 18th N. Y. Cavalry, Com'g Detachment.

Captain GEO. R. SHERMAN,

A. A. A. G., Central District, Texas.

Official copy :

R. F. HALSTED,

Brevet Licut. Colonel and A. A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT 18TH N. Y. CAVALRY,
Yorktown, Texas, April 24, 1866.

CAPTAIN: I am under the painful necessity of having to report to you two of the most atrocious and brutal murders of Union soldiers that I think can be recorded in the Texan annals of crime.

The escort which I sent from this post to San Antonio with Captain Henry J. Nowlan, of the 18th New York cavalry volunteers, and Mr. Riedell, a citizen of this place and witness in the case of Anderson, was returning with the ambulance that conveyed them to San Antonio, and when about one or two miles east of Kelly's Station, on the Clayto, the horses of Sergeant Josiah Ripley and Private John O'Brien, of company H, 18th New York cavalry volunteers, became tired out, and they fell to the rear of the escort and were last seen about one mile behind. When the ambulance had proceeded about four miles they halted for them to come up, but instead two teamsters overtook them and reported that the two men were shot dead and lying on the road. A citizen who was en route to Helena reported to Lieutenant Cashen that two soldiers had been shot on the Clayto, and he immediately despatched an orderly to me, who arrived about the same time as the ambulance. I immediately ordered detachments of my command to proceed in different directions to endeavor to intercept the guilty parties, descriptions having been furnished me as to the appearance of the men suspected, as well as their horses. These men were armed with double revolvers in their belts and one of them carried a carbine. There were three in company. Captain Chesbrough has just returned and reports no success, but Lieutenant Grabey, eighteenth New York, has not yet returned; neither have I had any reports from the posts of Clinton or Helena.

As soon as I gather any more information I will forward it, with the least possible delay.

The bodies of the men have been brought to camp and will be interred this evening.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM DAVIS,
Major Com'g Detachment 18th N. Y. Cavalry.

Captain GEO. R. SHERMAN,
A. A. A. G., Central District, Texas.

Official copy :

R. F. HALSTED
Brevet Lieut. Colonel and A. A. A General.

HEADQUARTERS POST,
Richmond, Texas, March 26, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to make and forward the following semi-monthly report, as required in instructions received from headquarters eastern district of Texas, dated on the 17th instant, and received here on the 24th instant, viz:

I. The sentiments of the people are almost unanimously in support of the President of the United States and his policy, and the party north known as democrats, *alias* "copperheads." They divide the government at Washington into two parties, and dub the objectionable "radicals," and call the other democratic, and include the President in the latter party. The feeling towards the former party and the principles it advances is bitter. There is little or no proper feeling of gratitude towards the government for the unparalleled magnanimity it has shown in pardoning them one and all for the high crime and treason of which they were guilty, and they will not grant that they are well treated until the States are admitted and represented in Congress.

II. The feeling of the people towards northern men who are here, either permanently or transiently, is amicable and affable, and they feel a necessity for northern labor, energy, enterprise, and capital to assist in developing the extensive undeveloped resources of the country, and look forward hopefully for a large immigration from the north at an early day. Such is the feeling of all the better class of the people here.

III. The feeling towards the freedmen is so varied that it is hard to define. It is not with them as it is with politics—a matter of sentiment, which is controlled by the better class of citizens; but all are more or less interested, and the interest is entirely pecuniary, and of such a nature that there are nearly as many variations as there are employers. The feeling toward them is improving as rapidly as the people are learning the position in which they are placed, but the old habits that existed between them as master and slave are not as yet so thoroughly uprooted as to enable the employer to throw them entirely aside, when he and the employé come in personal contact, though the employers accomplish it very well in intention and conversation among themselves. There is generally much fear among the planters that the labor of the freedmen will not be effectual, and this fear prevents them in many instances from offering large wages as a stimulus to labor; but on the whole both planter and freedmen are doing as well as could be expected under the circumstances, and will continue to do so, especially should the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands continue its operation a short time longer.

IV. My experience with refugees has been so limited that I am not able to report anything in regard to the feelings entertained against them.

V. The tone of the people in regard to maintaining law and order is good; nearly all appear to be zealous in this matter, and are anxious that the few offenders and disturbers of the peace should be arrested and properly punished, and are willing to aid either the civil or military authorities to arrest and bring offenders to justice. Disorders seldom occur, except when under the influence of old piques or intoxication; disturbances when under the former are generally among the citizens themselves, and seldom occur when in the presence of a federal soldier; disturbances sometimes occur between soldiers and citizens when under the influence of liquor, but they do not seem to arise from any particular feelings of enmity entertained by the citizens against the soldiers, but seem to be created more from the effect of the positions occupied by the two parties. A soldier, when viewed through the eyes of an intoxicated citizen, appears to be clothed with authority and power, and sent among them to enforce authority and obedience. This naturally awakens that principle born in all Americans which incites them to grapple with and overcome any power not of their own election with which they come in contact, and challenges them to action. This desire is controlled so long as perfect reason reigns, but when liquor assumes the sceptre this innate desire is irresistible. These instances, however, take place only with the lower class and uninfluential classes, and are so few that they scarcely deserve mention.

The foregoing report contains the conclusions at which I had arrived after an experience of more than six months as post commander at this place and for Fort Rind county. I have endeavored to view the matter without prejudice, and I think I have succeeded in deducing correct conclusions.

Hoping that this report will be satisfactory, I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GALLIS FAIRMAN,

Captain Co. F, 37th Illinois Infantry, Vet. Volunteers.

Captain D. L. PROUDFIT, A. A. A. G.,

East District of Texas, Houston, Texas.

HEADQUARTERS POST CLINTON,
Clinton, Texas, March 28, 1866.

SIR: In obedience to Circular No. 4 I have the honor to report the condition and the feelings of the people in the vicinity of my command towards northern men, refugees, and freedmen.

The majority of the inhabitants by whom I am surrounded are inclined to behave themselves as becomes good and law-abiding citizens, but there is a considerable minority who are exceedingly bitter against Union men and the United States authorities; still they do not make any open demonstration, nor do they disobey any order that I may issue since the sad occurrence, on the night of the 8th instant, above Yorktown.

The freedmen have been treated far worse than in any other locality which has come under my notice, not by their former owners, or by the respectable community, but by a gang of lawless young men who have no property or interest whatever at stake; and should the troops be suddenly removed from this place they would indeed be left in a pitiable condition, as these lawless desperadoes would assuredly avenge themselves, having been reported to the authorities for the ill treatment and grievances which they inflicted on the freedmen.

I have the fullest confidence in the ability of the officers and the efficiency of the men of my command to secure law and order in this vicinity.

I have the honor to remain, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
G. HARAZTHY,

Captain 18th N. Y. Vol. Cav., Commanding Post.

HEADQUARTERS POST CLINTON,
Clinton, Texas, April 13, 1866.

CAPTAIN: In obedience to circular No. 4 I have the honor to state that everything is getting on very quietly excepting the treatment of freedmen. It appears that the civil authorities pay no attention to their complaints, and they allow them to be beaten and swindled with impunity, without taking any notice or using the slightest exertion to bring the offenders against freedmen to justice.

If freedmen come to my camp to make any complaints they are sure to be threatened with corporal punishment by a gang of desperadoes who have nothing at stake, and in some cases even with their lives, for reporting their wrongs. However, they have not executed any of their threats since I have been stationed here. What they may do after the troops are removed from this post I am unable to say. One thing is certain, that they have effectually terrified these poor people, to such an extent that they say after we leave here it will be worse for them than it was in time of slavery, as then they had their masters to protect them, and now their only protection is the United States troops.

I made an arrest on the 10th instant of two citizens; their respective names are Augustus Gilmanot and Gilbert Gar, by the order of Brigadier General E. M. Gregory, assistant commissioner Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, State of Texas, for unmercifully flogging two freedmen, and ordered to retain them until further orders. Please to instruct me if I am subject to his orders.

The health of my men is exceedingly good, and my horses are improving rapidly, the grass being very good in the vicinity of my camp.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
GAZA HARAZTHY,

Captain 18th N. Y. Cav. Vols., Commanding Post.

Captain GEO. R. SHERMAN,
A. A. G., Central District of Texas.

Official copy :

G. R. HALSTED,
Brevet Lieutenant Colonel, A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF INDIANOLA, TEXAS,

March 28, 1866.

CAPTAIN: In compliance with circular No. 4, dated headquarters central district of Texas, March 19, 1866, I have the honor to submit the following statement:

The feelings of the citizens at this post and in its vicinity do not appear to be in unison with the policy of the government. Northern men are generally looked upon with distrust and suspicion, and are ostracised from society.

The presence of the military authorities alone protects the refugees from insults and perhaps violence.

From cases that have come under my notice I am compelled to believe that there exists a disposition to abuse and oppress the freedman, by denying him the rights of a freedman.

There is a feeling of opposition to the presence of the troops, and the general acts of the government with regard to the freedmen are also opposed.

This state of affairs is true with regard to a majority of the citizens.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. E. PRATT,

Lieut. Col. 7th U. S. Colored Troops, Commanding Post.

Captain GEO. R. SHERMAN,

Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS POST VICTORIA,

Victoria, Texas, March 28, 1866.

CAPTAIN: In compliance with circular No. 4, headquarters separate brigade, commanding department of Texas, I have the honor to report that so far as I have been able to learn the condition and feeling of a majority of the people in the vicinity of this post, they are peaceably disposed towards northern men and refugees, though there is very little respect felt, and often contempt expressed.

There are, however, a few dangerous men that are not peaceably disposed, who have been permitted heretofore to commit their lawless acts without being punished by the law, and usually without even an expression of disapprobation by well-disposed citizens. This fact gives rise to the opinion that such acts are approved by them, and that because they do not put the law in force, they shield the offenders. Whether this is true or not, it is a fact that whoever may be the object of the hatred of these desperadoes are no more safe than if the whole people were of the same class, because there is no restraint upon them. I have often been told by good citizens that they dare not attempt to execute the law against them for fear their own lives and property would be endangered by so doing.

In regard to the freedmen I can give no details at present, but from general information I believe that nothing but absolute hatred exists; that not a half dozen men in the country can be found who would do them justice if they were not forced to, with the exception that many of them would prevent brutality, simply because it is naturally painful to humanity to see physical suffering.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HARLAN P. SPAULDING,

Captain U. S. Colored Troops, Commanding Post.

Captain GEO. R. SHERMAN,

A. A. A. G., Commanding Department of Texas.

HEADQUARTERS POST VICTORIA,
Victoria, Texas, April 26, 1866.

CAPTAIN: In compliance with circular No. 4, I have the honor to report the following case, both to show the feelings towards northern men and the probabilities of their receiving justice in the civil courts here. James Redman, a discharged soldier from our army, mustered out to remain south, employed himself to a Mr. Ferguson, living about three miles from this place. On the 11th instant, Ferguson being absent, Redman was causelessly beat with a piece of ox-bow by one Fitzpatrick, brother to Mrs. Ferguson, and came to me for redress. I informed him that I could not act without the civil authorities refused to take action in the case. He protested against trying to prosecute him in the civil courts on account of the prejudice existing towards northern men. I insisted on his doing so. Fitzpatrick was arrested and tried on the 24th instant. I attended the trial, and will give as nearly as possible a synopsis of the evidence. On the 10th instant, Mr. Redman remarked at the table that as soon as he finished shearing sheep he would board in town; that he could not live on corn bread and salt meat. Mrs. Ferguson said she did not wish to be insulted at her own table; and Redman said "I cannot help it; I must tell you the truth;" when Fitzpatrick arose from his seat and drew a knife and started for Redman, but was stopped by a young man present, whose name I do not know. Redman quit the place, remarking that he would settle with Ferguson when he came home. On the 11th instant Redman took a dray and went to Ferguson for his trunk and clothes, and as he took them out of the house said to Fitzpatrick, "I will settle with Ferguson when he returns, and I am not through with you;" when Fitzpatrick said, "I owe you a thrashing and will not have a better time than now," and stepped out and picked up a piece of an ox-bow and struck him on the forehead, making a wound to the bone and about an inch and a half long and a half inch wide. Redman ran, and Fitzpatrick followed him about two hundred yards and caught and struck him another blow on the back, and then threw down the club and left him to get his things and leave. The physician testified that the wound was serious, though not of itself dangerous, but that on account of ill health came near being fatal. Redman swore to the above facts, yet the magistrate only made out charges of simple assault, and then on trial ruled that he could only be tried on the charges, and not for an aggravated assault. Redman's important witnesses were colored men, but the court ruled that they could not testify on a case between white men. Fitzpatrick was convicted of simple assault and fined ten dollars (\$10.) I must say that Mr. Bradford, counsel for plaintiff, (and mayor of this city,) did all he could for the case. The prisoner laughed during most of the proceedings and appeared to think it was a fine affair. Redman is a small man and Fitzpatrick large, which shows to me that he intended serious injury or is a consummate coward. Yesterday, the 25th instant, a Mr. Lippett cut a colored boy, about fourteen years old, with a knife, laying his arm open to the bone from just below the shoulder to the elbow. The matter is in the hands of Captain Miller, freedman agent. Lippett lives about ten miles from this place and succeeded in making his escape from town. I received a letter from him this morning, in which he acknowledges he was hasty and did wrong and is willing to settle the matter, but does not wish to be imprisoned; refers to having been imprisoned here ten days and fined one hundred dollars by the military authorities for an assault and battery, when he would only have been fined sixty dollars by the civil, and not imprisoned. I think it a case of assault with intent to kill, but shall leave it to the action of Captain Miller, and assist him to make the arrest. The people of other sections often say everything is quiet, except now and then a negro is shot. The mass have only such feelings towards them as they do towards brutes. I have never heard

of any outrages toward refugees, or any expression of feelings. I think in this section that there are enough to protect themselves and a determination to do so.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HARLAN P. SPAULDING,

Captain U. S. Colored Troops, Commanding Post.

Captain Geo. R. SHERMAN,

Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

Official copy :

R. F. HALSTED,

Brevet Lieutenant Colonel, A. A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY A, 18TH NEW YORK CAVALRY,

Helena, Texas, March 29, 1866.

CAPTAIN : I have the honor to report, in accordance with circular No. 4, dated headquarters separate brigade, central district of Texas, March 19, 1866.

The people in this vicinity are more or less prejudiced against persons having Union sentiments, although I have communicated with a few Union men, that have heretofore served in the United States army, who inform me they have no complaints to make against any parties who maintain such prejudices against the United States government.

The freedmen report to me that they are treated well, and I have experienced no trouble on their part since my occupation of this post.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. C. CASHEN,

First Lieut. 18th N. Y. Volunteers, Com'g Post Helena.

Captain GEO. R. SHERMAN,

A. A. A. G., Central District Texas.

HEADQUARTERS CO. A, 18TH N. Y. CAVALRY,

Helena, Texas, April 15, 1866.

CAPTAIN : I have the honor to report, in accordance with circular No. 4, dated headquarters separate brigade, central district of Texas, March 19, 1866, that since my last report this post has been quiet, the citizens having conducted themselves in a good, orderly manner.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN G. CASHEN,

First Lieut., Commanding Post Helena.

Captain GEO. R. SHERMAN,

A. A. A. G., Central District Texas.

Official copy :

GEO. L. HARTSUFF,

Assistant Adjutant General.

WACO, TEXAS, April 3, 1866.

CAPTAIN : In reply to circular No. 4, of March 19, 1866, directing me to report upon the condition and feeling of the people in the vicinity of this command towards northern men, refugees, and freedmen, I have to state that the condition of the people in this vicinity seems to be prosperous enough. Their feelings towards the classes are difficult to determine. They can only be judged

by acts and language; and at this place and neighborhood people are quiet, obedient to the laws, and, so far as I can hear and learn, do not utter disloyal sentiments.

I presume that the inquiry refers to the class of citizens known as secessionists, (for there are some very strong Union men here,) of whom I believe it may be correctly stated that their feelings towards northern men are those of dislike and avoidance. Towards refugees, meaning those men of Texas who went into the Union lines during the war, their feelings are those of bitter hatred and revenge, evincing itself in threats and acts of secret violence. But towards freedmen there seems to be, generally, no bad feeling, but rather a disposition to treat them well, and a desire that they should remain here and hire to work.

I am necessarily obliged to form my conclusions from the reports of the Union men, who are mostly of the class of refugees, and who alone speak to me freely upon the subject, but who are themselves manifestly extremely bitter. They all declare that they would not be able to live a moment in the State should the troops be withdrawn from it. They also tell me that all the murders committed in the country round (to murder being the normal state of things among a certain class in Texas) are of Union men. Their statements must of course be taken with some allowance.

Among secessionists are many gentlemen, and particularly among ex-confederate soldiers, who accept the situation fairly and honestly and are disposed to become loyal citizens; but I am inclined to think that the state of feeling is mainly what I have related as such above.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. W. EVANS,

Capt. 6th U. S. Cavalry, Commanding Troops at Waco.

ACTING ASS'T ADJ'T GENERAL,

Headquarters Separate Brigade, Central District Texas.

Official copy :

GEO. L. HARTSUFF,

Assistant Adjutant General.

WACO, TEXAS, April 18, 1866.

CAPTAIN: In compliance with circular No. 4, of March 19, 1866, I have to state that I have nothing essential to add to my report of the third instant. The condition and state of feeling in the country remains unchanged; nor do I see any probability of immediate improvement except it be effected by a large northern or foreign immigration. To such addition to the population I believe the people are not generally averse. In my opinion, the withdrawal of troops from Texas would be a serious blow to the Union cause. That cause has not been materially advanced by the character of many of the civil appointments made by the provisional governor.

I am told that it is believed that there exists here in Waco an order of Knights of the Golden Circle, or some such thing, having for its object the overthrow of the United States government; but it is impossible to verify this report.

I have never had any connection with political matters, nor do I pretend to understand them; and confining my attention chiefly to my own company, I am not qualified to give so correct a report upon these subjects as could be desired.

Everything is at present perfectly quiet and orderly here, although there is just now an unusual collection here of a class of people not disposed to be either very law-abiding or very loyal, consequent upon the spring races; but I believe

that at bottom the feelings of the majority of the people in the vicinity of this post towards all who were opposed to them in the late struggle are still bitter and unrelenting, and probably time alone can produce any material change.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. W. EVANS,

Capt. 6th U. S. Cavalry, Commanding Troops at Waco.

ACTING ASS'T ADJ'T GENERAL,

Headquarters Separate Brigade, Central District Texas.

Official copy:

H. F. HALSTED,

Brevet Lieutenant Colonel, A. A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS POST FORT INGE,

Fort Inge, Texas, April 7, 1866.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report my successful arrival here this p. m. Did not see Judge Noonan at Castorville, as he was holding court at Alascosa. I therefore came direct to Uvalda; found Chief Justice McKinney, who thought it advisable to take up my quarters at the fort, as it would have a tendency to keep down suspicion as to my mission here. The Owens family have all left this portion of the country at present; have gone to some point west of Austin. I found an examination going on at the court-house of some three of the parties who had been instrumental in the release of Owens, on a charge of murder committed since that of Dougherty. I desire the man, George R. Kimball, whom I arrested and committed to the San Antonio jail, be kept until he can have a trial, as I consider him a very seditious man. Cannot report upon the state of feelings in this vicinity; have not had time to make observations.

I have the honor to be, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. P. GILLESPIE,

Captain, Commanding Post.

Official copy:

R. F. HALSTED,

Brevet Lieutenant Colonel, A. A. A. G.

GEORGE R. SHERMAN,

Captain and Acting Ass't Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF FORT INGE,

Fort Inge, Texas, April 11, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report relative to the feelings of the people of this vicinity, but will say in the first place that my report is based on what I was able to learn from a few individuals only, and principally from Chief Justice McKinney.

The feelings towards the government are not what they should be. Notwithstanding there were but few slaveholders here, yet there is a strong feeling in opposition to the acts of the government in the abolition of slavery. I have seen nothing that would indicate any ill feelings towards northern men. All that I have met since my arrival here have expressed much satisfaction that the post is to be garrisoned. Their anxiety for troops overbalances all ill feelings they may have entertained towards Yankees. Of the feeling towards refugees I am not authentically advised, but from what I can learn it is not very bad; towards freedmen there seems to be no difficulty. All troubles that have arisen have

been from the Indians, and from this band of desperadoes, which, by the way, are more numerous than Judge Noonan's letter would seem to indicate. I have made one unsuccessful attempt, in conjunction with the sheriff, to arrest two of the parties connected with the murder of Dougherty; shall try it again on Friday next. The acting sheriff is a man with but one leg and no experience, or we probably should have got them to-day. The Owens brothers (principals in the affair) are all absent from the country.

The parties I mentioned in my last as having their examination at the time of my arrival here, were not connected with the release of Owens, as I stated, but had committed a murder quite recently.

I have the honor to be, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. P. GILLESPIE,

Captain, Commanding Post.

GEORGE R. SHERMAN,

Captain and Acting Ass't Adjutant General.

Official copy :

GEO. L. HARTSUFF,

Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS POST FORT INGE,

Fort Inge, Texas, April 26, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report as to condition and feelings of the citizens of this vicinity :

I find some unquestionable straight Union men, but the majority are much disposed to take exceptions with the acts of the government, and I conclude are as much rebels at heart as ever. Feelings towards northern men are good, so far as anything I have yet seen.

I have heard of some threats being made towards refugees, but think such feelings are not general; can learn of no ill feelings towards freedmen.

I have the honor to be, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. P. GILLESPIE,

Captain Commanding Post.

Captain GEORGE R. SHERMAN,

Acting Ass't Adjutant General.

Official copy :

R. F. HALSTED,

Brevet Lieutenant Colonel and A. A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF BEAUMONT,

Beaumont, Texas, March 25, 1866.

COLONEL: I have the honor to make the following report in regard to the feelings and sentiments of the people of this post and surrounding country :

The people here as a general thing are well disposed towards the soldiers of this command, and most of them are anxious to see immigration from the northern States; but I must say there are some very hard characters in this community, who manifest a very bad spirit towards the negroes, and likewise towards the Freedmen's Bureau, freedmen's schools, &c.; but the Freedmen's Bureau is a new thing in this part of the country, and I think after a while they will come to the conclusion that the education of the freedmen is a very good institution.

JOHN MORAN,

Captain 37th Ill. Vet. Vol. Infantry, Commanding Post.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF BEAUMONT,
Beaumont, Texas, April 10, 1866.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to make the following report in regard to the feelings and sentiments of the people of this post and surrounding country:

The people here as a general thing are well disposed towards the government and officers of the government, and all express a willing desire to see immigration from the northern States.

The Freedmen's Bureau caused some excitement here, on account of it being a new thing in this part of the country, but the excitement has subsided, and all of the good men of the country are in favor of freedmen's schools, and they prefer having the negroes educated in preference to keeping them in ignorance.

I am, very respectfully,

JOHN MORAN,
Captain 37th Ill. Vet. Vol. Infantry, Commanding Post.

HEADQUARTERS POST,
Columbia, Texas, March 25, 1866.

SIR: Pursuant to instructions received through headquarters eastern district of Texas, from headquarters department of Texas, I have the honor to submit the following report of the condition of the country in the vicinity of this post, with reference to the feeling manifested by the people for the government: All those people belonging to the better—that is to say, the more intelligent class—manifest very closely a disposition to indorse the administration of the President to the letter. Some bitterness is felt and manifested towards freedmen and refugees. Northern gentlemen of standing, either permanently or transiently here, are generally received with proper consideration by leading citizens; occasionally, however, a very sectional and extremely bitter feeling is manifested.

Gentlemen from the western States are usually held in higher esteem by all the people than those from the more northern or eastern States.

I am, colonel, very respectfully,

H. LOSSBERG,
Captain 12th Cavalry Ill. Vols., Commanding Post.
Lieutenant Colonel E. H. POWELL,
Commanding East District of Texas.

Official copy:

C. H. WHITTELSEY,
Brevet Colonel and A. A. G.

A true copy:

GEO. L. HARTSUFF,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS POST,
Columbus, Texas, March 25, 1866.

CAPTAIN: In accordance with instructions, I have the honor to submit the following report in regard to feelings of the people in this vicinity towards the government, also towards the northern men and freedmen:

As far as I have been able to ascertain, the majority of the people seem well satisfied with the government and the administration. As regards northern men, there are several located in this vicinity; they inform me that the people treat

them with kindness, and in no case have I had complaints either from these men or transient men from the north.

In regard to refugees and freedmen, the majority of the people seem willing to do right by them; however, there are some who fail in this, which makes it necessary for the presence of an agent of the Freedmen's Bureau; also of a military force, to aid in enforcing and carrying out his instructions.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE H. MERRILL,

Captain 37th Ill. Vet. Vol. Infantry, Commanding Post.

Captain D. L. PROUDFIT,

Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

Official copy :

C. H. WHITTELTSEY,

Brevet Colonel and A. A. G.

A true copy :

GEO. L. HARTSUFF,

Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS POST,
Columbus, Texas, April 10, 1866.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to submit the following report in reference to the feelings of the people toward the government, northern men, refugees, and freedmen :

The people in this vicinity are quiet and well disposed, both toward the government and northern men. There are some few persons who do not seem to realize the fact that the negroes are free, and show a disposition to defraud and tyrannize over them; however, a majority of the people treat them kindly, and are willing to grant them all the rights of freedmen.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE H. MERRILL,

Captain 37th Ill. Vet. Vol. Infantry, Commanding Post.

Captain D. L. PROUDFIT,

A. A. A. G., Eastern District of Texas.

Official copy :

GEO. L. HARTSUFF,

Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS POST WHARTON,
Wharton, Texas, March 25, 1866.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report to the colonel commanding eastern district of Texas, that I arrived here only this evening, and find all orderly and quiet.

In compliance with instructions bearing date headquarters eastern district of Texas, March 17, 1866, I have the honor to state that I have ascertained but very little from actual observations in regard to the feelings of the people in this section towards the government, northern men, refugees, and freedmen, but from what I have observed I think they may be classed in three distinct classes :

1. Those for the Union and opposed to secession. There are but a very few of this class.

2. Those that are willing to acknowledge they have been overpowered, (I have not conversed with one yet that makes use of any other expression,) and are anxious to come back into the Union and abide the issue. The majority of the inhabitants are of that class.

3. Those bitterly opposed to the government, to northern men, refugees, and freedmen. There are, however, not very many of this class, and they are mostly men of but very little influence.

It is the opinion of all with whom I have conversed that the "emancipation proclamation" is not constitutional, and that the planters are entitled to a recompense from the government for the full value of their former slaves.

The white inhabitants are bitterly opposed to educating the freedmen, claiming that it will have a tendency towards making them negligent.

As I have but a slight opportunity of observing the feelings of the people in this section, I will close, hoping that by my next report I will have an opportunity of judging and reporting the true state of feeling in this section.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. C. MANZER,

First Lieut. 37th Illinois Vet. Vols., Com'g Post.

Captain D. L. PROUDFIT,

A. A. A. G., Eastern District of Texas.

Official copy :

C. H. WHITTEELSEY,
Assistant Adjutant General.

True copy :

GEO. L. HARTSUFF,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS POST WHARTON, TEXAS,
April 10, 1866.

CAPTAIN: Since my last report I have conversed with the citizens of this post and vicinity, and find their opinions as regards the government, northern men, refugees, and freedmen, to be as follows:

Toward the government they hold a deep and lasting hatred, but are anxious to be again admitted into the Union. The general opinion is that there will be another war, and I think if there was the least hope of their succeeding they would again raise the rebel colors. But they cannot now and probably never dare to try that again.

As regards northern men, if they should settle here, they would not be molested. I have conversed with several men from the north that have settled here within the past year; they inform me that they have had no trouble with the southern people; and as regards the freedmen, all classes (of white inhabitants) despise and abuse them; they are as well treated here as any place I have noticed in the State; they have a school here, and although the citizens are opposed to educating freedmen, they do not molest them.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. C. MANZER,

First Lieut. 37th Illinois Vet. Vol. Inf., Com'g Post.

Captain D. L. PROUDFIT,

A. A. A. G., Eastern District of Texas.

Official copy :

GEORGE L. HARTSUFF,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS POST,
Indianola, Texas, April 12, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the condition and feelings of citizens of this place towards the government, its officers and soldiers, and towards freedmen and refugees. So far as I can judge from actual observation I am compelled to believe that the majority of the people entertain hostile feelings towards the above-named classes. Their hostility is restrained from manifesting itself in overt acts by the presence of the troops.

Were it not for the presence of the military the freedmen would suffer much injustice, and northern men and those professing Union sentiments would be subjected to insult and injury, with little or no hope of receiving justice through the civil courts.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. E. PRATT,

Lt. Col. 7th U. S. A I., Commanding Post.

Captain GEORGE R. SHERMAN,

Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF HEMPSTEAD,
Hempstead, Texas, March 25, 1866.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report on the condition of this post, in regard to the feelings of the people towards the government, towards northern men, and also towards refugees and freedmen.

The feeling towards the government, I believe, is generally good, especially among the better class of men; they seem anxious that peace and good order may prevail.

The feeling towards northern men I believe to be very good; there are a great many northern men around here, and people seem anxious that more should come.

Refugees are not so well spoken of. As for freedmen, they are generally well used. We have a school here for freedmen, and I have heard no objections made to it.

I have visited some of the plantations around in the neighborhood, and find they have schools on their plantations every Sunday, and are doing all they can to instruct and enlighten the freedmen; they say that they believe it to be to their best interest to do so.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS CHAPMAN,

Captain 37th Illinois Infantry, Com'g Post.

Lieutenant Colonel E. H. POWELL,

Com'g Eastern District of Texas, Houston, Texas.

Official:

C. H. WHITTELYSEY,

Brevet Colonel and A. A. G.

A true copy:

GEO. L. HARTSUFF,

Assistant Adjutant General.

BELTON, TEXAS, *April 12, 1866.*

SIR: We, the undersigned, county officers of Bell county and loyal citizens of the United States, respectfully beg leave to call your attention to the present deplorable condition of affairs in this county, and ask at your hands the necessary relief. We think we can safely say that among a large portion of the people of this county the spirit of disloyalty, mobosity, proscription, and murder is as strong and reckless and defiant as in the high noon of the rebellion. We think we do not exaggerate when we say that the bitterness of a large majority of those who plunged us madly into rebellion and civil war is rather intensified than weakened by the triumph of the national arms.

Already has the carnival of blood reopened in this county. Within the past three weeks more than as many men have been hung and shot for no other cause, we firmly believe, than that they were uncompromising Union men.

Some of the men mobbed may have been bad men in other respects, but even if such were the case, the courts of the country are open for the punishment of crime, and it is time the hand of the assassin should be arrested. We know from experience of the past that when any one, even the best citizen, became obnoxious to these murderers on account of his outspoken attachment to the government of his fathers, in order to get an excuse to hang him they would falsely brand his name with some crime, and it is but fair to infer that what they did then they will not scruple to do again in order to accomplish their fiendish purpose. So intolerant and proscriptive have they become that they not only openly denounce the government, but have declared their intention to take up arms against it should the opportunity offer by a foreign war, although it has mercifully declined to hang them for their conspiracy against its life. And as an additional and yet sadder commentary upon the misplaced clemency of our magnanimous government, the sound of the voices of many of these men in taking the amnesty oath has scarcely died upon the air before there is borne upon the winds the expiring groan of some Union man who is perishing under their bloody hands for his devotion alone to the flag of his fathers. Thus, in addition, laying the crime of perjury upon their souls.

Yet the arm of law is powerless to arrest these men, and the details sent us are too weak in numbers to accomplish the humane intentions of the government. So apparent is this that many good loyal men have been compelled to abandon their homes for safety, very recently, and, further, on account of the condition of things, many of our best Union citizens are preparing to emigrate from the country. In this connection we desire to pay a merited tribute to the faithfulness, energy, and promptitude of Sergeant Cornelius O'Donivan and his detail, and say that they have done all in their power, as patriots and good soldiers, to discharge their duty whenever called upon; and we would respectfully request that as he and they, by their efforts and good behavior, have not only secured the confidence of the citizens of the county, but have made themselves familiar with the position of affairs, he be returned to duty here with any detail that may be hereafter stationed at this place, and protect the peaceful loyal citizens in their rights of person and property, otherwise they will be compelled to abandon their homes and go elsewhere. We make this appeal to you in behalf of those who have been and are now true to their country through weal and woe. We make it, too, with the confidence that it will be heard, for we re-

joice in the conviction that the great government of our sires is both able and willing to protect the humblest of her citizens from oppression and violence.

H. CHRISTIAN,
Chief Justice, Bell County.
 JAMES COX,
 WM. EARL,
 W. WALLACE,
Commissioners County Court.
 W. W. BISHOP,
Clerk District Court, Bell County.
 GEORGE WHITE,
Clerk County Court, Bell County.

General S. D. STURGIS,
United States Army.

Official copy:

R. F. HALSTED,
Brevet Lieutenant Colonel and A. A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS, AUSTIN, TEXAS,
April 13, 1866.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 4th instant, and to regret that, having been confined to my bed for several days, I have been unable to give it my earlier personal attention. My adjutant, however, informs me that all its requirements have been complied with except that relating to the report required by circular No. 4, from your headquarters.

In regard to that circular, I would respectfully ask to be relieved from its operation for the following reasons:

First. I do not understand who are meant by northern men, as used in the circular.

Second. I am not aware of the existence of any refugees in this vicinity and therefore have no method of knowing how the people may feel toward them.

Third. My acquaintance with the citizens of Texas (in this vicinity) is so very limited, (certainly not extending beyond half a dozen,) that any opinion of mine in regard to the way the citizens may think or feel toward the freedmen would be altogether unadvised, and therefore entitled to little or no consideration. Besides, to be candid and yet respectful, I cannot see how I can render myself intelligent on the points referred to in circular No. 4 without going entirely outside the duty of my profession; and for all these reasons, and others which might be given, I would again respectfully ask to be relieved from its operation.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. D. STURGIS,
Brevet Brigadier General, Commanding.

Captain G. R. SHERMAN,
Assistant Adjutant General, San Antonio, Texas.

Official copy:

R. F. HALSTED,
Brevet Lieutenant Colonel and A. A. A. G.

LA GRANGE, TEXAS, April 13, 1866.

SIR: I am still of the same opinion as to the temper of the people of this district.

There are a few really loyal men, but the number is very small, and the freedmen must be protected by the government.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

IRA W. CLAFLIN,
Captain, &c., 6th U. S. Cavalry, Commanding Post, La Grange,
 ADJUTANT GENERAL CENTRAL DISTRICT,
San Antonio, Texas.

Official copy :

GEO. L. HARTSUFF,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY C, 12TH ILLINOIS CAVALRY,
Livingston, Polk County, Texas, April 16, 1866.

COLONEL: By instructions from Major O. H. Langholz, I have the honor to submit the following report:

Pursuant to your orders I made my station with my company at Livingston, Polk county, Texas, on the 12th of February, 1866.

Since then I have been in command of my company at this place and rendered my proper reports to regimental headquarters.

My duties at this place have only been those ensuing in the command of my company. As regards giving assistance to the agent of Freedmen's Bureau, I have rendered him none, for the simple reason that I have not been called upon for any. Mr. Hogue, a citizen of the county, is pretending to perform the duties of an agent, but I have yet to learn of his doing anything to secure the interests of the freedmen in the county. Many complaints have been brought to me of injustice done the latter, and I have invariably referred to Mr. Hogue as being the agent. Have seen Mr. Hogue three times, and each time tendered him my assistance in the performance of his duties as an agent. Mr. Hogue has the character of a gentleman, and seems to be an upright man, but why he does not manifest more interest in the agency I am unable to say, except that he fears to make enemies among the citizens of his county.

The actions of the citizens in this county toward the freedmen are anything but encouraging to the freedmen.

However, I have learned of a few cases where freedmen are satisfied, and laboring cheerfully for their employers, with the exception of receiving remuneration for their labor, but in most cases they are fearful that they may be cheated and wronged out of their wages, as they were last year, and they have good grounds for fears. The most of the contracts are yet unapproved, and would be disapproved if presented to an agent who would do the freedmen justice. It seems the freedmen could not obtain justice before the courts sitting here. In fact, I very much question the good intentions of the citizens of this county.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. H. REDMAN,
Captain Commanding Company C, 12th Ill. Cavalry.
 Lieut. Colonel E. H. POWELL,
Commanding Eastern District of Texas.

Official copy :

GEO. L. HARTSUFF,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS POST,
Lavaca, Texas, April 25, 1866.

CAPTAIN: In compliance with instructions, I have the honor to submit the following report on the condition and feelings of the people of this vicinity.

As far as the sentiments and condition of the people are concerned I have nothing to state contrary to my last report. Everything is quiet. Freedmen are doing well and make but few complaints.

The citizens are well inclined, so far as action is concerned, but still continue to be of the same unconquered opinion.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
THOMAS McCARTY,
Captain United States Cavalry, Commanding Post.

Captain GEO. R. SHERMAN,
Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

BASTROP, TEXAS, *April 28, 1866.*

SIR: In compliance with circular No. 4, dated headquarters separate brigade, central district of Texas, March 29, 1866, I have the honor to report, that having been stationed here but a short time, I have not been able to obtain such information that might enable me to make a detailed report. I have had ample opportunity, though, to observe that a very bitter feeling against the national government exists among such men as were enemies to the United States at the beginning of the war. This class comprises the wealthiest and formerly the most influential men of the county. The same inimical feeling exists, and even manifests itself towards northern men, refugees and freedmen, particularly against freedmen's schools and their school teachers. Expecting to make my next report more specified in regard to the matter,

I remain, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
GEO. A. HENDERSON,
Captain, Commanding Post.

Captain GEO. R. SHERMAN,
Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

Official copy: R. F. HALSTED,
Brevet Lieutenant Colonel and A. A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF THE RIO GRANDE,
Brownsville, Texas, May 1, 1866.

COLONEL: In compliance with orders from headquarters department of Texas, I have the honor to report, relative to the sentiments of the people in this district towards the government and northern men, and also towards freedmen, that the people seem well disposed towards the government; that there are no impediments in the way of northern men and freedmen settling here and being as secure as the generality of people are on an unsettled border.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
GEO. W. GETTY,
Brevet Major General, Commanding.

Brevet Colonel C. H. WHITTELSEY,
A. A. G., Department of Texas.

Official copy: C. H. WHITTELSEY,
Brevet Colonel, Assistant Adjutant General.

A true copy: GEO. L. HARTSUFF,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF JEFFERSON,
Jefferson, Texas, September 3, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to report that privates Nathaniel Eglan and John Bull, of company F, eightieth regiment United States colored infantry, were killed at the Davis county iron-works, situated in Davis county, Texas, twenty-five miles from Jefferson, Texas, on the 30th day of August, 1866, by one Jack Phillips, a citizen of Marion county, and deputy marshal of the city of Jefferson, Texas.

The following are the circumstances of the case: On the 28th of August a guard was sent to the iron-works, where I have men doing guard duty. While passing through Jefferson a party of freedmen at work on the roads, under the direction of Phillips, stopped to speak with the soldiers as they passed. Phillips called to them to "go to work and let them black sons of b——s go." One of the soldiers asked if he was cursing them; he replied that he was, and continued his abuse, at the same time went to the man as though he would strike him. He was seized by one of the guard, and another struck him with his gun; they then let him go and went on their way. Soon after they left he went home and got his gun and went away, without saying where he was going. On the evening of the 29th he went to the mill at the Davis county iron-works and made inquiries of Mr. George Folgham, the miller, as to the roads, saying he was on his way to Linden, Texas, and had lost his way. About 9 a. m. the next day (30th) Mr. Folgham and other citizens were at work in a distillery near the works, and privates Eglan and Bull were standing together outside eating watermelons; a gun was fired near the building, and on looking out those inside saw Eglan and Bull lying upon the ground wounded, and saw Phillips go to them with a revolver in his hand, and placing it within a few inches of each of their heads, shot them, killing them instantly. Folgham, who was well acquainted with Phillips and recognized him at the time, called to him, when he replied, "G—d d—n my soul, I am a man," and levelling his pistol at him, warned him to stand off. He then went into the bushes near by and hurried away, and is still at large. A warrant for his arrest has been placed in the hands of the civil authorities.

Phillips lay in ambush near the path of the soldiers going for water, and it was evidently his intention to shoot any that came along, as is shown by the fact that neither of the murdered men were engaged in the difficulty at Jefferson; one of them had never seen the man before.

I think the feelings of the citizens of Jefferson worthy of remark in this connection. A very few condemn the terrible act, but the general expression is of joy, and a "wish that he had killed the last d—d one of them;" his friends think he will kill more. The citizens express disappointment and regret that the soldiers did not commit some act of violence or outrage upon the town in revenge, at learning the fate of their comrades.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. V. LOWELL,

Capt. and Bvt. Maj. 80th U. S. Colored Infantry, Commanding.

Lieutenant FRANK A. HAM,

Post Adjutant, Shreveport, Louisiana.

MOUNT ENTERPRISE, RUSK COUNTY, TEXAS,

March 30, 1867.

DEAR SIR: Some time in the winter or spring of 1866, three United States discharged soldiers were murdered on the edge of Panola county, in some seventeen miles from my house. Two of the men concerned in the murder (there being four) lived in my county (Rusk) with their father. The neighborhood where the murder was committed being strong secessh, the Union men were not willing to

take immediate steps to arrest, for fear they might fall in the same hands. The murderers after a short stay left the neighborhood and disappeared, having the horses and funds of the murdered soldiers to go on.

As soon as I learned the facts, I then being the clerk of my county, under Governor Hamilton, I wrote to the governor stating the facts, and asked for a reward to be offered by the State for their arrest. But owing to the fact, I suppose, that the governor knew the impossibility of punishing such offenders in the civil courts, he did not offer a reward. Last winter two of the murderers came back to their father's, in this county, and are here still, carrying guns and pistols and making talk as to what they will do if an attempt is made to arrest them.

All Union men know, that to take them up, they will be turned out of jail by a mob, and then they might wreak out their hate on those who had them arrested.

Now as we are under military rule, and I suppose you have the command of this district, the loyal men of this portion of my county do most sincerely hope you will send a squad of soldiers and have these murderers arrested and dealt with according to the United States laws now in force, as they (the murderers) are a nuisance to our community.

With much respect, I am truly yours,

B. F. McFARLAND.

Major General P. H. SHERIDAN,
New Orleans, Louisiana.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH MILITARY DISTRICT,
New Orleans, Louisiana, April 12, 1867.

Respectfully referred to Brevet Major General Charles Griffin, commanding district of Texas.

By command of Major General P. H. Sheridan.

GEO. L. HARTSUFF,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF TEXAS, *July 24, 1867.*

Respectfully returned to headquarters fifth military district, New Orleans, Louisiana, inviting attention to indorsement of Lieutenant Gibson, commanding post Nacogdoches, Texas.

CHAS. GRIFFIN,
Brevet Major General U. S. Army, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS,
July 15, 1867.

Respectfully returned to district headquarters. The investigation made shows the statement of Mr. McFarland to be true. The crime was committed almost publicly, the murderers following the parties murdered with the avowed intention of committing such murder, and endeavoring to engage other parties therein by a promise of a portion of the spoils. The horses and other effects of the soldiers were brought back by these men with no effort at concealment, and articles of clothing were afterwards worn by them, which they stated to have been taken from the parties murdered.

Notwithstanding these facts, and that the whole matter was as well known in that section as any other circumstance which has occurred within the last year, and also that two of the parties engaged, to wit, brothers by name of Deesen, were living with their father last winter. No attempt at arrest was made by civil authorities. About the 1st of May a detachment of troops from Tyler endeavored to arrest these Deesens, but without success. They, becoming

frightened at the attempt, disappeared from the neighborhood, and I have not yet been able to obtain traces of them, although believed to be in Robertson county.

Of the remaining murderers, one, a gambler, known as Sol. Smith, is reported to have been shot near Tyler. The whereabouts of the other, a man by name of Leech, is unknown.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWIN A. GIBSON,
First Lieut. 26th U. S. Infantry, Commanding Post.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH MILITARY DISTRICT,
New Orleans, Louisiana July 21, 1867.

Respectfully forwarded for the information of General commanding armies of the United States, as a specimen of the manner in which civil officers in the State of Texas ignore the perpetration of crimes upon the persons and property of Union citizens.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General U. S. Army, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, Louisiana, October 15, 1866.

GENERAL: The governor of Texas has written to me, alleging Indian hostilities or depredations to exist on the frontier of Texas, and has tendered one thousand volunteers. These volunteers have been refused by the General-in-chief, and I want you to at once satisfy yourself of the existence of these Indian difficulties, and, if it be necessary, you are hereby authorized to concentrate the ten (10) companies of the fourth cavalry in western Texas, and the eleven (11) companies of the sixth cavalry in central Texas, at such points on the frontier as will make them most available for its successful protection. Should this force not be considered adequate in your judgment, founded upon reliable information, authority will be given you to move additional troops.

Four hundred (400) recruits for the fourth and sixth cavalry are now ready to be sent from Carlisle, and orders have been given for the purchase of horses for them, to render them available at once. I have, also, one regiment of colored cavalry being raised in this city, together with one or two infantry regiments, which will be available in a few months.

The nine (9) companies of the seventeenth infantry now in the north have been asked for, and four (4) are *en route* to Texas. The others I hope to get soon.

The subsistence of this cavalry at remote points on the frontier of Texas demands your greatest care, but I sincerely hope that on a full investigation you may not find it necessary to send the whole of your cavalry to these remote points until the early spring.

Move the two companies of the second battalion of your regiment to Austin for the present.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General United States Army.
Major General S. P. HEINTZLEMAN,
Commanding District of Texas, Galveston, Texas.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, Louisiana, October 16, 1866.

GENERAL: The twenty-one companies of cavalry which I have authorized to be concentrated at points on the frontier of Texas will, when the recruits in Texas are mounted, and those at Carlisle reach the regiments, be about two thousand strong. This force I consider amply sufficient, but if not, I can strain a point and send more.

P. H. SHERIDAN,

Major General United States Army.

Brevet Major General J. A. RAWLINS,
Chief of Staff, Washington.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, Louisiana, November 11, 1866.

GENERAL: I have the honor to forward, for the information of the General-in-chief, the enclosed copy of a letter from Major G. A. Forsyth, whom I sent on special duty to the frontier of Texas.

This truthful letter shows clearly how cautious we should be in believing newspaper accounts of Indian difficulties, or the exaggerated accounts of interested civil officials.

I also enclose a copy of my last telegram to Governor Throckmorton.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. H. SHERIDAN,

Major General United States Army.

Brevet Major General J. A. RAWLINS,
Chief of Staff, Washington, D. C.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, Louisiana, November 11, 1866.

GOVERNOR: I see by an advertisement in the "Waco Valley Register" of October 13, 1866, that you have authorized the calling out of troops under the provisions of the act of the legislature of Texas.

Now, as I have ordered to the frontier double the number of men the legislature thought necessary, I cannot see any good excuse for the employment of this volunteer force.

P. H. SHERIDAN,

Major General United States Army.

His Excellency J. W. THROCKMORTON,
Governor of Texas, Austin, Texas.

[Personal.]

WACO, TEXAS, November 2, 1866.

DEAR GENERAL: I arrived here this afternoon and start to-morrow for Jacksboro', one hundred and twenty miles further up the country. Thus far I have not been able to get any accurate information in regard to the Indian depredations, but I am convinced that many of the people who are moving in from the frontier are doing it to better their condition, and not from any fear they may have of the Indians; for, instead of stopping in the first well-settled and per-

factly safe counties they come to, they are moving down towards the central portion of the State, within reaching distance of the railroad, so that they may be sure of a market for what they produce.

Governor Throckmorton, in his conversation with me, did not afford me any opportunity to say anything in regard to his raising troops for the defence of the State border, merely alluding to a certain line on the map as designating those counties in which the legislature had authorized the raising of a regiment, and continuing the conversation without pausing in relation to the establishment of posts on the Red river frontier. I have only seen one individual who favors the raising of these troops, and he was a confederate colonel in reb. uniform. If the United States government does not guarantee the payment of these troops, I doubt Governor Throckmorton's ability to raise anything but the officers: still, times are hard on the Texan frontier, and men may be found who are willing to enlist. I enclose a slip cut from the Waco Weekly Register which shows that Governor Throckmorton wants to raise the troops *if he can*. The *fact* is that these people are disloyal, and the sight of a blue uniform worries them badly; and then another great point is that unless the army is on the frontier the border counties *have no market* for what they raise, and unless the troops are sent there they will not be able to accumulate anything. There is no doubt but that the Indians have committed outrages, but not by any means to the extent that certain interested parties would like the United States government to believe.

If this border regiment is raised ex-rebels will be the officers, and eventually the State of Texas will call on the government to refund the amount expended in raising, equipping, and supporting it.

The cotton crop in this county averages a bale to the acre, and is by far the largest ever raised. The freedmen are working well, but they will not be able to gather all the crop, it is so much larger than was anticipated. Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Evans has his company in a splendid state of discipline, but needs thirty-three more horses to mount his recruits. Money should be sent here to take up the vouchers issued by the quartermaster department. The people hold \$4,000 worth of them, and there has been no money since June last.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE A. FORSYTH.

Major General P. H. SHERIDAN, *United States Army*.

I will write again from Jacksboro', but you will please consider all communications as personal until I can make a final report. I shall be gone at least six weeks longer, and you will probably need what information I can send you while *en route*. F.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR FRONTIER PROTECTION.

As I have received an appointment to enroll a company of 100 men, from his excellency J. W. Throckmorton, for this service, I hereby invite all able-bodied men wishing to volunteer to meet at Stephenville, Erath county, on the first day of November, for the purpose of organizing the company by electing company officers. Each man will be required to furnish himself suitable arms and a good horse, his arms to consist at least of a good gun and six-shooter.

For further particulars refer to act of the present legislature providing for frontier defence.

I. B. BARRY.

*Captain pro tem.**

OCTOBER 13, 1866.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, November 11, 1866.

Official:

J. SCHUYLER CROSBY,
Brevet Major U. S. Army, A. D. C.

* Rebel lieutenant colonel.

HEADQUARTERS PORT HUDSON,
April 14, 1866.

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to report as follows for the week ending this day:

Unusual quiet has prevailed in this section of country. No case of outrage has been reported to me. One freedman complained that he had been discharged from a place where he had contracted to work a year; that his employer would not pay him for the time he had worked, nor would allow him to take his wife and children away. I am not posted on this subject so as to decide how far the freedman can control his wife and children in such case as the above. I advised him to let them remain where they were unless there was some valid reason for their leaving their employer.

* * * * *

It is the ill-concealed wish of the native white population that the post should be evacuated, while all northern settlers, and the entire colored class, desire that the military occupation should continue.

A lady of apparent sense remarked to me yesterday that she could "get along very well without the military." On being asked if she was molested in any way by the military, she said, "no, but she wished to be let alone."

I see very little of the operations of civil law. I am informed that there is an immense number of cases on the docket for trial at the court soon to convene at Clinton. I apprehend the ownership to most of the mules and horses in the parish will then be contested.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. P. LORING,

Major 10th U. S. Col. Heavy Art., Com'g Post.

Z. K. WOOD, A. D. C.,

A. A. A. G., Eastern District Louisiana.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF PORT HUDSON,
April 21, 1866.

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to transmit my weekly report as follows:

I have arrested two refractory freedmen, who had engaged to work a year on the Houston plantation, kept them one day in the guard-house, and released them on their promise to go to work and make no more trouble.

No cases of violence have been reported. I believe the freedmen are working faithfully as a general thing.

I have little means of judging of the growth of loyalty in this community, as I seldom go outside the post.

* * * * *

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. P. LORING.

Major 10th U. S. Col. Heavy Art., Com'g Post.

Z. K. WOOD, A. D. C.,

A. A. A. G., Eastern District Louisiana.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF PORT HUDSON,
April 30, 1866.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report, in accordance with General Orders No. 33, current series, as follows:

I have little means of judging of the feelings of the "people toward the gov-

ernment and toward Union citizens," as I seldom see parties from the country, except a few who come in to look after the government reservation, and see that their property suffers no detriment therefrom.

* * * * *

No complaints have been made to me of late by freedmen ; they seem to be working diligently, and as a general thing contentedly.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. P. LORING.

Major 10th U. S. Colored Heavy Artillery.

Major WICKHAM HOFFMAN,

A. A. G., Department of Louisiana.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES,

Alexandria, Louisiana, April 30, 1866.

MAJOR: In compliance with General Orders No. 33, current series, from department headquarters, I have the honor to make the following report :

The military and civil authorities have not as yet come in conflict.

Everything within the limits of my command is comparatively quiet. As would naturally be expected, no courtesies, excepting those which the law requires, are tendered to the civil or military authorities of the United States.

I have many good reasons for believing that, if it were not for the presence of the troops at this point, the civil officers of the general government would meet with much forcible opposition while in the performance of their legitimate duties. I enclose a communication just received from the United States internal revenue assessor for the parishes in this vicinity, who was recently driven away from a small town in Avoyelles parish. The civil officers of the State government at this station are not remarkable for their loyalty or ability. Northern people temporarily residing in this part of the south inform me that it is their belief that there would be little safety for notably loyal citizens should the military force be withdrawn. I coincide with them in this opinion.

I have the honor to be, major, your obedient servant,

A. WATSON WEBER,

Bvt. Brig. Gen., Col. 51st U. S. C. I., Commanding.

Major WICKHAM HOFFMAN,

A. A. G., Headquarters Department of Louisiana.

A true copy :

GEORGE L. HARTSUFF,

Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF ALEXANDRIA,

Louisiana, May 15, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report, in compliance with General Orders No. 33, of April 16, from department headquarters.

With regard to the conduct and apparent feeling of the people coming under my observation, no change has taken place since my last report. Citizens are orderly and respectful through compulsion, but against their desires and inclinations. The most amicable feeling does not always exist between those who are "native to the soil." Old feuds are being fought out, and old jealousies and dissensions are almost daily bringing into conflict those who, during the war, were brothers-in-arms.

On account of some political and family disagreements a man by the name of Texada recently had a few words with his brother, on the principal street of Alexandria, and although his brother was unarmed, he deliberately drew a re-

volver and fired five shots at him, one of them taking effect. It was at first believed the injured man would not live, but I have been informed to-day that there is a prospect of his recovery. The offender was lodged in jail, but is now at large on bail. I am informed that he regrets that his brother is not likely to die.

Some three weeks ago, an old gray-haired man named Samuel Woodward became engaged in a controversy with Jefferson Wells, a son of General Wells and a nephew of the governor of the State. The young man Wells became enraged at some remark of Mr. Woodward's, drew his pistol and fired on him, wounding in the head, though not severely. Being expostulated with by Woodward for thus firing on an unarmed and defenceless old man, and told that he would be made to suffer by the law, Wells remarked that he could pay for that, and ten times more.

These are but examples of occurrences of a like nature in the surrounding country. I am informed by the United States assessor, who was recently driven from Avoyelles parish, that he does not think any civil officer of the general government could exercise the functions of his office with safety in that parish, without the protection of armed men. I have been credibly informed by others that the majority of the people of that parish are as blatant in their disloyalty and as firm in their feelings of opposition to the government as ever before. Union men are hardly tolerated there, and I am led to believe, that were it not for the close proximity of United States forces, they would not even be tolerated.

The freedmen in Rapides parish are generally well treated. I believe the operations of the officers of the Freedmen's Bureau have tended greatly to a satisfactory state of feeling between the employer and the employed.

Union men are not and will not be badly treated here so long as this is a military post; nevertheless it is easy to be seen that their presence is distasteful to the southern people. I think that without military protection this would be hardly a safe haven for a citizen of the north.

It may be interesting to the commanding general to be informed that the river is higher at this point than it has been known since 1849, and that it is rising at the rate of three inches a day. The lower street in Pineville is flooded, and a rise of twelve inches more will flood the city of Alexandria. The citizens are not expecting that this danger can be averted. High water and the recent severe and frequent rains have severely damaged the crops, and many people will be utterly ruined. I was yesterday informed by one of the most influential gentlemen in the city, that although the people of the parish had suffered greatly during the four years' war, the damage which would necessarily be inflicted upon them by the loss of this year's crop would be far greater. Many of the planters considered themselves ruined already.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. WATSON WEBER,
Brevet Brigadier General, Colonel Commanding.

First Lieut. NATHANIEL BURBANK, A. A. A. G.,
Headquarters Department of Louisiana

A true copy :

GEO. L. HARTSUFF,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF ALEXANDRIA,
Alexandria, Louisiana, June 16, 1866.

SIR: In compliance with General Orders No. 33, current series, department headquarters, I have the honor to report, that during my command at this post (since 26th ultimo) several cases of cruelty to freedmen have occurred.

One came in from Natchitoches parish, who had been shot at and badly

wounded, for (according to his statement) a very trivial offence. Another was very severely beaten for being too familiar with a yellow woman, whom one of the men who beat him was keeping. Another came in a few days ago with a deep gash on his head and made a statement as follows: that he was late to work one morning, for which his employer (Mr. Miller) began to abuse him; that he replied, "Mr. Miller, you know I am usually the first man out;" that Miller then ordered him, with oaths, to be silent; that he then replied, "Well, Mr. Miller, a just thing is a just thing;" upon which Miller struck him over the head with a heavy cane, inflicting the wound that I saw; that Miller then drew his revolver and swore he would shoot him if he raised his hand.

A few days ago one Mr. McKnight (white) complained that a negro man whom he had employed had left him and afterwards came to his premises and shot at him, and that he feared further trouble. To prevent disorder, I sent after and arrested the negro; but upon investigation, it appeared beyond question that the negro was blameless in the whole matter, and that he only fired after being fired at, and in defence of his own life. Mr. McKnight is a member of the police jury of this parish; was in one of the companies of "Louisiana scouts" authorized by General Banks; is a man apparently of great candor. The facility with which the people of this parish misrepresent anything pertaining to "niggers" is quite astounding.

If my experience as to "negro" testimony was as bad as it has been in regard to the testimony of whites, I should be decidedly adverse to admitting them as witnesses in civil courts.

Before the levees in front of Alexandria broke, the citizens applied to me for assistance in strengthening them. I sent some seventy men in charge of Captain Potter. Captain Potter found it necessary to divide his men into squads, with a non-commissioned officer in charge of each. While he (Captain Potter) was at one of the upper squads, a citizen attempted to make a corporal, in charge of a squad, go to work; a row ensued, of course, and but for the prompt interference of Brevet Major Willaner, assistant superintendent of freedmen, who happened to be present, it would have ended in bloodshed. Great credit is due Major Willaner for the energy and good judgement he displayed in quieting both citizens and soldiers.

I arrested two of the former, who were instrumental in provoking the trouble but did not detain them longer than to give them a good lecture on the altered condition of affairs, and the absurdity of attempting to treat colored soldiers as slaves. In considering this case it should be remembered that the town was in imminent danger of being overflowed, and the soldiers were doing more to strengthen the levees than all the citizens together.

I have cited the above cases to illustrate the feeling which seems to prevail with a large class of the people here.

There are some, however, who see things in a truer light, and seem disposed to be just to northern men and the freedmen, but their number is so small that I doubt the practicability of either obtaining justice in the civil courts. I believe a large majority are really opposed to negro testimony, but they will admit it as a kind of political necessity; a jury in this parish would hardly give it any weight.

The river is falling fast, and Alexandria will soon be free of water.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ORRIN McFADDEN,
Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding.

First Lieut. NATHANIEL BURBANK,
Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

Official copy :

NATHANIEL BURBANK,
First Lieutenant, A. A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS FORT LIVINGSTON, LA.,
April 30, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following tri-monthly report of the condition of the country in the vicinity of this post.

The people living at and near this fort are at present quiet and peaceable. The feelings of animosity engendered between parties by the late war, still exist, but I believe are gradually dying out. One class of citizens (those who have always been loyal) are well disposed toward the government and toward all Union citizens, both of the north and south. Another and much larger class (those who sympathized with the rebels in the late war) manifest an indifference toward the government. A third class (those who aided the late rebellion) accept the result of the war as a misfortune, and find much fault with the government. There are but few citizens from the north settling here; some of these have been treated harshly by the third class mentioned.

The few freedmen in this region are generally treated well. A few instances of cruelty towards them come to my knowledge from time to time. This fort is on an island, two miles from Grand Isle, and seven miles from Cheniere Camada, (the two villages in the region,) and consequently we have but a poor opportunity of getting a thorough knowledge of the condition of the adjacent country.

I am, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALBERT LORING,
Captain 10th U. S. Col. Heavy Art., Com'g Post.

Major W. HOFFMAN,
A. A. G., Department of Louisiana.

Official copy:

GEORGE L. HARTSUFF,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF BATON ROUGE,
Baton Rouge, La., May 15, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to forward the following report, in accordance with General Orders No. 33, current series, department of Louisiana. The election has taken place since my last report, and, with one exception, I believe every one elected has served in the rebel army.

A colored man was killed near Jackson a few days since. I sent out to examine the case, and according to the reports the colored man was killed by the planter in self-defence.

The freedmen are working well, and many of them will, if they have the protection of the government, evidently accumulate much property.

I have released Isaac Y. Flynn in pursuance to your order.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. G. EDGERTON,
Colonel 65th U. S. Col. Inf., Com'g Post.

First Lieut. NATHANIEL BURBANK,
A. A. G., Department of Louisiana.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF BATON ROUGE,
Baton Rouge, La., May 31, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to report, in accordance with General Orders No. 33, current series, department of Louisiana, that there is no apparent change since my last report. The people yield a constrained submission to the laws of the United States, but are evidently waiting for something to turn up.

A slight difficulty took place here in the city on Wednesday between some colored soldiers and some citizens. Three soldiers went into a beer saloon (in direct violation of my orders) and called for beer, whereupon a returned rebel ordered them to leave in very insulting terms, and the soldiers not leaving as soon as he thought they ought, commenced assaulting them, which one of them resisted, but not until the soldier had been struck twice. As soon as the soldier struck back a tumult was raised by the whites, and they commenced firing their revolvers at the unarmed soldiers. Two of the soldiers were slightly wounded.

The whole affair originated in the determination of these returned rebel soldiers to create difficulty with the Union soldiers whenever an opportunity offers. Many of the white citizens here, who were formerly called Union, dare not take sides openly against the disloyal.

Every time an occasion offers the Advocate of this city endeavors to cast the blame upon the Union or the Union soldiers by publishing most absurd accounts. This paper also tends to inflame the public mind against the government in many other ways, perhaps not more than many other papers in the State.

The freedmen are industrious and loyal.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. G. EDGERTON,

Colonel 65th United States Colored Infantry.

First Lieutenant NATHANIEL BURBANK,

A. A. A. G., Dep't of Louisiana, New Orleans, La.

Official copy :

NATHANIEL BURBANK,

First Lieutenant and A. A. A. G.

A true copy :

GEORGE LEE,

Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF BATON ROUGE,

Baton Rouge, La., July 21, 1866.

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to report, in pursuance to General Orders No. 33, current series, headquarters department of Louisiana, that the condition of things in this parish is unchanged. The most of the freedmen are hard at work.

I think the citizens generally would be much better disposed towards the government were it not that so many politicians are doing all they can to increase the ill will. Lawyers, preachers, and editors are the most bitter.

I send you enclosed a slip from the Baton Rouge Advocate, in reference to the death of a rebel officer, Lieutenant Kent.

I have the honor to be, lieutenant, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. G. EDGERTON,

Bvt. Brig. Gen., Col. 65th U. S. C. Inf., Com'g Post.

Lieutenant NATHANIEL BURBANK,

A. A. A. G., Dep't of Louisiana, New Orleans, La.

BATON ROUGE, LA., July 14, 1866.

SIR: Pursuant to instructions from post headquarters, I proceeded to Jackson, Louisiana, on the 10th instant, with supplies for a detachment of the sixty-fifth United States colored infantry, under command of Captain J. W. Read. While

there I was called upon by Captain Read to assist in arresting citizens George Schultz, Frank Norsworthy, Alfred Hazzard, James Drane, George Hamilton, Clem. Stewart, Ellis Adkinson, Sandy Wittaker, and George Cox, he being authorized to make the above arrests, by virtue of a warrant in his hands issued by Judge Shannon, United States commissioner at New Orleans, dated July 9, 1866.

Captain Read succeeded in arresting all of the above-named parties except George Hamilton and Sandy Wittaker, who were not to be found.

Captain Read also arrested Thomas J. Harris and Eugene Craft upon the advice of Lieutenant DeGray, agent of the Freedmen's Bureau for the parish of East Feliciana.

The prisoners, with the warrant for their arrest, were placed in my charge by Captain Read, with a guard of six men, with instructions to deliver them to the commanding officer at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

I left Jackson at 9½ a. m. July 12, Captain Read accompanying me for a short distance. At about one and a half mile from Jackson, and before Captain Read left me, we were fired upon by some parties concealed in the brush at a distance of about two hundred yards from the road on our left. I think about six shots were fired. As near as I can tell, they were balls from shot guns. Several of the balls passed near enough to be distinctly heard by myself, Captain Read, Mr. Ruby, who was riding with me, and Mr. Hustun, of Jackson, two passing between Captain Read and myself. My men also heard them.

My opinion is that the shots were fired in order to draw the fire from my guard, and thus enable the prisoners to escape. Captain Read returned immediately for assistance to protect the road and prevent my being followed.

The firing ceased, and I proceeded without further difficulty to Baton Rouge and delivered the prisoners to the post commander.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. H. VIOLET,

1st Lieut. and P. Q. M. 65th U. S. C. Infantry.

Lieutenant W. P. ALLEN,

Post Adjutant, Baton Rouge, La.

COLUMBIA, LA., *August 31, 1866.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that during the last ten days no contracts have been completed or forwarded.

I have visited several plantations in this parish and received reports from others, and I find that the freedmen are generally working well, although many of them are becoming uneasy and discontented, and a few are leaving their employers and seeking new ones. The principal cause of discontent is the poor prospect of a crop—most of the freedmen in this neighborhood having contracted for a portion of the crop. I fear that many of them will not only make nothing this year, but come out in debt to their employers.

All the heaviest planters here are making advances in goods on their laborers' share of the crop, and as nearly all the freedmen will buy as long as any one will trust them, they take up all their share of the crop, and even more when allowed to, and the employer will get it at less than half its real value, as the goods advanced are often of an inferior quality, but sold at the highest market price for the best. I see no way to prevent this, except where I can persuade the blacks to purchase only what they actually require; but with all the planter can make, I think the most of them will little more than clear their expenses this year, owing to the unfavorableness of the season, and not to any fault of the labor system.

In some portions of my district the freedmen have become very much frightened and uneasy of late by the frequent murders of the blacks. This is particularly the case in Franklin parish, where several have been murdered during the last few weeks. I think that nearly all the blacks would leave that parish if they had an opportunity; but they are caught, taken back, and flogged whenever they attempt to get away. I have only visited the edge of that parish, as I do not consider it safe to ride through it by myself. I have been advised by reliable citizens of the parish not to make a tour of it without a guard, or some protection. The cases of cruelties and injustice perpetrated there are reported to me by both white and black persons, but I cannot learn the names of the perpetrators. Those who know them, where they are known, dare not give their names, from fear of personal violence.

The murder of Lieutenant Butts, in Jackson parish, has also caused considerable excitement among the negroes in this section of the country.

I enclose herewith monthly summary statement of moneys received for blanks for the month of August, 1866.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. H. WEBSTER.

First Lieut. 22d Reg't V. R. C. and Ag't Bureau R., F. and A. L.

Mr. C. R. STICKNEY,

Sup't Plantation Dep't, Bureau Refugees, &c.

COLUMBIA, LA., *September 21, 1866.*

COLONEL: I have the honor to report the following case of murder in this parish, and the action of the civil authorities in regard to it:

In the latter part of July Mr. Henry Duke came to me and reported that he had had some difficulty with a freedman working on his place named Major Thomas, jr. He stated that he had given considerable trouble during the time he had been on the place, and that on the morning of the day when he came to me, he, Duke, had given the negro certain instructions, which he had failed to comply with. Duke then took his gun and, with Mr. A. W. Faulkner, went into the field where the negro was at work, and gave him orders to go at certain work. The negro started to carry out his instructions, but Duke then commenced to curse him, and the negro stopped and remarked that if he was cursed in such a manner perhaps he would not do what he was ordered to. Duke then raised his gun to shoot the negro, but Mr. Faulkner advised him not to shoot, but to club the negro with the butt of the musket. Duke undertook to do so, but the negro closed in and attempted to get possession of the gun. Faulkner then came up with a hoe and threatened to split the negro's head open if he did not desist. The negro then broke loose and ran for the woods. As he was about to clear the field fence Duke fired at him, but claims that he did not know whether he hit him or not, and that he had seen nothing of him since; (other witnesses from the plantation state that Duke and Faulkner both dodged about for some time to get a shot at the negro in the woods.) Duke stated that he had expected to overtake the negro on the road to me, but did not. Duke claimed that he had his gun with him at the time of the affray to go hunting, and not to molest the negro with, (the usual excuse;) but I think his own statement contradicts that idea. Duke seemed to think he had done nothing wrong, and said he only came to let me know how the matter stood, and to get instructions as to the disposition he should make of a horse the negro had brought to the place. I promised to visit the place as soon as possible and investigate the matter, and told him to keep the horse there until I did so.

A few days after receiving this report two freedmen from Mr. Lafayette Reditt's plantation, named Green Smith and George Stuart, sent me the follow-

ing information through another freedman, they not being able to quit work to come to me. They state that they were coming along the road with a team and in company with Major Thomas, jr., when they were overtaken by Henry and Thomas Duke, both armed. The Dukes ordered Major to go back to the plantation, and he refused to go. They then told him that if he did not go they would kill him. The two witnesses, Green and George, then became frightened and drove on, but after going some distance they heard the report of a gun, and looking back saw the smoke from the same near where they had left the Dukes and Major in conversation. They, Green and George, then became more frightened and drove on faster, and saw no more of the parties. They, however, gave information of the affair to the freedmen on Mr. Faulkner's plantation, and requested some of them to come over and help search for the body, as they thought Major was killed. Two of Mr. Faulkner's freedmen, George Yerber and Frank Tillman, did go over, and, with the assistance or by the direction of Green and George Stuart, they found a body, but did not examine it closely enough to identify it, as they had no doubt as to whose it was.

Upon getting this information I asked that an inquest might be held over the body. Mr. A. W. Faulkner, being a justice of peace in the neighborhood, held the inquest, there being no coroner in this parish. I attended. The court was composed of five men besides the coroner, *i. e.*, Mr. James Duke, a brother of the suspected parties, Messrs. Leonard Noble, J. D. McSween, Lafayette Reditt, and W. J. Ellis, all friends of the parties suspected. Mr. Faulkner himself was really an interested party, as he was present and engaged in the first affray between the Dukes and Major Thomas.

The court, with the exception of the coroner, examined the place where the body was buried, but saw only one hand, the rest of the body being covered. They did not approach nearer than five feet of the body, and made no attempt to have it uncovered or to identify it, as they thought it stunk too much. The court then examined the witnesses. The two witnesses, Green Smith and George Stuart, who sent the information to me that they saw the Dukes with Major Thomas on the road, heard the report of a gun, &c., now testified that they knew nothing about the affair until they were called upon to see the body by the persons who had found it, *i. e.*, George Yerber and Frank Tillman. The other two witnesses, Yerber and Tillman, testified that they found the body by following the directions they had received from Green Smith and George Stuart, but one of the two last witnesses seemed to be afraid to testify, and I am now satisfied did not state all he knew. The other gave his testimony without fear, and in accordance with the report they had already made to me. The court tried to browbeat him and frighten him in every way possible, but did not succeed in making him change his statements.

One member of the court then tried to prove that it was *reported* that a white man, a German laborer, had been missing from that neighborhood for some time, and that this was probably his body, as the hand was too small for a negro's. The court rendered a verdict that the body of a human being had been found dead at such a place, but whether white or black, or how he came by his death, was not known to the court.

After the court had adjourned, and when I was on my way to this place, the witness who gave the only testimony of any weight came up after me and requested permission to quit his employer and that part of the parish, and stated as his reason that his life had been threatened in case he testified as he did before the court. I think the court tried to throw the guilt upon the two blacks who found the body. I have since examined these two witnesses at my office, and find that their statement before me agrees with the first report I received of the murder. They also state that Mr. R. W. Faulkner and a Frank Yarborough both threatened them before and after the trial. They told the witnesses that "they had no business to leave their work to go look up dead men;" told them

“not to meddle with white men’s business;” that “if they saw a dead nigger by the road to go along and let him alone and say nothing about it, if they didn’t somebody would hurt them;” told them that “they (the negroes) thought the provost marshal their god, but if the provost marshal sent for troops, or had the Dukes arrested, they (the negroes) could not live in this country; they would be killed.”

I have sent for and endeavored to see the other two witnesses, Green Smith and George Stuart, but they failed to come, and studiously avoid me. I think they have been frightened from coming to me.

I think sufficient proof can be produced to identify the body, and I have little doubt but the guilty parties could be brought out and convicted before any impartial jury. But I do not think any jury can be found here who will convict a white man for an offence committed on or against a negro. The judge of this district is, in my opinion, an honest and upright man, and will do all in his power to convict the guilty whether they are white or black. But I have not yet seen a case in this district before a jury decided in favor of a black man. It is an easy matter here to convict a negro for an offence against a white man.

Jacob Cotton, a freedman, was tried in the latter part of August in this town on the charge of larceny, and although the charge was not substantiated, the freedman was bound over for trial to the next term of the district court. I think he will be cleared on his trial, but he will have to remain in confinement over two months, and suffer that loss of time. I understand that Mr. Breard, before whom he was tried, claims that it is necessary to punish the negroes whenever there is any excuse for doing so, in order to keep them under proper *subjection*. But all the citizens of the town and lawyers assert that there was no ground for the commitment of this man. It is generally reported here that Mr. Breard was during a part of the late war a member of a guerilla company, and that with his company he was engaged in the murder of Union lessees and negroes on plantations near the Mississippi river.

In the case of the murder of Major Thomas, Judge Crawford, of the district court, thinks if a bill could be found against the guilty parties, that they would have a fair and just trial before the petit jury, but he doubts whether the grand jury would find a true bill against the suspected parties, if they could find any way to avoid it.

I have made this statement rather lengthy, but I do not think I can abbreviate any and make the case plain and clear.

The name of one of the witnesses should be Green Penelton, and not Green Smith.

Sillu, a freedman on Duke’s plantation, is an important witness also.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. WEBSTER,

First Lieut. V. R. C., Agent Bureau R., F. and A. L.

Brevet Colonel J. IRVIN GREGG, U. S. A.,

General Superintendent Bureau Refugees, &c.

SHREVEPORT, LA., *September 10, 1866.*

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that nothing requiring special report has transpired in my district during the last ten days. I feel it my duty to state, however, that great apprehension appears to be felt among many freedmen that it is the intention on the part of employers to cheat them out of their share of the crop in the final settlement at the end of the year. I found it very difficult to judge of the intentions of these people, but am of the opinion that such will

be the case in very many instances. Should a company of cavalry be sent here this fall much wrong to freedmen could be prevented. I found it very difficult to induce civil officers to entertain suits at all where a freedman is complainant and white men defendant, and as the freedmen are unacquainted with any of the customs of courts their chance for justice is limited.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

MARTIN FLOOD,

Lieut. Col. V. R. C., Agent Bureau R., F. and A. L., 28th District, La.

Captain A. J. HAYDEN,

Assistant Adjutant General.

BUREAU REFUGEES, FREEDMEN, &C., PARISH OF AVOUELLES, LA.,
Marksville September 17, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor respectfully to report that during the last ten to fifteen days I am informed by reliable parties the caterpillar has entirely destroyed the cotton crop in the greater portion of this parish, and the portion not now destroyed, the probabilities are that in a few days the crop will be ruined. For the last ten days the weather has been very rainy, which has prevented planters from picking what cotton was matured, and much of it, as I am also informed, will be lost on account of the bad weather which continues at this writing.

One result of this loss of crop will be an inclination on the part of some planters to repudiate their contracts with their hands, their labor being no longer in demand. I respectfully inquire if it will be considered proper in such cases for planters to make a settlement with their hands and discharge them, the freedmen consenting to the arrangement.

In many cases where no proper contracts have been made, planters do not hesitate to discharge their freedmen at any time they choose. If the freedmen contend that they have not been paid, it is differently affirmed by the employer. Before a suit can be commenced by a freedman he must give security for costs, which he is generally unable to do. In some instances, also, the employer is in such circumstances financially that nothing can be recovered from him by law. One such case was reported recently by Jacob Tinney, who had worked two months for Jacob Long at ten dollars per month. Long refused to pay him unless he remained another month, which he did not choose to do. On inquiry I have ascertained that Long has no property that is responsible for debt, and consequently civil law had no effect on him. I am satisfied that many freedmen will be cheated out of their earnings, mostly by small or transient planters. The civil law will, it is said, universally almost, give them their rights but they are in no condition to go to law, they cannot await its tedious delays, or provide the necessary expenses. Besides, the sentiment of the people is not in favor of equal laws and rights, the same for the freedmen as themselves, but is almost universally against him, and instead of encouraging him to obtain his rights by appealing to the civil law, he is discouraged generally in every possible way.

I also desire to report that I have had some difficulty with a planter in regard to my course relative to one of his hired freedmen. John Jones, in the employ of John N. Creagh, reported that Creagh had struck him with a board, and threatened to shoot him as an example to the rest of the hands; that he left the place, but saw Creagh with his gun looking for him as he was leaving. Being sick at the time, I could only send the freedman to a magistrate with a note, requesting that legal proceedings be commenced against Creagh. The same day Creagh called to inquire what had been done, and when informed was

very much enraged, and made some remarks not flattering to the government and the bureau nor complimentary to the agent. He acknowledged that he had struck the freedman, and gave as his reason that he had insulted him. He denied threatening to shoot. I have understood that my course in this matter will be reported to General Baird, which is my reason for reporting the case at this time.

I have not learned whether legal proceedings have been commenced or not, having been unable to travel. I am recovering slowly from an attack of fever, and hope soon to be able to visit some portions of the parish where my presence seems to be required.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

AMOS S. COLLINS,

Lieut. V. R. C. and Agent Bureau R., F., &c., Parish of Ayoelles.

A. F. HAYDEN,

Captain and A. A. G., Bureau R., F., &c., State of Louisiana.

PARISH EAST FELICIANA, LA.,

Clinton, September 20, 1866.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that I have visited and inspected ten plantations since my report of the 10th instant.

I find that the freedmen are doing well under the present circumstances. Cotton-picking has been actively progressing, subject to the drawback of very rainy weather for the past ten days.

The only difficulty existing between employer and laborer now is, the laborers in most cases refuse to divide the cotton that is now being baled, and insist on retaining the whole crop until the end of the year, before the division of the crop takes place.

In most cases the planters have purchased their supplies on credit, with promise to pay with first cotton-picked; and owing to this fact, I have given my permission to have the cotton divided as soon as baled.

There is more or less injustice done to the freedmen from time to time, under the pretence of keeping the peace, than is really necessary. I notice that the civil authorities embrace every possible opportunity to put freedmen in jail for the most frivolous offences, and after keeping them in jail one or two days, compel them to pay from fifteen to twenty dollars. For instance, on the 15th instant, a freedman from the country went into a store here to purchase some cigars. He asked the clerk if he was going to wait on him, who replied that he would as soon as he had waited on white men. The freedman stated that he was as good as any white man, and wanted the cigars; he was immediately reported to the sheriff, and was arrested and lodged in jail for thirty-six hours. The charge against him was for breaking the peace. He was fined five dollars, justice fees five dollars, sheriff's fees three dollars, and jailor's fees three dollars, making a total of sixteen dollars and fifty cents.

White men will make false statements and cause freedmen to be arrested. In all cases but one I have succeeded in having the part thus arrested released.

The civil authorities and community at large seem to be very strange class of people. Sometimes they appear to be willing to co-operate with and assist me; at other times they all work against me. I am truly disgusted and tired out in my efforts to give the freedmen their rights. It seems to me that the hatred towards the blacks is growing worse every day. However, the freedmen are

forbearing, and complain but very little in proportion to the abuse they receive.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JAMES DE GREY,
*First Lieut. and Agent Bureau R., F. and A. L.,
 Parish East Feliciana, La.*

Capt. A. F. HAYDEN,
A. A. G., Bureau R., F., and A. L., New Orleans, La.

OFFICE BUREAU REFUGEES, FREEDMEN AND ABANDONED LANDS,
 PARISHES OF SABINE AND NATCHITOCHES,
Natchitoches, La., October 12, 1866.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to make the following statement in regard to Amos Owens, freedman, who was met on a public road in this parish by Dr. McNorton, his two sons, Columbus Hines, and Newton Cloud, (whites,) who tied him, beat him, and shot him, leaving him for dead.

I have had warrants issued for their arrest. In addition to the above outrageous acts, some of their friends have taken possession of his farm, his provisions, poultry, &c. If he had not been treated in this barbarous manner, he would have been able to raise about ten bales of cotton, and a quantity of corn sufficient to support his family; he is now destitute.

This case was reported to Colonel M. N. Reno, along with others, in July.

Enclosed is an affidavit drawn up this day, with a copy of the original citation.

The parish constable was ordered from the place and told that if either the provost marshal or any one else attempted to arrest them they would kill them. This case should, in my opinion, be put before a judge of the civil rights court, and the parties, if possible, brought to trial. They all reside in the neighborhood where Captain Butts was murdered, which, undoubtedly, is the worst place in this parish.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES CROMIE,
*Brevet Major U. S. Vols., Agent B. R., F. & A. L.,
 Parishes Sabine and Natchitoches, La.*

Captain W. H. STERLING,
Provost Marshal Gen., Freedmen Bureau, New Orleans, La.

STATE OF LOUISIANA, *Parish of Natchitoches:*

In magistrate's court—ward No. 12.

*To William Weeks, Thomas Page, James Weeks, Marshal Walker, and
 John Walker:*

[No. — V. S.]—In the name of the State of Louisiana, you are summoned to appear before me, Charles A. Ballard, justice of the peace for the parish of Natchitoches, on the — day of —, at — o'clock, to testify on the part of the State of Louisiana, according to your knowledge, in a suit pending in the aforesaid court, wherein the State is plaintiff, and Columbus Hines and others defendant.

Herein fail not under the penalties prescribed by law.

Given under my hand officially, at my office, in the town of Natchitoches, this 8th day of June, 1866.

CHARLES A. BALLARD,
Justice of the Peace.

STATE OF LOUISIANA, *Parish of Natchitoches :*

On this eleventh day of October, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six, at my office, in the town of Natchitoches, before me, Charles A. Ballard, justice of the peace in and for the parish aforesaid, personally came and appeared Amos Owens, freedman, of said parish, who, after being duly sworn by me to tell the truth, deposes and says : that on Sunday, the 20th day of May last, he was assaulted by Columbus Hines, Newton Cloud, Dock McNorton, old Mr. McNorton, and Wash McNorton, with dangerous weapons, to wit, pistols or revolvers, with intent to kill and murder him ; that Newton Cloud and Dock McNorton shot at him four times, and that two of the shots took effect upon his person, one in his side, the other in his arm, and that afterwards, on the same day, they beat him severely with a hickory stick ; that he was at the time coming from the house of Weeks, esq., where he had gone after meal, and that at the time, nor ever before, had he given them any provocation thus to assault him ; that he was peaceably attending to his lawful business .

He further says, that on or about the 8th day of June, 1866, he made an affidavit to the same facts before Charles A. Ballard, justice of the peace, with a view to having the parties arrested and brought to justice, but understands said affidavit is lost or mislaid.

his
AMOS + OWENS.
mark.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11th day of October, 1866.

CHARLES A. BALLARD, J. P.

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