

BEAUREGARD, Pierre G. T. Celebrated Confederate
General. L.S. 7pp., 8vo. Bladon, Alabama, July 12,
1862. To General Thomas Jordan. \$45.00

A LONG AND EXCERDINGLY INTERESTING
HISTORICAL LETTER, MARKED "PRIVATE," AND RELATING
TO GENERAL LEE'S CAMPAIGN OF 1862 AGAINST GENERAL
McCLELLAN ON THE PENINSULA. The letter is signed
"G. T. BUENAVISTA," apparently a code name used by
Beauregard in writing to his intimate friend and
aide-de-camp, General Jordan.

*Pierre Gustave Tautant Beauregard
Papers, Duke University Library*

have obtained more.
 1st " M^o Clelland having committed
 the error of dividing his forces by
 a River (Chickahominy) we did
 likewise.

2nd " Instead of crushing one of these
 fractional masses by a concentrated
 attack on either one of them, we
 endeavored to envelope the whole
 from right to left - our forces
 being also separated by a River!

3rd " Even then, instead of separating
 the enemy's fractional masses
 by the attack, the latter tended
 to their concentration, & if M^o Clelland
 had not lost his presence of mind,
 when his right crossed the "Chick",
 he ought to have destroyed all
 the bridges - guarded them strongly
 with Artillery, then reinforced
 his left - crushed Magruder,
 Huger & Holmes, - this would
 have opened to him, by land

Private
 innum

Cullum Springs. Bladon. Ala.

July 12th 1862.

My dear General.

Your letter of the 7th
 inst. has been received. I believe you
 are right in your suppositions
 relative to the order relieving me of
 the command of the Department, but
 I shall make no effort to resume it.
 If the country be satisfied to have
 me laid on the shelf by a man
 who is either demented or a traitor
 to his high trust - well, let it be
 so. I require rest & will endeavor
 meanwhile by study and reflection
 to fit myself better for the darkest
 hours of our trial, which, I foresee,
 are yet to come. As to my reputation,
 if it can suffer by any thing,
 that living specimen of gale &
 hatred, can do - why it is not then

worth believing - and as to glory, you know what Byron and myself think on that subject. I am annoyed to death now, by having every body looking at me, wherever I go, like a wild beast. If it were not for our cause & country, I would retire to my home (if I had one now) never to leave it again.

My consolation is, that the difference between "that Individual" and myself is - that, if he were to die to day, the whole country would rejoice at it - whereas, I believe, if the same thing were to happen to me, they would regret it.

With regard to the piece you enclose me, I think the better plan is, for you to address a letter to the Editor of that paper "as a member of my staff," denying those statements, as per paper herewith & such other facts as you know;

not that I attach much importance to the matter, but to prevent ^{hereafter} misconstruction.

As to yourself & my general staff, I must request you all to remain with Bragg or where you are, until I return to duty, when I will apply for you all, especially yourself, Choppin, and Polignac. You know it is my good luck (or bad), always to bring on a battle wherever I go, & with my recruited health, rest, & experience, I will endeavor to make it "the most brilliant of the war". How I do regret I was not with that glorious Army of the Potomac! what a chance for a grand immortal result! ^{But} what did we get after eight days fighting? The Battlefield, 5,000 prisoners & about 100 pieces of Artillery - a great deal no doubt; but is this all we ought to have got? I think not - & if some of the maxims of war had not been violated, we would

true friend.

Brig. Genl. Thos. Jordan
Chf. of staff Wm. Dept.
Tupelo Miss.

Franklin D. Johnson
Brig. Genl.

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& water the way to Richmond - he would then have established his base of operation at Richmond & along the James River - laughed at Lee - and in a few days, captured the latter's whole army - his name would then have gone down to posterity "as the young American Napoleon."

= As it is, he will probably be decapitated by his friend Lincoln, & Genl. Sumner put in his place, provided we have the good sense to let him go back to his admiring friends.

Mr. Clelland has however raised himself in my estimation by his masterly retreat. By the description of his new position given in the "Mobile News" of the 10th inst. I must say, that he cannot be dislodged by our present forces.

and in two weeks time he will no doubt be prepared to take the offensive with as strong an army as he had before. Then war to us!

for I suppose meanwhile our "friends" will be trying to see what capital can be made out of Lee's victory.

I feel as you do about Joe Johnston, he is certainly the most unlucky man I know of. I hope he will still have a chance to immortalize himself before the end of this war; for he is a brave, gallant, & intelligent officer. Lee's concentration of Jackson's forces with his own, was a master-stroke policy - only, in his place I would have attacked differently. I would have concentrated my forces & endeavored to divide the enemy's; for, the same rules of strategy, apply also to the tactics of a battle. It is surprising how seldom the

maxims & principles of war are violated without evil consequences resulting therefrom. Par-Penta would have a fine opportunity to display his fine ability as a military writer, by criticizing this "eight day battle" & the masterly strategy of Benjamin - for you know he wrote that 1st Telegram giving a detailed account of the battle, which appeared in the Mobile papers.

But I must close this long letter, which I intended should have been only a few lines; for, however I may like to read long ones, I detest to write them. I hope Bragg will take the offensive as soon as possible & justify my predictions of him.

Hoping to hear from you soon & often I remain as ever yours
 G. T. Manwister
 Ga. T. Manwister
 Tupelo - Miss.