

29 August 1863, 1

---

*A Negro Army.*—A Southern paper some weeks ago threw out a suggestion that the Confederacy should arm some five or six hundred thousand negroes and precipitate them upon the Yankees. The suggestion was doubtless to frighten the Yankees; but it has imposed upon a few of our own people. The proposition is too preposterous for serious discussion. It is enough to say, it would be exchanging a profitable laborer for a very unprofitable soldier. Let the Yankees have negro armies. Nothing but their cowardice could ever have betrayed them into such a folly. They use the poor creatures as breastworks, but thus far with very little advantage.

The Southern people are willing to employ their slaves in any way that would tell best against the enemy. But it has yet to appear that they can do so in any manner so effective as in raising food for our armies. Some may be occasionally used in ditching and throwing up breastworks, and it is possible a limited number might be advantageously substituted for teamsters; though in respect to the last there may be doubts. In the main, no doubt, the most useful function compatible with their capacities is that to which they are accustomed—food-raising.—*Richmond Whig.*

---