Head Quarters, Department of South Carolina and Georgia Charleston, SC November 4th 1862.

General

Your note of the 31st ultimo to the General Commanding has been received and I am instructed to reply that he desires you to procure the services of the negro man referred to as a spy in the Camp of the Enemy. You may either employ him yourself or send him to Genl. [William Stephen] Walker at Pocotaligo with a copy of this communication.

The negro on reaching the enemys lines should seek to become the body servant if possible of General [Ormsby M.] Mitchell, or some officer about his Head Quarters to collect all the reliable information possible, which he should bring away in case of an impending attack in time to give us due warning.

It will be important to know when and where an attack will be made & by what force—the number of Ironclad and other gun boats, the name of all Generals at Port Royal or under Genl. Mitchell, also the number of each Regiment and the State and the state from which it may come, likewise the number of field batteries of light artillery.

If practicable a Return of the Troops should be abstracted to which end the negro should be shown one of our Returns so that he will understand exactly what character of papers we want him to get possession of.

It would be well too for him to collect and save all scraps of paper he may find about any Quarters or an office with *anything written* upon them then could be pasted together and might divulge something important.

For their services the negro shall be handsomely paid according to the manner he may discharge his *trust* and you can beside arrange what compensation shall be paid him to penetrate & return from the enemys lines in any event.

Respectfully Your Ob[e]d[ien]t S[e]r[van]t Thomas Jordan Chief of Staff

To Brig Gen. H. W. Mercer Commanding District of Georgia Savannah

¹ Gen. Ormsby M. Mitchell had died at Beaufort, S.C. of yellow fever on Oct. 30, 1862, shortly after assuming his post as commander of the X Corps and the Department of the South.

HEAD QUARTERS, Department of South Carolina und Georgin. 200 July 16 Charleston, Ste Arvenbut 1 1862. Thurs note of the 818h Artimo to the decent arumand my has been received any & am nestructed to riply that In desiry you to procure the my service of the regration refined to as a stry in the . Comes of the Suberry, Jui may enther comply from nuself or send him Gent Malker wh Loco taligo with a copy of this communic Cutrus, The regio in reaching the Oneings lines thinly frek to become the body servent I hospible of Themen Mitel. ett, or since officer about his Heafaraten to evblich alo The reliable information possible, which hi therely

Dearborn Collection; Confederate Officers, Houghton Library, Harvard Univ.

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