

and a good gunboat force up at the head of navigation, the enemy will be bold to enter Tennessee; but we must expect anything. If they wait to get supplies about Tusculum you will get the Missouri troops. Have your orders to meet them at Paducah.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

CHATTANOOGA, October 29, 1864—8 p. m.

Major General SHERMAN:

The following has just been received from Decatur, dated October 24—4.40 p. m.:

"I told you we drove the rebs out of their rifle-pits yesterday, capturing one hundred and twenty, (120.) In the evening we made another sortie, spiking a couple of guns, and making fourteen (14) more prisoners. In this skirmish we lost forty (40) killed and wounded. Our loss altogether, up to this time, amounts to eighty (80.) We blew up four (4) caissons, and dismounted two (2) pieces of artillery. We killed and wounded a very large number of the enemy, full five hundred (500.) About four (4) o'clock this a. m., they began to leave in direction of Courtland. I have been probing them at different points all day, finding them in force until 4 o'clock this evening, when our forces carried their last line of rifle-pits; enemy evidently believing us to be in very strong force here, judging from what their prisoners have stated. I have endeavored to keep up this impression. I am picketing the river with all the cavalry in my possession, down to the mouth of Elk river. If gunboat returns, now some miles up river, I will send a regiment down the river to Brown's ferry. Negroes who escaped from them, and prisoners, say that Hood and Beauregard are both with them. Received a despatch from Athens; stated that two couriers from Florence reported that the enemy had crossed below Cypress creek in large force. I think this information is to the same effect as that forwarded by General Croxton.

"It will hardly be necessary now to report, any how. I will send you, however, all the information I can obtain.

"R. S. GRANGER,
"Brigadier General."

Respectfully,

JAS. B. STEEDMAN,
Major General.

CHATTANOOGA, October 29, 1864.

Major General SHERMAN:

Just received the following:

"DECATUR, 29—9.30 p. m.

"I have conversed with a number of deserters, prisoners, and escaped negroes, and from their information I am led to believe it is the impression among the officers and men of Hood's army that they are bound to get into Middle Tennessee. The deserter who has just left me says that their first aim was to take this place, and fully expected to do so. He thought now they would certainly attempt to cross above or below. I am convinced their infantry forces left in the direction of Courtland, and they may send some cavalry to cross above. My guide, Harris, a sharp fellow, says, from what he has heard above, that they will try to cross above, near Whitesburg. I have sent him up there on the gunboat Thomas. I have also ordered, in addition to the force there al-

ready, five (5) companies of 181st Ohio, about four hundred and twenty (420) men. I have sent to Brown's ferry one hundred and fifty of the 10th Indiana, and will send the Stone River down there with one hundred (100) men of 181st Ohio. I think Hood will, if he intends to cross, make the effort between Elk River and Eastport. Instructed Colonel Lyon to guard all passes from mouth of Flint river to Triana, and scout river with cavalry.

"R. S. GRANGER,
"Brigadier General."

"29th—11 p. m.

"In my last telegram I omitted to mention another reason why I think Hood will go to Tuscumbia before crossing. He was evidently out of supplies; his men were all grumbling; the first thing the prisoners asked for was something to eat. Hood could not get anything if he should cross this side of Rogersville.

"R. S. GRANGER,
"Brigadier General."

JAS. B. STEEDMAN,
Major General.

[Cipher.]

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE,
October 30, 1864—2 p. m.

Major General SHERMAN:

Your two despatches, of 12 p. m. (midnight) yesterday, received. One division of Stanley's troops has already left Chattanooga for Athens, and Tindall promises to have them all off by to-morrow. Have despatch from Croxton at 9 p. m. last night. He says nothing further of the crossing of the enemy at Florence, but he learns from a source he cannot doubt that Hood's whole army reached Town creek last night, and would cross there. Have already directed him to oppose Hood with his whole available force, reporting directly to Stanley, at Athens, and to me here *via* Pulaski. Ordered Hatch last night to re-enforce Croxton at once. Granger believes Hood has gone towards Tuscumbia, but thinks he will be compelled to wait a day or two to get provisions, as his troops were almost mutinous at not having food when he was before Decatur. If he delays two days he will have no chance to get across. Think General Schofield better remain at Resaca for a day or two, or until we get further information. Have directed General Steedman to push forward all recruits and drafted men belonging to regiments with you. Have repeated my application to Commander Pennock for gunboats to go up Tennessee river. Have telegraphed General Rosecrans at St. Louis to send A. J. Smith's and Mower's divisions to Eastport; cavalry to Memphis. I doubt if Rosecrans will send them.

GEO. H. THOMAS,
Major General.

[Cipher.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Rome, Ga., October 30, 1864.

Major General THOMAS, *Nashville, Tennessee:*

Despatch of to-day received. I agree with Granger that Hood must delay for provisions. He cannot ford the Tennessee, and must pass his artillery by

a pontoon bridge, which can only be laid, in the reach about Florence, between Colbut's and Muscle shoals. Schofield is here, and moves to-morrow for Resaca to report to you. Jeff. Davis will move to Kingston and Howard to Marietta, *via* Vanwert and Dallas. I will keep all the horses, and will send Wilson with all the dismounted cavalry back to Tennessee, where he can make up a very heavy cavalry force, subject to your orders, in case I depart for the south. Hood must have seen Stanley moving to you, and has heard the result of affairs in Missouri and the Shenandoah, and will hesitate to put his army in Middle Tennessee at this season of the year, with the Tennessee river at his back; but I want you to keep me advised up to the last moment.

It may take five (5) days yet to get everything back, and during that time he may turn towards me, thinking I have divided my forces. General Rosecrans telegraphs me that he has ordered General Mower and Smith's divisions, to Tennessee, and I have asked him to embark them at Boonville or Lexington, and send them in boats to the Tennessee river, reporting to you from Puducah'

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

[Cipher.]

NASHVILLE, *October 30, 1864—9 p. m.*

Major General SHERMAN:

General Granger reports enemy gone from his front, moving off towards Tusculumbia. He sent out force to follow up the rear of the enemy as he moved off, capturing some prisoners. He reports prisoners admit Hood's loss, killed and wounded, at Decatur, numbered in the neighborhood of one thousand, (1,000.) Colonels Doolittle and Morgan, who had just returned from the reconnoissance, report heavy firing down the river, at about the rate of eight shots per minute, continuing for about fifteen (15) minutes. It is probably General Croxton opposing the enemy at Bainbridge, as he reported last night that he had learned from a reliable source that the enemy intended crossing at that place. Have not heard from Croxton to-day. The whole of General T. J. Wood's division, 4th corps, left Chattanooga, on cars, at 10 a. m. to-day, for Athens, and General Stanley expects to have his other two divisions en route by to-morrow morning. I believe they will reach Athens in time to prevent the enemy from making further progress into the country. Have ordered an additional brigade of cavalry to scout from this place to-morrow morning to re-enforce Croxton.

GEO. H. THOMAS,
Major General.

[Cipher.]

WARRENSBURG, MO., *October 30, 1864—11 p. m.*
(through HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI,
St. Louis, Missouri, October 30, 1864—12 p. m.)

Major General SHERMAN:

Your telegram of 29th, 12 p. m., received. The river is so low that General A. J. Smith can reach the Mississippi river sooner by marching. He leaves in the morning. It will require ten (10) days to reach the Mississippi river, where boats and complete supplies will await him. Whatever is possible will be done to enable you to make a sure thing against Beauregard. I hope you will be able to give that army a thorough defeat.

W. S. ROSECRANS,
Major General

[Cipher.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
*In the field, Rome, Ga., October 31, 1864.*Major General THOMAS, *Nashville, Tennessee :*

You must unite all your men into one army, and abandon all minor points, if you expect to defeat Hood. He will not attack posts, but march around them. Schofield is marching to-day from here to Resaca, where he will report to you for orders. His advance will be at Resaca to-night.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

[Cipher.]

NASHVILLE, *October 31, 1864—9.30 a. m.*

Major General SHERMAN :

General Croxton reports enemy crossed Tennessee river, four miles above Florence. He reports, also, that he was unable to prevent enemy's crossing, but will resist their further progress as long as possible. Have ordered General Hatch to move to Lawrenceburg, between Hood and Columbia, and to co-operate with General Croxton in resisting enemy's progress. Have ordered Stanley's corps to Pulaski to hold that place. Can you send me General Schofield to take post at Columbia at once? I make this application because the force at Chattanooga is not sufficiently large or well organized to do more than defend that place.

GEORGE H. THOMAS,
*Major General.*ATLANTA, *October 31, 1864.*

Major General SHERMAN :

Your despatch received. It will take more than one-half the available cars between here and Chattanooga to move the 23d corps. The removal of stores to the rear will have to stop in a great measure. The railroad has been open but two (2) days. Much has been done, but there is still more to do than can be done in seven days, with the usual rate of accidents. If the 23d corps move by cars it will take eleven (11) days to complete everything. We still require some hundreds of cars of stores to complete your supplies and outfit. Under the circumstances, shall cars be sent at once to move the 23d corps? Answer.

L. C. EASTON.
A. BECKWITH.

[Cipher.]

NASHVILLE, *October 31, 1864—12 m.*

Major General SHERMAN :

Have telegraphed to General Rosecrans at Saint Louis, and also to commanding officer at Paducah, but can hear nothing from them. Now that Hood has undoubtedly crossed the river, I think it important that General Schofield should be sent to Columbia as soon as possible, as I have no certainty of getting any other troops. There are still six regiments due from the north. If you approve this, please order General Schofield to proceed at once by rail to Columbia.

GEORGE H. THOMAS,
Major General

any point you indicate. Have you any positive knowledge that any part of Beauregard's infantry has passed the Tennessee? Wilson is also coming to you with Garrard's dismounted cavalry, and it would be well to have horses and equipments awaiting them. According to Wilson's account, you will have in ten (10) days full twelve thousand (12,000) cavalry, and I estimate your infantry force, independent of railroad guards, full forty thousand (40,000) men, which is a force superior to the enemy.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

[Cipher.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Rome, Ga., November 2, 1864.

Lieut. General U. S. GRANT, *City Point, Va.:*

Your despatch is received. If I could hope to overhaul Hood, I would turn against him with my whole force; then he would retreat to the southwest, drawing me as a decoy from Georgia, which is his chief object. If he ventures north of the Tennessee, I may turn in that direction and endeavor to get between him and his line of retreat; but, thus far, he has not gone above the Tennessee. Thomas will have a force strong enough to prevent his reaching any country in which we have an interest, and he has orders, if Hood turns to follow me, to push for Selma. No single army can catch him, and I am convinced the best results will follow from our defeating Jeff. Davis's cherished plan of making me leave Georgia by manœuvring. Thus far I have confined my efforts to thwart his plans, and have reduced my baggage so that I can pick up and start in any direction; but I would regard a pursuit of Hood as useless. Still, if he attempts to invade Middle Tennessee, I will hold Decatur, and be prepared to move in that direction; but, unless I let go Atlanta, my force will not be equal to his.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

[Cipher.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Kingston, Ga., November 2, 1864.

Lieut. General U. S. GRANT, *City Point, Va.:*

If I turn back, the whole effect of my campaign will be lost. By my movements I have thrown Beauregard well to the west, and Thomas will have ample time and sufficient troops to hold him until re-enforcements meet him from Missouri, and recruits. We have now ample supplies at Chattanooga and Atlanta to stand a month's interruption to our communications, and I don't believe the confederate army can reach our lines save by cavalry raids, and Wilson will have cavalry enough to checkmate that. I am clearly of opinion that the best results will follow me in my contemplated movement through Georgia.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

[Cipher.]

CITY POINT, VA., *November 2, 1864—11.30 a. m.*

Major General SHERMAN:

Your despatch of 9 a. m. yesterday is just received. I despatched you the same date advising that Hood's army, now that it had worked so far north,

ought to be looked upon more as the object. With the force, however, you have left with General Thomas, he must be able to take care of Hood and destroy him. I really do not see that you can withdraw from where you are to follow Hood, without giving up all we have gained in territory. I say, then, go on as you propose.

U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant General.

[Cipher.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Kingston, Ga., November 2, 1864.

Captain PENNOCK, *United States Navy, Mound City:*

I don't know what boats you have up the Tennessee now, but hear that Number Fifty-five has been captured by Forrest. I trust you will keep that river well patrolled, increasing the capacity of the boats according to the draught of water. If the present rains continue, one or two iron-clads would do most important service. In a few days I will be off for salt-water, and hope to meet my old friend Admiral Porter again. Will you be kind enough to write to him, and tell him to look out for me about Christmas from Hilton Head to Savannah? During my absence, please confer freely with General Thomas, who commands in my stead.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

[Cipher.]

NASHVILLE, *November 2, 1864—1.30 p. m.*

Major General SHERMAN:

Your despatch of 8 a. m. to-day just received. I this morning received the first telegram from Rosecrans. Contents similar to the one you sent me. I have just heard from General Croxton, who despatched to me at 7 p. m. yesterday, who says he has been within two miles of Florence on the Huntsville side, and three miles on the Lawrenceburg side. The enemy is there with a large force intrenched. They have laid pontoons at Florence, and are reported still crossing. He finds no cavalry, but Forrest is reported crossing below Florence. I think he must be mistaken about Forrest crossing below Florence. It may be Wheeler. General Hatch should be with Croxton by this time, and, although the rain may have made the roads bad, I am in hopes that the balance of Stanley's troops will reach Pulaski to-day. It will not be possible for me to raise within the next ten days more than Stanley's and Schofield's corps, and Croxton's and Hatch's cavalry, unless I should withdraw railroad guards immediately, which should not be done so long as we must operate the road. The convalescents will, of course, only be fit to garrison Chattanooga, Whitesides, and Bridgeport. It will need all the troops Granger has to hold Decatur. General Steedman's troops, belonging to my army, are almost dwindled away by expiration of service. Eventually General Wilson can organize twelve thousand (12,000) cavalry from dismounted men now in Tennessee and coming from the front; but he can't do this in ten (10) days. We will all do the best we can. If Beauregard halts to fortify, I hope we shall be ready for him. It has rained some, but not a great deal, here.

GEO. H. THOMAS,
Major General.

[Cipher.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Kingston, Ga., November 2, 1864.

Major General THOMAS, *Nashville:*

I have your despatch of to-day. If Granger will continue to demonstrate on the Moulton road with as strong a force as he can take out of Decatur, he will compel Beauregard to leave a similar force in observation. In like manner, Grierson at Memphis should be instructed to demonstrate out in the direction of Ripley or Corinth, to threaten the Mobile and Ohio railroad, on which he manifestly must depend. Then, having united Schofield and Stanley, and filled them as much as you can with your new troops, Beauregard will be checked; but if he advances from Florence, fight him cautiously, taking every advantage of your fortifications and the natural obstructions of the country. I think he will aim for Fayetteville and Shelbyville, but you know the country better than I do. General A. J. Smith reports himself en route from Warrensburg, Missouri. To make things sure, you can call on the governors of Kentucky and Indiana for some militia, cautioning them against a stampede, no matter what occurs. Try and avoid, as I know you will, all false alarms. I am pushing my arrangements, and will soon be off.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

[Cipher.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Kingston, Ga., November 2, 1864.

Lieut. General GRANT, *City Point, Va.:*

Despatch of 11.30 a. m. received. I will go on and complete my arrangements, and in a few days notify you of the day of my departure.

General Thomas reports to-day that his cavalry reconnoitred within three (3) miles of Florence yesterday, and found Beauregard intrenching. I have ordered him to hold Nashville, Chattanooga, and Decatur, all well supplied for a siege; all the rest of his army to assemble about Pulaski, and to fight Beauregard cautiously and carefully; at the same time for A. J. Smith and all reinforcements to get up to enable him to assume a bold offensive, and to enable Wilson to get a good mount of cavalry. I think Jeff. Davis will change his tune when he finds me advancing into the heart of Georgia instead of retreating, and I think it will have an immediate effect on your operations at Richmond.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

WARRENSBURG, MO., *November 2, 1864.*

Major General SHERMAN:

I am now under orders to join you with my command, and will lose no time in reaching St. Louis and embarking for destination en route. I have about five hundred (500) men in Memphis belonging to the first and third divisions, 16th army corps. They are in detachments, and in occupation of the forts in Memphis. I now most earnestly request that you will order all men belonging to the first and third divisions to be relieved from duty at once and sent to Cairo, Illinois, and to report to me by telegraph at St. Louis.

A. J. SMITH, *Major General.*

ROME, November 2, 1864.

Major General SHERMAN :

General Howard reports last night at 6.30 at Cedartown, and nicely in camp. Says Hood took much, but left plenty of corn, and some pigs are left. Some scouting and observing parties of the enemy's cavalry about him. A captured letter from a citizen to Governor Brown complains bitterly of Hood's army and its lawlessness, and begs him to get orders from Jeff. Davis to stop it.

L. M. DAYTON, A. D. C.

[Cipher.]

NASHVILLE, November 2, 1864—11.30 p. m.

Major General SHERMAN :

Can't learn yet that Beauregard has started in any direction. He is across the river at Florence, but as yet has not moved from his intrenchments.

GEO. H. THOMAS,

Major General.

[Cipher.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Kingston, Ga., November 3, 1864.

Major General THOMAS, *Nashville, Tennessee :*

Your despatch received. Glad to learn the Venus was recaptured, and have no doubt gunboat 55 will be recaptured or destroyed. Don't fail to give me the earliest notice of Beauregard's starting north, for he is watching us and will be influenced by our movements. Now that Forrest is scattered is a good time for your cavalry to pitch into Wheeler if he ventures out from Florence.

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General.

[Cipher.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Kingston, Ga., November 3, 1864.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK, *Headquarters Army, Washington, D. C. :*

The situation of affairs now is as follows : Beauregard, with Hood's army, is at Florence with a pontoon bridge, protected from our gunboats from below by the Colbert shoals, from above by the Muscle shoals. He has with him Wheeler's and Roddy's cavalry. Forrest's cavalry is down about Fort Herman. The country round about Florence has been again and again devastated during the past three years, and Beauregard must be dependent on the Mobile and Ohio railroad, which also has been broken and patched up in its whole extent. He purposes and promises his men to invade Middle Tennessee for the purpose of making me let go Georgia. The moment I detected that he had passed Gadsden, I detached the 4th corps, General Stanley, fifteen thousand (15,000) strong, who is now at Pulaski ; and subsequently the 23d corps, General Schofield, ten thousand, (10,000,) who is now on cars moving to Nashville. This gives General Thomas two full corps and about five thousand cavalry, besides ten thousand (10,000) dismounted cavalry and all the new troops recently sent to Tennessee, with the railroad guards, with which to encounter

Beauregard, should he advance further. Besides which, General Thomas will have the active co-operation of the gunboats, both above and below the shoals, and the two divisions of Smith and Mower en route from Missouri. I therefore feel no uneasiness as to Tennessee, and have ordered General Thomas to assume the offensive in the direction of Selma, Alabama. With myself I have the 20th corps at Atlanta, the 15th and 17th near Kenesaw, and the 14th here. I am sending to the rear, as fast as cars will move, the vast accumulation of stuff that in spite of my endeavors has been got over the road, and am sending forward just enough bread and meat to enable me to load my wagons, destroy everything of value to the enemy, and start on my contemplated trip. I can be ready in five (5) days, but am waiting to be more certain that Thomas will be prepared for any contingency that may arise. It is now raining, which is favorable to us, and unfavorable to the enemy. Davis has utterly failed in his threat to force me to leave in thirty (30) days, for my railroad is in good order from Nashville to Atlanta, and his army is further from my communications now than it was twenty (20) days ago. I would advise the accumulation of all troops available up the Tennessee river (now in good boating stage) about Clifton, subject to General Thomas's orders, and that Canby leave the Mississippi river, to be watched by gunboats and local garrisons, and push, with about fifteen thousand (15,000) men, for the Alabama river and Selma. These co-operating movements would completely bewilder Beauregard, and he would burst with French despair. I propose to adhere, as near as possible, to my original plan, and on reaching the sea-coast will be available for re-enforcing the army in Virginia, leaving behind a track of desolation as well as a sufficient force to hold fast all that is of permanent value to our cause. When I leave Atlanta it will contain little that will be of use or comfort to the enemy.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

[Cipher.]

NASHVILLE, November 3, 1864—2.30 p. m.

Major General SHERMAN:

Your message, 9.30 a. m. yesterday, received. Will give instructions to Granger to continue his demonstrations between Decatur and Moulton. General Croxton still holds the two fords of Shoal creek, mentioned to you in a former despatch. I heard from him yesterday at 3 p. m. He reports he drove in the enemy's cavalry pickets. A scout had just returned from Town river, who reported that they were waiting for Hardee's corps and cavalry. Croxton intended to attempt to destroy their pontoon bridge last night. Have not yet heard result. If I can get Grierson's cavalry at Memphis, I will have it pushed out toward Mobile and Ohio railroad, and threaten Beauregard's communications. I propose to place General A. J. Smith's command, with the assistance of the gunboats, as near Eastport as possible, unless Beauregard gets start of me. But if he don't move before Sunday, I will have Generals Schofield and Stanley together at Pulaski, and he can then move wherever he pleases. Will fill up Stanley's and Schofield's corps as soon as possible, but at present almost entire transportation of the road is taken up by conscripts and recruits for commands at the front. Six of the new regiments are still due, and not heard from since starting. If it is not necessary for Generals Schofield and Stanley to move from Pulaski before I can get General A. J. Smith well up the Tennessee river, Beauregard will have to leave his present position, or be cut off from his railroad communications. I have six gunboats on Tennessee river now coming up. Lieutenant Shirk has no doubt but he can open river and raise blockade. Am afraid it will take longer for Wilson to reorganize and mount his cavalry than

he thinks. When he does complete it, we will be strong enough to restore quiet all along borders and undertake the expedition into Alabama. Have made great exertions to prevent stampeding, and so far have succeeded measurably well, but I find it hard work. Have just heard from General Schofield at Chattanooga. A portion of his troops have started on cars, and he has strong hopes of getting them all off by rail to-morrow evening.

GEORGE H. THOMAS,
Major General.

[Cipher.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Kingston, Ga, November 4, 1864.

Major General STEEDMAN, *Chattanooga, Tennessee :*

Your despatch of to-day is received, indicating that Beauregard has moved toward Corinth. I do not wish him in a better place. The trains on our railroad are not working to my satisfaction. Tell the superintendent I want him to stop running cars for the accommodation of travellers, but to make up a gang of three or four hundred cars to carry to Atlanta in one trip all we need, and take back all that is necessary. I want this done at once, as I propose to start as soon as the present storm clears away. The whole army is now distributed along the road so as to cover it perfectly. I would like to have you meet me here to confer and superintend the removal back to Chattanooga of all railroad stock and garrisons on the breaking up of the road. Answer.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

SMYRNA CAMP-GROUND, *November 5, 1864.*

Major General SHERMAN :

My command is at this place.

O. O. HOWARD, *Major General.*

ATLANTA, *November 4, 1864.*

Major General SHERMAN :

I am much disappointed in the working of the road. I have urged everybody and everything, but have been able to get in here only seventy-seven (77) cars in the last twenty-four (24) hours, all of which have been properly unloaded, reloaded, and started back. I am sorry to disappoint you, but am doing my very best. They have accumulated more plunder in the last two months than I supposed could have been got here in six. We have an abundant supply of grain, which I wish you would send animals here to eat up.

L. C. EASTON, *C. Q. M.*

[Cipher.]

CHATTANOOGA, *November 4, 1864.*

Major General SHERMAN :

By 12 noon to-morrow there will be on the route to Atlanta and in that place three hundred and seventy (370) freight cars, two hospital trains, and two wrecking trains, loaded with all freight that has been ordered. There will be

one hundred (100) cars in to-night, which can be returned to-morrow if wanted. The storms have interfered very materially with the running of trains. I will come down to-morrow.

JAMES B. STEEDMAN,
Major General.

ATLANTA, November 5, 1864.

Major General SHERMAN :

I believe that I have now in the commissary depots at Atlanta everything we will require for the trip.

A. BECKWITH,
Chief Commissary of Subsistence.

[Cipher.]

ATLANTA, November 5, 1864—10 a. m.

Major General SHERMAN :

The superintendent, Mr. Taylor, reports this morning two hundred and fifty (250) cars between Chattanooga and Kingston, bound south, detained by small accidents. These cars should be detained in Atlanta till a sufficient number arrive, say five hundred in round numbers, to make everything perfectly safe and sure to clean up the entire road to Chattanooga. General Steedman should be directed to come with his troops and the balance of the stores immediately, bringing two hundred and fifty (250) cars. We propose that the whole five hundred (500) cars reach Atlanta before any trains be started back to Chattanooga. Our superintendent, Mr. Taylor, thinks he can work out your idea. Answer, if this meets your views, in order that there may be concert of action

L. C. EASTON, B. G., &c.
A. BECKWITH, *Colonel and C. S.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Kingston, Ga., November 6, 1864.

COMMANDING OFFICERS *of all the posts and stations :*

Beauregard with Hood's army is at Florence and Tuscumbia, a country already devastated and stripped of provisions. Forrest is opposite Johnsonville, on the Tennessee river, and has done considerable damage to gunboats and transports, but has captured no provisions, and, as that is but one of three of our lines of supply, the temporary interruption will not be felt. I want the preparations heretofore ordered for this army to go on with as much speed as possible, but the possibilities are, time will be allowed in our present camp for the complete payment of all our troops, the sending back the soldiers' money, and the presidential election of Tuesday next. Also attention must be paid to getting the conscripts to their proper companies and have them properly armed and clothed.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

[Cipher.]

NASHVILLE, *November 6, 1864—12.30 p. m.*

Major General SHERMAN:

I received from General Croxton this a. m., at 10 o'clock, despatches to effect that enemy had attacked him in strong force, and had driven him across Shoal creek, on p. m. 4th instant, compelling him to fall back to Four-Mile creek. The following telegram, just received from him, I forward for your information:

"FOUR-MILE CREEK, *November 6, 1864—12.30 p. m.*

"Major General SHERMAN:

"Enemy recrossed Shoal creek last night. I had scouts on road twelve miles above Florence at 8 p. m., and at that time no rebels had appeared at that point except two, who returned to Baugh's mills at sundown, reporting cavalry force there. General Hatch was at Sugar creek at 3 p. m. yesterday morning, moving to Lexington, to which point I sent him full despatches last night. Have not heard from him, but as soon as do, will advise that we move down and occupy line of Shoal creek. I doubt if enemy meditates immediate advance. Think their cavalry are operating elsewhere, and they are waiting for it. Prisoner who belongs to 3d Virginia regiment, who helped to build their bridge, reports that Hardee's corps crossed Tuesday, and that they have no other force this side. They had about a division at the fight yesterday."

"JNO. M. CROXTON,

"Brigadier General."

I forward also following, just received from General Schofield:

"JOHNSONVILLE, *November 6, 1864—7 p. m.*

"Major General THOMAS:

"Have just arrived here. Colonel Gallop's scouts have returned. Report only small cavalry force enemy this side river. There appears also only to be small force and no artillery opposite here. Think Colonel Gallop's brigade will be sufficient for this place, but will examine ground in morning and report definitely. Think it would be well to detain all troops at Nashville except those which belong to Colonel Gallop's brigade."

"J. M. SCHOFIELD,

"Major General."

I shall concentrate all General Schofield's troops at Pulaski, with exception of Colonel Gallop's brigade, which, for present, will leave at Johnsonville. General Wilson has just arrived here and arranged with me this evening, for a complete remount and thorough organizing of the cavalry. Think we shall have no further trouble with the cavalry excepting that attending getting horses to the front. Have just heard from General Granger at Decatur, who reports a reconnoissance from his post had just returned from within eight (8) miles of Courtland. Met eight hundred (800) enemy's cavalry, all Texas troops, at Fox's creek, drove them a mile beyond, but could obtain no information in addition to that heretofore reported. The outpost at Brown's ferry reports only few rebel cavalry on opposite shore, who made no attempt to cross. All of General Stanley's troops are now at Pulaski in position for enemy should he attempt to advance. The cavalry is well up to enemy's position, and will be able to give the earliest information of his movements north.

GEO. H. THOMAS,

Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Kingston, Ga., November 6, 1864.

DEAR GENERAL: I have heretofore telegraphed and written you pretty fully, but I still have some thoughts in my busy brain that should be confided to you as a key to future developments.

The taking of Atlanta broke upon Jeff. Davis so suddenly as to disturb the

equilibrium of his usually well-balanced temper, so that at Augusta, Macon, Montgomery, and Columbia, South Carolina, he let out some of his thoughts which otherwise he would have kept to himself. As he is not only the President of the southern confederacy, but also its commander-in-chief, we are bound to attach more importance to his words than we would to those of a mere civil chief magistrate.

The whole burden of his song consists in the statement that Sherman's communications *must* be broken and his army destroyed. Now, it is a well settled principle that if we can prevent his succeeding in his threat we defeat him, and derive all the moral advantages of a victory. Thus far Hood and Beauregard conjointly have utterly failed to interrupt my supplies or communications. My railroad and telegraph are now in good order from Atlanta back to the Ohio river. His losses in men at Allatoona, Resaca, Ship's Gap, and Decatur, exceed in number ours at the block-houses at Big Shanty, Allatoona creek, and Dalton; and the rapidity of his flight from Dalton to Gadsden takes from him all the merit or advantage claimed for his skilful and rapid lodgement on my railroad. The only question in my mind is, whether I ought not to have dogged him far over into Mississippi, trusting to some happy accident to bring him to bay and to battle; but I then thought that by so doing I would play into his hands, by being drawn or decoyed too far away from our original line of advance. Besides, I had left at Atlanta a corps and guards along the railroad back to Chattanooga, which might have fallen an easy prey to his superior cavalry. I felt compelled, therefore, to do what is usually a mistake in war—divide my forces—send a part back into Tennessee, retaining the balance here.

As I have before informed you, I sent Stanley back directly from Gaylesville and Schofield from Rome, both of whom have reached their destination; and thus far Hood, who has brought up at Florence, is further from my communications than when he started; and I have in Tennessee a force numerically greater than his, well commanded and well organized; so that I feel no uneasiness on the score of Hood reaching my main communications.

My last accounts from General Thomas, are to 9.30 last night, when Hood's army was about Florence in great distress about provisions, as it well must be, and that Devil Forrest was down about Johnsonville, making havoc among the gunboats and transports. But Schofield's troops were arriving at Johnsonville and a fleet of gunboats was reported coming up from below, able to repair that trouble. You know that that line of supplies was only opened for summer's use, when the Cumberland is not to be depended upon. We now have abundant supplies at Atlanta, Chattanooga, and Nashville, with the Louisville and Nashville railroad and the Cumberland river unmolested; so that I regard Davis's threat to get his army on my rear, or on my communications, as a miserable failure.

Now, as to the second branch of my proposition: I admit that the first object should be the destruction of that army; and if Beauregard moves his infantry and artillery up into the pocket about Jackson and Paris, I will feel strongly tempted to move Thomas directly against him, and myself move rapidly by Decatur and Purdy, to cut off his retreat. But this would involve the abandonment of Atlanta, and a retrograde movement which would be very doubtful of expediency or success; for, as a matter of course, Beauregard, who watched me with his cavalry and his friendly citizens, would have timely notice, and would slip out and escape, to regain what we have earned at so much cost. I am more than satisfied that Beauregard has not the nerve to attack fortifications, or to meet me in open battle; and it would be a great achievement for him to make me abandoned Atlanta by mere threats and manœuvres.

These are the reasons which have determined my former movements.

I have employed the last ten (10) days in running to the rear the sick and wounded and worthless, and all the vast amount of stores accumulated by

our army in the advance—aiming to organize this branch of my army into four well-commanded corps, encumbered by only one (1) gun to a thousand men, and provisions and ammunition which can be loaded up in our mule wagons, so that we can pick up and start on the shortest notice. I reckon that by the 10th instant this end will be reached, and by that date I also will have the troops all paid; the presidential election over and out of our way; and I hope the early storms of November, now prevailing, will also give us the chance of a long period of fine healthy weather for campaigning. Then the question presents itself: "What shall be done?" On the supposition, always, that Thomas can hold the line of the Tennessee, and very shortly be able to assume the offensive, as against Beauregard, I propose to act in such manner against the material resources of the south as utterly to negate Davis's boasted threat and promises of protection. If we can march a well-appointed army right through his territory, it is a demonstration to the world—foreign and domestic—that we have a power which Davis cannot resist. This may not be war, but rather statesmanship; nevertheless, it is overwhelming to my mind that there are thousands of people abroad and in the south who will reason thus: If the north can march an army right through the south, it is proof positive that the north can prevail in this contest, leaving only open the question of its willingness to use that power. Now, Mr. Lincoln's election, (which is assured,) coupled with the conclusion thus reached, makes a complete logical whole. Even without a battle, the results, operating upon the minds of sensible men, would produce fruits more than compensating for the expense, trouble, and risk.

Admitting this reasoning to be good, that such a movement *per se* be right, still there may be reasons why one route would be better than another. There are three from Atlanta—southeast, south, and southwest—all open, with no serious enemy to oppose at present.

The first would carry me across the only east and west railroad remaining to the confederacy, which would be destroyed, and thereby the communications between the armies of Lee and Beauregard severed. Incidentally, I might destroy the enemy's depots at Macon and Augusta, and reach the sea-shore at Charleston, or Savannah; from either of which points I could re-enforce our armies in Virginia.

The second and easiest route would be due south, following, substantially, the valley of Flint river, which is very fertile and well supplied, and fetching up on the navigable waters of the Appalachicola, destroying *en route* the same railroad, taking up the prisoners of war still at Andersonville, and destroying about four hundred thousand (400,000) bales of cotton near Albany and Fort Gaines. This, however, would leave the army in a bad position for future movements.

The third, down the Chattahoochee to Opelika and Montgomery, thence to Pensacola or Tensas bayou, in communication with Fort Morgan. This latter route would enable me at once to co-operate with General Canby in the reduction of Mobile, and occupation of the line of the Alabama.

In my judgment, the first would have a material effect upon your campaign in Virginia; the second would be the safest of execution; but the third would more properly fall within the sphere of my own command, and have a direct bearing upon my own enemy, "Beauregard." If, therefore, I should start before I hear further from you, or before further developments turn my course, you may take it for granted that I have moved *via* Griffin to Barnsville; that I break up the road between Columbus and Macon *good*, and then, if I feign on Columbus, will move *via* Macon and Millen to Savannah, or if I feign on Macon you may take it for granted I have shot off towards Opelika, Montgomery, and Mobile bay or Pensacola.

I will not attempt to send couriers back, but trust to the Richmond papers to

keep you well advised. I will give you notice by telegraph of the exact time of my departure.

General Steedman is here to clear the railroad back to Chattanooga, and I will see that the road is broken completely between the Etowah and the Chat-tahoochee, including their bridges, and that Atlanta itself is utterly destroyed.

I am, with respect,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Lieut. General U. S. GRANT,

Commander-in-Chief, City Point, Virginia.

[Cipher.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Kingston, Ga., November 7, 1864.

Major General HALLECK, *Washington, D. C. :*

By the 10th the election will be over, the troops all paid, and all our surplus property will be back to Chattanooga. On that day or the following, if affairs should remain as now in Tennessee, I propose to begin the movement which I have hitherto fully described.

I can hear of no large force to our front, and, according to General Thomas, Hood remains about Tuscumbia, and he feels perfectly confident of his ability to take care of him.

You can safely communicate with me for the next three (3) days.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Kingston, Ga., November 7, 1864.

Major General G. H. THOMAS, *Nashville, Tennessee :*

Your despatch of to-day just received. I think Beauregard is checkmated. I will be all ready by the 10th, but will give you more positive notice in a day or two. Glad that A. J. Smith is heard from. All men belonging to his two divisions that are not in hospital you will order in my name from Memphis. I would like to know, if possible, if Hood's whole army is at Tuscumbia, or has gone towards Corinth.

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Kingston, Ga., November 8, 1864.

COMMANDING OFFICERS of all posts :

This is the rain I have been waiting for, and as soon as it is over we will be off.

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Kingston, Ga., November 8, 1864.

Major General H. W. HALLECK, *Washington, D. C. :*

Despatch of to-day received. All my preparations will be completed by the 10th. It is now raining, which is favorable, as the chances are, after it clears away, we will have a long spell of fine weather for marching. General Thomas

has been instructed to assume the offensive as soon as possible, and I will send him a copy of your despatch, that he may know of the contemplated movement on the river by Hurlbut.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

CITY POINT, *Virginia*, 10½ p. m., 7th.

Major General SHERMAN :

Your despatch of this evening received. I see no present reason for changing your plan ; should any arise you will see it ; or if I do, I will inform you. I think everything here favorable now.

Great good fortune attend you. I believe you will be eminently successful, and at worst can only make a march less fruitful of results than hoped for.

U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

In the field, Kingston, Ga., November 8, 1864.

TYLER, *Louisville, Kentucky :*

Despatch me to-morrow night and the next night a summary of all news, especially of elections, that I may report them to Governor Brown, at Milledgeville, where I expect a friendly interview in a few days.

Keep this very secret, for the world will lose sight of me shortly, and you will hear worse stories than when I went to Meridian. Jeff. Davis's thirty (30) days are up for wiping us out, and we are not wiped out yet by a good deal. Ewing reached here to-day. All well.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

[Cipher.]

NASHVILLE, *November 9, 1864—9 p. m.*

Major General SHERMAN :

Your two despatches of 6 p. m., 8 and 9 a. m., to-day, are received. General Croxton, from Four-Mile creek, reports yesterday, 8 p. m., that river has risen more than two feet on shoals, enough to make six (6) feet below them. A scout from over the river reports the bulk of Hood's army still on that side ; and have also a report from General Granger, who says Elk river is still up, and that two couriers crossed in skiff last evening, who communicated with Rogersville. General Croxton still holds east bank of Shoal creek, but enemy have a heavy force on west bank, supposed to be one corps. The enemy is reported to have one at Florence, and one corps on south side of the river opposite Florence. It is also reported that Roddy has gone to Corinth. The contradictory nature of these reports indicate, plainly, however, that the entire infantry force of the enemy is in and about Florence and Tuscumbia. General Hatch reports yesterday from Taylor's Spring, Alabama, that he intended attacking enemy this morning along the entire line, to ascertain where the enemy is and the position he holds. Your despatch for Lieutenant General Grant, City Point, marked immediately and important, will go forward by special messenger by first train in the morning.

GEO. H. THOMAS,
Major General.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Kingston, Ga., November 10, 1864.

Brigadier General JOHN M. CORSE, *Rome, Georgia :*

In the execution of sealed orders No. 115, you will destroy to-night all public property not needed by your command, all foundries, mills, work-shops, warehouses, railroad depots, and other storehouses convenient to the railroad, together with all wagon shops, tanneries or other factories useful to our enemy. Destroy the bridges completely, and then move your command to-morrow to Kingston and beyond, passing General Davis's command, after which proceed by easy marches till you overtake your corps and report to its commander.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Kingston, Ga., November 10, 1864.

C. A. DANA, *Assistant Secretary of War, Washington :*

If indiscreet newspaper men publish information too near the truth, counteract its effect by publishing other paragraphs calculated to mislead the enemy—such as Sherman's army has been much re-enforced, especially in the cavalry, and he will soon move in several columns in a circuit so as to catch Hood's army. Sherman's destination is not Charleston, but Selma, where he will meet an army from the Gulf, &c., &c.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Kingston, Ga., November 10, 1864.

General THOMAS, *Nashville :*

Your despatch of 5 p. m. is received. All will be ready to start from here the day after to-morrow. Keep me well advised. I think you will find Hood marching off, and you should be ready to follow him. Decatur, Tuscaloosa, Columbus and Selma are all good points to forage and feed an army. Let me keep Beauregard busy, and the people of the south will realize his inability to protect them.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Kingston, Ga., November 11, 1864.

Major General H. W. HALLECK,

Headquarters United States Army, Washington, D. C. :

My arrangements are now all complete, and the railroad cars are being sent to the rear. Last night we burned all foundries, mills, and shops of every kind in Rome, and to-morrow I leave Kingston, with the rear guard, for Atlanta, which I propose to dispose of in a similar manner, and to start on the 16th on the projected grand raid. All appearances still indicate that Beauregard has got back to his old hole at Corinth, and I hope he will enjoy it. My army prefers to enjoy the fresh sweet potato fields of the Ocmulgee. I have balanced all the figures well, and am satisfied that General Thomas has in Tennessee a force sufficient for all probabilities, and I have urged him, the moment Beaure-

gard turns south, to cross the Tennessee at Decatur and push straight for Selma. To-morrow our wires will be broken, and this is probably my last despatch. I would like to have Foster to break the Savannah and Charleston road about Pocotaligo about the 1st of December. All other preparations are to my entire satisfaction.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

MARIETTA, November 11, 1864.

Captain L. M. DAYTON, *Aide-de-Camp*:

Four deserters came in this morning; left Montgomery on 2d; came to Opelika on cars; left that place on 4th; passed Carrollton on 9th. Hood was at Corinth. All convalescent soldiers now being sent to that point. Some infantry and fifteen hundred (1,500) cavalry at Opelika. Three brigades of cavalry at Carrollton, and five regiments at Villa Rica. Small force at West Point and Newnan. Cars run to Newnan. No information regarding Atlanta and Macon railroad. Citizens from Carrollton, and other points in that direction, think we are retreating from Atlanta.

J. KILPATRICK,
Brigadier General.

ATLANTA, November 11, 1864.

Major General SHERMAN:

The army of Tennessee have obtained and have got in their wagons all they can haul and all they want. Same of 20th army corps. There is great plenty of salt, coffee, salt meat, pepper and soap here. The 14th army corps may want a little more bread, and, perhaps, a little more sugar. I have about one hundred thousand (100,000) rations bread for 14th army corps; twenty-two thousand (22,000) rations sugar. I do not know how much General Davis may have on hand, but presume he has two hundred thousand (200,000) rations of bread. Everything is loaded in Atlanta save what is held for the 14th army corps. There are at least one million two hundred thousand (1,200,000) rations of the principal rations in hands of troops and available.

A. BECKWITH, *Colonel, &c.*

ATLANTA, GA., November 11, 1864.

Major General SHERMAN:

With what the army now has in its (provision) wagons, what is between here and Kingston, and what I have here in store, I think I can make out five (5) days' grain, commencing with to-morrow.

L. C. EASTON, *Chief Quartermaster.*

[Cipher.]

NASHVILLE, November 11, 1864—9 p. m.

Major General SHERMAN:

Following from Granger received to-day. It confirms previously reported position of the enemy:

DECATUR, 11th—10 a. m.

Two men from tenth Tennessee, made prisoners at Florence, escaped Saturday night from the rebels. They confirm report of two corps having crossed. One corps still on south bank.

They assert that enemy are still very badly off for clothing, many being barefoot, but they are expecting clothing by train. They say railroad is not completed to Tuscumbia, but only to Cherokee, fifteen (15) miles from there. They have train of wagons from Cherokee, and one pontoon bridge at the foot of the island above old railroad bridge. They say enemy are fortifying. Talk in their camps is, they are going to advance on Nashville.

R. S. GRANGER, *Brigadier General*.

Stanley from Pulaski reports nothing new. Water still very high. It is hoped the rise would carry off the enemy's bridge. They say it is trestled at both ends, with pontoons in the middle. Deserters say Georgia troops are disgusted and are deserting. Received despatch from General Washburne to-day, dated Memphis, 8th. He says advices from Corinth that but few troops there then; that cavalry had brought up a lot of conscripts, absentees from Hood's army, who went towards Tuscumbia. Also reports enemy repairing road from Cherokee to Tuscumbia. About 29th ultimo four thousand (4,000) rebel soldiers came down Blue Mountain railroad to Selma, and were sent to Hood by the way of Meridian and Corinth; also, ten (10) car-loads ammunition from Selma. The impression is that Beauregard intends to make Corinth his base, supplies being sent up constantly on the Mobile and Ohio railroad. He was to send out cavalry reconnoissance 9th, but says his force not strong enough to threaten Mobile and Ohio railroad much. Have not heard from General A. J. Smith's troops since last report, but daily expecting him here. No reports from Hatch or Croxton to-day. Rear-Admiral Lee informs me he is pushing to put one iron-clad on Tennessee river, one on Cumberland, with a third convenient to be placed on either, according to necessity of the case.

GEO. H. THOMAS,

Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Kingston, Ga., November 11, 1864

Major General THOMAS, *Nashville, Tennessee:*

Despatch of to-night received. All right. I can hardly believe Beauregard would attempt to work against Nashville from Corinth as a base at this stage of the war, but all information seems to point that way. If he does, you will whip him out of his boots. But I rather think you will find commotion in his camp in a day or two. Last night we burned Rome, and in two more days will burn Atlanta, and he must discover that I am not retreating, but, on the contrary, fighting for the very heart of Georgia. About a division of rebel cavalry made its appearance this morning south of the Coosa river, opposite Rome, and fired on the rear guard as it withdrew. Also, two days ago some of Iverson's cavalry, about eight hundred, (800,) approached Atlanta from the direction of Decatur with a section of guns and swept round towards Whitehall, and disappeared in the direction of Rough and Ready. These also seem to indicate that Beauregard expected us to retreat. I hear of about fifteen hundred (1,500) infantry down at Carrollton, and also some infantry at Jonesboro,' but what numbers I cannot estimate. These are all the enemy I know to be in this neighborhood, though a rumor is that Breckinridge has arrived with some from West Virginia. To-morrow I begin the movement laid down in my Special Field Order 115, and shall keep things moving thereafter. By to-morrow morning all trains will be at or north of Kingston, and you can have the exclusive use of all the rolling stock. By using detachments of recruits and dismounted cavalry in your fortifications, you will have Schofield, and Stanley, and A. J. Smith, strengthened by eight or ten new regiments, and all of Wilson's cavalry, you could safely invite Beauregard across the Tennessee, and prevent his ever returning. I still believe, however, that the public clamor will force him to

turn and follow me, in which event you should cross at Decatur and move directly towards Selma as far as you can transport supplies. The probabilities are, the wires will be broken to-morrow, and that all communication will cease between us; but I have directed the main wire to be left, and will use it if possible, and wish you to do the same. You may act, however, on the certainty that I sally from Atlanta on the 16th with about sixty thousand (60,000) men, well provisioned, but expecting to live liberally on the country.

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Kingston, November 12, 1864.

General HOWARD, *Smyrna*:

I start this morning. As soon as all the trains have passed north you may begin the work on the railroad. I want your army across the Chattahoochee on the third day. J. E. Smith and Corse are marching to-day. Davis will leave here in a few hours.

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Kingston, November 12, 1864.

General STEEDMAN, *Chattanooga*:

I start this morning. All the trains are here, and will be despatched north. As soon as the last one has passed Adairsville, draw in the garrisons and begin the work prescribed in order one hundred and fifteen (115.) Telegraph me to-night at Allatoona all information, and keep General Thomas well advised of your actions.

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General.

[Cipher.]

NASHVILLE, November 12, 1864—8.30 a. m.

Major General SHERMAN:

Your despatch of 12 o'clock last night received. I have no fears that Beauregard can do us any harm now, and if he attempts to follow you I will follow him as far as possible. If he does not follow you, I will then thoroughly organize my troops, and, I believe, shall have men enough to ruin him unless he gets out of the way very rapidly. The country of middle Alabama, I learn, is teeming with supplies this year, which will be greatly to our advantage. I have no additional news to report from the direction of Florence. I am now convinced that the greater part of Beauregard's army is near Florence and Tusculumbia, and that you will at least have a clear road before you for several days, and that your success will fully equal your expectations.

GEORGE H. THOMAS,

Major General.

(This was the last despatch received before cutting communications and starting for Savannah.)

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Cartersville, November 12, 1864.

Major General THOMAS, *Nashville* :

Despatch received. All right.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

(Here wires were cut and all communication ceased.)

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Atlanta, Ga., November 15, 1864.

GENERAL: The general-in-chief directs me to say that, upon your arrival at Madison, he desires that you will, if it can be done without too much delay, send eastward to the Oconee river and destroy the railroad bridge. By looking at the map you will see that a force sufficient to do this work can be sent from Madison, and afterwards join you further on. It is important the bridge should be destroyed.

I am, general, respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. M. DAYTON, *Aide-de-Camp.*

Major General SLOCUM,
Commanding Left Wing, &c.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, near Yellow River, Ga., November 18, 1864.

Despatch received. All is well with this column, which will be to-night on the east side of the Ulofauhachee, and to-morrow will take the Milledgeville road, leaving you the Eatonton road. Don't be in a hurry, but break up that railroad as far as the Oconee, in the most thorough manner, so that every rail will be disabled; better do that work well now when there is no opposition and you will have to give it your personal attention, else it will be slighted by your officers; impress on them its great importance, and that if done well now, it will not have to be done over at some future time under less favorable circumstances. I had every man of Davis's command at work yesterday all day and into the night, and yet they slighted some of their work, but I will set them at work again to-day between the Yellow and Alcovy (Ulofauhachee) rivers, about Covington. Our own experience shows how easily roads may be relaid if we have iron; therefore I want each bar of iron actually twisted either around a tree or with one of the hooks.

One division will be amply sufficient to go down to the bridge on Oconee. If you reach Eatonton by Monday it will be early enough. Keep your men fresh, and devour large quantities of potatoes and corn along the route.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

Major General SLOCUM,
Commanding Left Wing, &c.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Cobb's Plantation, November 22, 1864.

GENERAL: I am directed by the general-in-chief to write you as follows: The march of this wing has been since leaving Atlanta in two columns, and

very successful up to this time. The 14th corps is now on the Hillsboro' road, ten (10) miles west of Milledgeville, and the 20th corps must now be in the capital, having marched by the Eatonton road. The Georgia railroad, from and including the Oconee bridge, west to Lithonia, is well destroyed. Troops in fine condition, having fed high on sweet potatoes and poultry. Stock is also doing well, though the roads have been very heavy. The general desires you will report to him at Milledgeville to-morrow, (where he will go early,) in detail, your operations since leaving Atlanta, and also the position of your command in view of his making further orders. In the mean time you cannot do too much permanent damage to that railroad east of Macon and about Gordon.

You will also notify General Kilpatrick a similar report is desired of him.

I am, general, respectfully yours, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON, *Aide-de-Camp.*

General HOWARD,

Commanding Army of the Tennessee.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Milledgeville, Ga., November 23, 1864.

Major General HOWARD,

Commanding Army of the Tennessee :

By instructions of the general-in-chief, I give you the following directions : continue to destroy the railroad eastward to the Oconee in the most complete and thorough manner, burning and twisting every rail, and the same for a distance to the west towards Macon ; also destroy the Oconee bridge. You may lay your pontoon over the Oconee, but do not cross any of your command until further orders. Hardee has probably swung around via Albany for Savannah, which the general says is all right, and he don't care particularly. Kilpatrick will be moved here or in this vicinity for the present. The probability is, we will concentrate at or near Sandersville. Prosecute the railroad destruction in the most thorough manner and communicate with the general-in-chief frequently.

I am, general, respectfully yours, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON, *Aide-de-Camp.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Tennille Station, Ga., November 27, 1864—10.15 a. m.

GENERAL : The general commanding is now at this point and has put in motion two (2) divisions of the 14th corps without wagons from Sandersville, by Fenn's bridge, to Louisville. The 20th corps with all the trains of the left wing will move to Louisville by the road passing through Davisboro'. He wishes you to move your two corps eastward on the two roads, starting from Irwin's Cross-roads, as follows : the right column crossing Ochoopee river, straight for Johnson's ; thence along the main Savannah road to the first point where it intersects the road from Swainsboro', through Canoochee, Bark Camp, and Rocky Creek church, to Waynesboro'. At that point the commanding officer should have instructions to turn towards Station No. 9, in the absence of other orders. The left column to take the road from Irwin's Cross-roads direct towards Louisville until it intersects the road from Sandersville, next south of the railroad and south of Williamson's Swamp creek until abreast of Station No. 10, (or Sebastopol,) where it is probable we will cross the Ogeechee. The general proposes to attend this latter column himself.

Please renew your instructions to the detail breaking up the railroad from

Oconee to Tennille not to be in too great a hurry, but to do their work well. From this point it can join its proper corps on either of the above named routes. The general finds it difficult to get information of roads, but those described exist on all our maps.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY HITCHCOCK,

Major and Assistant Adjutant General.

Major General O. O. HOWARD,

Commanding Army of the Tennessee.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Ga., Station 9½, November 30, 1864—3 p. m.

Major General SLOCUM, *Commanding Left Wing, &c. :*

Your despatch of 7 p. m., 29th, just received, and the general-in-chief directs that you move your whole command by all practicable roads in the direction of Millen, keeping well to the north in the neighborhood of Bark Camp, Birdsville and Buck Head church, making a lodgement on the railroad north of Millen, destroying a section of track in the direction of Augusta, and turning on Millen in case you hear the sounds of battle.

We are at station 9½, marked Burton on our maps, and will finish the railroad up to Millen.

As we are a day ahead, you will have to march pretty briskly.

L. M. DAYTON, *Aide-de-Camp.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Station 9, Georgia, December 1, 1864.

GENERAL: Yours of this date from opposite No. 8 is at hand, which I acknowledge by direction of the general-in-chief.

He has read your order to General Blair, and says "all right." He does not wish you to move to-morrow further than abreast of No. 7.

General Slocum is now abreast of us here, and to-morrow will reach the vicinity of Buck Head church, where there will be some delay to us, while Slocum is swinging around, and you may calculate on staying at No. 7 a day or two for us to get up even. At present Wheeler is very active, and Kilpatrick is operating in connexion with General Slocum. You will make disposition to cross at No. 7, but whether it will be necessary to do so will depend on the dispositions of the enemy.

I am, general, yours, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON, *Aide-de-Camp.*

Major General HOWARD,

Commanding Army of the Tennessee.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Station 9, December 1, 1864.

GENERAL: Your despatch of 12 m. yesterday just received, and Captain Audenreid has also returned. Your operations have been entirely satisfactory to the general-in-chief. He wishes you to move on the flank of the left wing, holding your command well in hand for further work, but always giving the enemy all he wants when he offers you battle. As regards retaliation, you must

be very careful as to the correctness of any information you may receive about the enemy murdering or mutilating our men. You may keep the prisoners you have or turn any portion of them over to General Slocum's infantry to guard, and keep such as you may wish to retain for your own object. You may communicate with Wheeler by flag of truce, and notify him of the conduct of his command toward our men; and that you shall retaliate, which you may do until you feel satisfied. When our men are found and you are fully convinced the enemy have killed them after surrender in fair battle, or have mutilated their bodies after having been killed in fair battle, you may hang and mutilate man for man without regard to rank.

I am, general, respectfully yours, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON, *Aide-de-Camp.*

Brig. Gen. J. KILPATRICK,
Commanding Cavalry Division.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, near Millen, Ga., December 2, 1864.

GENERAL: The general-in-chief has made camp near the mouth of Buck Head creek and the troops are passing over into Millen. He wishes you tomorrow to make a good break of the railroad from Millen towards Augusta, to the right and left of the points crossed by the 14th and 20th corps, after which to move out and continue the march toward Savannah by two roads, leaving the one along the railroad for General Blair. The two roads indicated on our maps, the one passing near Millen and Hunters mills, and the other sweeping around by Sharpe's and Buck Creek post office, will answer; but if one can be found leading from the upper road through Sylvania towards Halley's ferry, on the Savannah river, it would answer our purpose better for your left corps. General Kilpatrick will be instructed to confer with you and cover your rear. Dress to the right on the 17th corps, whose progress you can rate by the smoke. General Blair will continue to burn the railroad as he marches, as far as Ogeechee church. The general wishes all the heads of columns to be on the road leading from Millroy to Halley's ferry on the fourth day, including to-morrow.

Communicate as often as possible with him; but failing to hear from him, always act in concert with General Blair's column, which alone is expected to meet opposition. General Howard, with the 15th corps, will continue on the south bank of the Ogeechee, ready to turn any position of the enemy in case he offer opposition to our progress.

I am, general, very respectfully, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON, *Aide-de-Camp.*

Major General H. W. SLOCUM,
Commanding Right Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, near Millen, Ga., December 2, 1864.

GENERAL: The army will move on Savannah, delaying only to continue the destruction of the railroad from Millen as far as Ogeechee church. General Howard will continue to move along the south bank of the Ogeechee, General Blair along the railroad, and General Slocum by the two roads lying north of the railroad, between it and the Savannah river. The general wishes you to confer with General Slocum, to make a strong feint up in the direction of

Waynesboro, and then to cover his rear from molestation by dashes of cavalry. I send you copies of two letters from members of Wheeler's staff, which will interest you; after reading, please return them for file in this office.

I am, general, respectfully yours, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON, *Aide-de-Camp.*

General KILPATRICK,

Commanding Cavalry Division.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, near Millen, Ga., December 2, 1864.

GENERAL: The next movement will be on Savannah; your two corps moving along down the Ogeechee; General Blair to destroy the railroad as far as Ogeechee church; and the 15th corps keeping on the south and west bank, ready to cross over in case of opposition to General Blair; otherwise it will not cross until near Eden No. 2. General Slocum will take the two roads north of the railroad and between it and the Savannah river. As he will have to make a wide detour, we must allow him until the fourth day to reach the road from Millroy to Halley's ferry, on the Savannah river; this will make slow marching for you, but, as a general rule, the rear of the 15th corps should be about abreast of General Blair's head of column. The general has a Savannah paper of yesterday, from which he notices the enemy still remain in doubt as to our intentions, being divided between Macon, Augusta, and Savannah; and also that an expedition of gunboats has passed up the Broad river toward Coosawahatchee.

If at any time during your progress you judge it feasible, you might dispatch a small, bold party of scouts down towards Hinesville to burn some culverts, and tear up some track, and cut the telegraph wires in several places on the Savannah and Gulf railroad, over which the city of Savannah is now chiefly supplied. The fewer the men, and the sooner such a party start, the better. The country is very sparsely settled, and very favorable for such an expedition.

I am, general, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON, *Aid-de-Camp.*

Major General O. O. HOWARD,

Commanding Army of the Tennessee.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, No. 5½, C. R. R., December 4, 1864—¾ p. m.

GENERAL: Your note of 10 a. m. has been received. The day has been so good that General Blair has got to the point on our map indicated by the intersection of the main road with that leading through Sylvania, Hunter's Mills, and Paris Academy, viz: four (4) miles west of Halcyon Dale. He keeps three brigades breaking railroad abreast of him. His advance, on arrival here, was fired on, but by parties who took good care to fire at long range and take to their heels. My judgment is, that if any opposition is made to us this side of Savannah, it will occur near Ogeechee church; but Howard's movement south of Ogeechee, by Millroy, will turn that position.

You have nothing to apprehend on your front, but should look to your rear, especially on General Davis's flank, until you get in the neck between Ogeechee church and Halley's ferry. I want you to report to me frequently, but, in the absence of orders, to move your entire wing, with Kilpatrick's cavalry, in the direction of Springfield and Monteith, getting your left flank on the

Savannah and Charleston railroad about Saint Augustine creek. General Blair will continue to move along the railroad, and the 15th corps will continue on the west side of the Ogeechee until abreast of Eden No. 2.

We continue to find abundance of forage, and all our animals are in first-rate condition. Nevertheless, I want to impress upon all the importance of filling all empty wagons; for it may be to our interest to act rapidly, without waiting to draw supplies from our new base.

If our marching on this flank is too fast for you, please notify me, and I will check it, as I am aware you are moving on a large circle.

We heard the firing to-day which you report, which, from its rate of fire, I inferred to be from Kilpatrick, who is fond of using artillery.

I do not know that I reported to you that at Millen we got a despatch that Bragg proposed to follow us with ten thousand (10,000) men from Augusta. If we can draw him down towards Savannah, we can turn on him and send him off at a tangent.

I am, general, &c.

W. T. SHERMAN.

Major General.

Major General SLOCUM, *Commanding Left Wing, &c.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Ogeechee Church, Ga., December 5, 1864.

GENERAL: Since sending the messenger to you this morning, General Blair has entered this place almost unopposed. Some field-works are fresh, and, so far as I have examined, would be such as would be thrown up by five thousand (5,000) inexperienced hands.

General Slocum reports he will be to-night at the point where his road next north of this intersects the one from here to Poor Robin; but he has not heard from Generals Davis and Kilpatrick since he heard their firing yesterday morning. Davis has orders to move from the point where he separated from Slocum, viz: Buckhead church to Halley's ferry, abreast of this on the Savannah, *via* Sylvania. I have sent a courier to General Slocum to communicate with Davis at once, and report to me at what moment he will be ready to move on.

You will observe that with Davis at Halley's, we threaten South Carolina, and to that extent will confuse our enemy; but I will not lose a moment, only we must move in concert, or else will get lost. You may make all the dispositions to cross at No. 3, but the point No. 2 is the true one, unless modified by local geography.

I will disturb the railroad but little south of this, as we may have use for it out this far; still, Blair can burn the bridges and culverts, and burn enough barns to mark the progress of his head of column. I don't want him to start until I know Davis is abreast.

Yours, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Major General HOWARD,

Commanding Army of the Tennessee.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, No. 4½ Ogeechee Church, December 6, 1864.

GENERAL: Your report of December 5 has been received, and gives the general-in-chief great satisfaction. He begs you to convey to your command his thanks for their gallant and valuable services in driving the enemy in con-

fusion beyond Brier creek, and in destroying those bridges so useful to the enemy.

At your suggestion he has ordered each army corps commander to select from his command one hundred cavalry horses, with a sufficient number of negroes to lead them, and to conduct them for your use to General Slocum's column, which is now on the middle Savannah road where it crosses the Statesboro' and Halley's ferry road. A copy of that order is enclosed, and you can adopt your own course to secure them. You may always rely upon the general for cavalry horses, as, in order to keep you well mounted, he will dismount every person connected with the infantry not necessary for its efficient service, and take team horses, even if the wagons and contents have to be burned.

On this flank matters have moved smoothly, and as we are a good distance in advance, are lying by for General Davis and yourself to get up abreast. General Howard is now near Brannan's store, west of the Ogeechee, abreast of Springfield. General Blair is here at Ogeechee church, where McLaws, with about five thousand (5,000) men, had prepared quite an extensive line of intrenchments; but Howard's movement outflanked him and he quit without a fight, and is now supposed to be at Eden No. 2. General Slocum is about six miles north of Ogeechee church, waiting for General Davis to get up abreast on the Halley's Ferry road. As soon as all are up we will move on Savannah by the four main roads from Brannan's store, Ogeechee church, Springfield, and the Savannah river road. As Wheeler is disposed of, you might, for the sake of forage, divide your command, coming together say about Monteith. We find a great deal of forage, but presume our infantry trains consume it all; still they do not seem to know that rice in the straw, fed in moderation, is most excellent forage; and you can take advantage of it, as you will find an abundance along the Savannah and Ogeechee rivers. As you come down, make a good deal of smoke and fuss about Halley's (now Hutchinson's) ferry and Sister's ferry, as though threatening to cross into South Carolina; and should Ebenezer creek be up, send word to General Davis to leave his brigade down until you are across.

No news from the outside world of any interest, but the fleet is known to be watching for us, as the citizens report it sending up rockets every night.

I am, general, with much regard,

L. M. DAYTON, *Aide-de-Camp.*

General KILPATRICK,

Commanding Cavalry.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Ogeechee Church, December 6, 1864—3½ p. m.

GENERAL: Your despatch of 1.30 p. m. is just received, as also yours of 7 a. m., which was answered. The general is pleased at the progress of General Davis, but not knowing where he was, it compelled the halting of this column here to close up. To-morrow the general-in-chief expects General Howard to be at Eden No. 2. General Blair at Guyton, and if General Davis's head of column reaches Ebenezer, and can lay a bridge over that creek, it will answer. He wishes you not to pass Springfield, but from there to communicate with him at Guyton; but in the absence of orders the movement for the day following should be such as to place General Davis at or in advance of St. Augustine creek; and the column you are with, at or near Monteith. General Blair will be at Eden No. 2, and Howard will cross the river (Ogeechee.)

I am, general, yours respectfully,

L. M. DAYTON, *Aide-de-Camp.*

Major General H. W. SLOCUM,

Commanding Left Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Ogeechee Church, December 6, 1864—3.45 p. m.

GENERAL: Your despatch of to-day is just received. Reports from General Slocum and General Kilpatrick have also been received; the former will camp to-night on Turkey creek, in advance of this column, with his command well closed up. The latter attacked Wheeler near Thomas's station, and drove him through Waynesboro' and across Brier creek in confusion, killing and wounding a number, and capturing a hundred of his men; he also burned all the bridges on Brier creek, including (for good) the railroad bridge. To-morrow the entire army will move, General Slocum's left corps reaching Ebenezer, himself Springfield, and the 17th corps Guyton. The general-in-chief desires you in conjunction to reach Eden, opposite No. 2, and while General Blair threatens No. 2 by moving on No. 3, (Guyton,) to effect a crossing at or below No. 2.

I am, general, yours with regard,

L. M. DAYTON, *Aide-de-Camp.*

Major General HOWARD,
Commanding Army of the Tennessee.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, 2½ miles from No. 3, December 7, 1864.

GENERAL: Owing to the rain General Blair did not reach Guyton to-day, but is at the point about two and a half (2½) miles northwest of Guyton. The bridge over the small stream, without name, is burned, and some obstructions there are now being removed, so that early in the morning his column will move right forward on the road which passes about two (2) miles west of Guyton, and about the same distance east of Eden, where your road and ours come together. It will be well if you can find a road passing from Springfield to Monteith and Pooler's, and General Davis should be instructed to reach St. Augustine and the vicinity of Cherokee Hill. We must first secure the road indicated from Cherokee Hill to Silk Hope and Litchfield. We hear that the enemy is fortifying in a semicircle around Savannah and about four miles from it.

I am, general, respectfully yours,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Major General SLOCUM,
Commanding Left Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, December 8, 1864—7 p. m.

GENERAL: We are at a point on the road from Millen to Savannah, about two (2) miles north of No. 2, called Mount Zion church.

General Slocum is but a short distance from us, and will move, to-morrow, on a road which branches off from this road and comes into the Augusta road ten (10) miles north of Savannah, where he will effect a junction with General Davis, destroy that railroad, drive the enemy within his intrenchments, and then work to the right and form a junction with us on this road as near Savannah as we may get. General Blair will move on this road by Pooler's, and so on until we drive the enemy within the intrenchments of Savannah, wherever they may be.

The general wishes you to get down in the neighborhood of Beverly, Silk Hope, or Litchfield, so as to advance in the direction of the plank road until we

come together or communicate by the road which leads from Silk Hope to Cherokee Hill. He aims to push the enemy far enough into Savannah to have the use of the shell road as a route of supply. If you can possibly do so, he wishes you to send a note by a canoe down the Ogeechee, pass the railroad bridge in the night, and inform the naval commander that we have arrived in fine condition, and are moving directly against Savannah, but for the present do not risk giving any details.

I am, general, with respect, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON, *Aide-de-Camp.*

Major General HOWARD,

Commanding Army of the Tennessee.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Pooler's No. 1, December 9, 1864.

GENERAL: Your despatch from the canal bridge just received. The 17th corps moved at the usual hour to-day and found the enemy defending the position covered by the swamp, about fifteen miles from Savannah. There was some skirmish fighting and use of artillery on both sides, but General Mower, who was in advance, handsomely drove the enemy from his positions and works, and we reached this point in good season.

The 17th corps will move as usual to-morrow morning, and will proceed until it reaches the main line of the enemy's works, supposed to be about four (4) miles from Savannah, when it will work to the right and connect with you. The general-in-chief desires you to move on the direct road on Savannah as usual, making progress until the enemy's main line is developed. He also wishes you to communicate with the fleet if possible. General Kilpatrick's command is divided, covering this and General Davis's column, and reports positively that Wheeler is on the east side of the Savannah river.

If the Mr. Cuyler you have as a prisoner be R. R. Cuyler, brother of Surgeon Cuyler of the old army, or his son George, the general-in-chief wishes you to send him to us when practicable, and in the mean time treat him as well as possible. Present the general's best wishes to Mr. King, and say he regrets Brown had not the good sense to follow his advice.

The general thinks best for you to leave a brigade at the bridge at Fort Aigyle, to hold and guard it, as we may need it. We have not heard from General Slocum direct, but the sound of his guns would place him at Cherokee Hill, or near there; we heard them at sundown.

I am, general, yours, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON, *Aide-de-Camp.*

Major General HOWARD,

Commanding Army of the Tennessee.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Poolers, No. 1, December 9, 1864.

GENERAL: As yet we have heard nothing from you to-day except your guns, nearly due north from us, at three to five p. m. General Howard has reported, and is in possession of the Gulf railroad; captured one piece of artillery and some prisoners and a train of cars. Both corps have met opposition, but have overcome it, and Howard will move the 15th *via* the plank road, and the 17th *via* this, the main road, on Savannah, in the morning. The general wishes you

to continue along the Savannah river in your movement on the city, making as much progress as you can, until the enemy's main line is developed.

I am, general, very respectfully, yours, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON, *Aide-de-Camp.*

Major General SLOCUM,

Commanding Left Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, near Savannah, December 11, 1864—2 a. m.

GENERAL: Your despatch of December 10, and also Special Field Order 191, are just received. The general-in-chief wishes you to secure the trains cut off on the Gulf road, and also describe to him what is the position of King's bridge and Dillon's ferry—neither are on the map. I have had couriers looking for you since five p. m., 10th, with orders, but they are unable to find your headquarters. I send enclosed another copy. The general understands the trains to be between Way's and Fleming's stations.

I am, general, very respectfully, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON, *Aide-de-Camp.*

Major General O. O. HOWARD,

Commanding Army of the Tennessee.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, near Savannah, Ga., (General Howard's Headquarters,)

December 15, 1864—2 p. m.

GENERAL: The general-in-chief has just returned from a visit to Ossabaw and Wassaw sounds, and directs me to inform you in full terms of the result. After having opened communication by signal with the gunboats, and got possession of Fort McAllister, he went in person to the gunboat below Fort McAllister, which proved to be a messenger boat from the flag-ship lying at the mouth of Ossabaw sound. After making communications to Washington, &c., he returned to Fort McAllister, and was overtaken by a messenger from General Foster, just from Port Royal. The general went on board General Foster's boat, and proceeded with him down the bay in hope to meet the admiral, but did not find him till after running around into Wassaw sound. General Foster then proceeded to Port Royal at 12 m. yesterday, to return with a fleet of transports loaded with six hundred thousand (600,000) rations and ten (10) days' forage for forty thousand (40,000) animals, and promised to be here by to-night. He will also bring with him six 20-lb. Parrott guns and six 30-lb. Parrotts, with three hundred rounds of ammunition per gun. The general then transferred to the admiral's vessel and returned to Fort McAllister, whence the admiral accompanied him as far up as the rice mill, where he had left his horse. He is now at General Howard's headquarters, and has sent for his camp to be transferred to a point near this, which is not far from the seven (7) mile-post on the main road leading west from Savannah to the Ogeechee, marked on our map as a plank road. This point is about five (5) miles from his present headquarters, on the Louisville road. General Foster has five thousand (5,000) men near the Charleston railroad, north of Broad river, and near enough to the railroad to command it, so that he feels sure that cars cannot pass either way, but he has been unable to reach the railroad itself with his men, on account of the enemy's force. The gunboats and General Howard occupy all other avenues of approach to Savannah, connecting with your right. Now, if you can close the Savannah river to navigation, and also get a force over the Savannah river to threaten in flank any dirt road leading out of Savannah, between the city and Coosahatchie, the

investment of the city will be complete, and the enemy will have no escape. The general wants to place the batteries expected from General Foster in position as near the heart of Savannah as possible, ready to bombard it as soon as possible. You may therefore send horses to the Ogeechee river, at King's bridge, ready to haul those guns to your right front, and as soon as they are well in position, ready to open on the city, he proposes to demand its surrender. In the mean time our stores of all kinds will come up Ossabaw sound and the Ogeechee river to King's bridge, and thence be hauled to the camps. The canal is admirably adapted to your use, and the general suggests that you send some competent staff officer over to the Ogeechee, and, in concert with General Easton, chief quartermaster, collect as many boats as possible to transport your stores from King's bridge through the canal up to your very camp. At Dr. Cheves' plantation, ten (10) miles from King's bridge, the general himself saw at least half a dozen fine large flats, built expressly to transport rice through the canal to Savannah—the very thing wanted—and he has no doubt on other plantations at least twenty or twenty-five (20 or 25) boats could be collected, each capable of transporting twenty (20) tons. In dry weather wagons will be best, but in case of rainy weather these boats would be admirable. As soon as possible the general wants your batteries which are nearest the city prepared to execute the foregoing plans, and he wants you to write to him in full to-night any ideas that may have been suggested by your closer observation of the ground in your immediate front, and you may at once give orders for hauling provisions and forage from King's bridge, as Admiral Dahlgren assured him this morning that he would have all torpedoes and obstructions removed in the course of to-day. There is also a steamboat load of mail for your army, Colonel A. H. Markland in charge, which will be at King's bridge the instant torpedoes are removed. Captain Merritt brings this to you, and can satisfy all your inquiries, as he has been with the general.

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

HENRY HITCHCOCK,

Major and Aide-de-Camp.

Major General H. W. SLOCUM,

Commanding Left Wing.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,

City Point, Va., December 3, 1864.

GENERAL: The little information gleaned from the southern press indicating no great obstacle to your progress, I have directed your mails, which previously had been collected in Baltimore by Colonel Markland, special agent of the Post Office Department, to be sent as far as the blockading squadron off Savannah, to be forwarded to you as soon as heard from on the coast. Not liking to rejoice before the victory is assured, I abstain from congratulating you and those under your command until bottom has been struck. I have never had a fear, however, for the result.

Since you left Atlanta no very great progress has been made here. The enemy has been closely watched, though, and prevented from detaching against you. I think not one man has gone from here except some twelve or fifteen hundred dismounted cavalry. Bragg has gone from Wilmington. I am trying to take advantage of his absence to get possession of that place. Owing to some preparations Admiral Porter and General Butler are making to blow up Fort Fisher, and which, while I hope for the best, do not believe a particle in, there is a delay in getting this expedition off. I hope they will be ready to start by the 7th, and that Bragg will not have started back by that time.

In this letter I do not intend to give you anything like directions for future

action, but will state a general idea I have, and will get your views after you have established yourself on the sea-coast. With your veteran army I hope to get control of the only two through routes, from east to west, possessed by the enemy before the fall of Atlanta. This condition will be filled by holding Savannah and Augusta, or by holding any other post to the east of Savannah and Branchville. If Wilmington falls, a force from there can co-operate with you.

Thomas has got back into the defences of Nashville, with Hood close upon him. Decatur has been abandoned, and so have all the roads except the main one leading to Chattanooga.

* * * * *

I hope Hood will be badly crippled or destroyed. After all becomes quiet, and the roads up here so bad that there is likely to be a week or two that nothing can be done, I will run down the coast and see you.

Yours, truly,

U. S. GRANT, *Lieutenant General.*

Major General W. T. SHERMAN,

Commanding Armies near Savannah.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
City Point, Va., December 6, 1864.

GENERAL: On reflection, since sending my letter by the hands of Lieutenant Dunn, I have concluded that the most important operation toward closing out the rebellion will be to close out Lee and his army. You have now destroyed the roads of the south, so that it will probably take them months, without interruption, to re-establish a through line from east to west. In that time, I think, the job here will be effectually completed. My idea now is that you establish a base on the coast, fortify, and leave in it all your artillery and cavalry, and enough infantry to protect them, and, at the same time, so threaten the interior that the militia of the south will have to be kept at home. With the balance of your command come here by water with all despatch. Select yourself the officer to leave in command, but you I want in person. Unless you see objections to this plan which I cannot see, use every vessel going to you, for the purpose of transportation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT, *Lieutenant General.*

Major General W. T. SHERMAN,

Commanding Military Division of the Mississippi.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI
In the field, near Savannah, December 16, 1864.

GENERAL: I received day before yesterday, at the hands of Lieutenant Dunn, your letter of December 3, and last night, at the hands of Colonel Babcock, that of December 6. I had previously made you a hasty scrawl from the tug-boat Dandelion in Ogeechee river, advising you that the army had reached the sea-coast, destroying all railroads across the State of Georgia, and investing closely the city of Savannah, and had made connexion with the fleet.

Since writing that note, I have in person met and conferred with General Foster and Admiral Dahlgren, and made all the arrangements which I deemed essential to reduce the city of Savannah to our possession; but since the receipt of yours of the 6th I have initiated measures looking principally to coming to you with fifty thousand or sixty thousand (50,000 or 60,000) infantry, and in-

cidentally to take Savannah, if time will allow. At the time we carried Fort McAllister so handsomely by assault, with twenty-two (22) guns and its entire garrison, I was hardly aware of its importance; but since passing down the river with General Foster, and up with Admiral Dahlgren, I realize how admirably adapted are Ossabaw sound and Ogeechee river to supply an army operating against Savannah. Sea-going vessels can easily come to King's bridge, a point on Ogeechee river fourteen and a half (14½) miles due west of Savannah, from which point we have roads leading to all our camps. The country is low and sandy, and cut up with marshes, which in wet weather will be very bad; but we have been so favored with weather that they are all now comparatively good, and heavy details are constantly employed in double corduroying the marshes, so that I have no fear even of a bad spell of weather. Fortunately, also, by liberal and judicious foraging, we reached the sea-coast abundantly supplied with forage and provisions, needing nothing on arrival except bread. Of this we started from Atlanta with from eight to twenty (8 to 20) days' supply for corps, and some of the troops only had one (1) day's issue of bread during the trip of thirty (30) days; and yet they did not want, for sweet potatoes were very abundant as well as corn-meal, and our soldiers took to them naturally. We started with about five thousand (5,000) head of cattle, and arrived with over ten thousand (10,000,) of course consuming mostly turkeys, chickens, sheep, hogs, and the cattle of the country. As to our mules and horses, we left Atlanta with about two thousand five hundred (2,500) wagons, many of which were drawn by mules which had not recovered from the Chattanooga starvation, all of which were replaced, the poor mules shot, and our transportation is now in superb condition. I have no doubt the State of Georgia has lost by our operations fifteen thousand (15,000) first-rate mules. As to horses, Kilpatrick collected all his remounts, and it looks to me, in riding along our column, as though every officer has three or four led horses, and each regiment seems to be followed by at least fifty (50) negroes and foot-sore soldiers riding on horses and mules. The custom was for each brigade to send out daily a foraging party of about fifty (50) men on foot, who invariably returned mounted, with several wagons loaded with poultry, potatoes, &c., and, as the army is composed of about forty (40) brigades, you can estimate approximately the quantity of horses collected. Great numbers of these were shot by my orders, because of the disorganizing effect on our infantry of having too many idlers mounted. General Easton is now engaged in collecting statistics on this subject; but I know the government will never receive full accounts of our captures, although the result aimed at was fully attained, viz: to deprive our enemy of them. All these animals I will have sent to Port Royal, or collected behind Fort McAllister, to be used by General Saxton in his farming operations or by the quartermaster's department, after they are systematically accounted for.

While General Easton is collecting transportation for my troops to James river, I will throw to Port Royal island all our means of transportation I can, and collect the balance near Fort McAllister, covered by the Ogeechee river and intrenchments to be erected, and for which Captain Poe, my chief engineer, is now reconnoitring the grounds; but, in the mean time, I will act as I have begun, as though Savannah city were my only objective, namely: the troops will continue to invest Savannah closely, making attacks and feints wherever we have firm ground to stand upon, and I will place some thirty (30) pounder Parrots, which I have got from General Foster, in position near enough to reach the centre of the city, and then will demand its surrender. If General Hardee is alarmed or fears starvation, he may surrender; otherwise, I will bombard the city, but not risk the lives of my own men by assaults across the narrow causeways by which alone we can reach it. If I had time, Savannah, with all its dependent fortifications, is already ours, for we hold all its avenues of supply. The enemy has made two desperate efforts to get boats from above to the city,

in both of which he has been foiled; General Slocum, whose left flank rests on the river, capturing and burning the first boat, and in the second instance driving back two gunboats, and capturing the steamer *Resolute*, with seven naval officers and a crew of twenty-five seamen. General Slocum occupies Argyle island and the upper end of Hutchinson island, and has a brigade on the South Carolina shore opposite, and he is very urgent to pass one of his corps over to that shore. But in view of the change of plan made necessary by your orders of the 6th, I will maintain things *in statu quo* till I have got all my transportation to the rear and out of the way, and until I have sea-transportation for the troops you require at James river, which I will accompany and command in person. Of course, I will leave Kilpatrick with his cavalry, say five thousand three hundred (5,300,) and it may be a division of the 15th corps; but, before determining this, I must see General Foster, and may arrange to shift his force (now over about the Charleston railroad, at the head of Broad river) to the Ogeechee, where, in co-operation with Kilpatrick's cavalry, he can better threaten the State of Georgia than from the direction of Port Royal. Besides, I would much prefer not to detach from my regular corps any of its veteran divisions, and would even prefer that other less valuable troops should be sent to re-enforce Foster from some other quarter. My four (4) corps, full of experience and full of ardor, coming to you en masse, equal to sixty thousand (60,000) fighting men, will be a re-enforcement that Lee cannot disregard. Indeed, with my present command I had expected, after reducing Savannah, instantly to march to Columbia, South Carolina, thence to Raleigh, and thence to report to you. But this would consume, it may be, six weeks' time after the fall of Savannah, whereas by sea I can probably reach you with my men and arms before the middle of January.

As to matters in the southeast, I think Hardee in Savannah has good artillery, some five thousand (5,000) or six thousand (6,000) good infantry, and, it may be, a mongrel mass of eight thousand or ten thousand (8,000 or 10,000) militia and fragments. In all our marching through Georgia, he has not forced me to use anything but a skirmish line, though at several points he had erected fortifications, and made bombastic threats. In Savannah he has taken refuge in a line constructed behind swamps and overflowed rice-fields, extending from a point on the Savannah river, about three miles above the city, around to a branch of the Little Ogeechee, which stream is impassable from its salt marshes and boggy swamps, crossed only by narrow causeways or common corduroy roads. There must be twenty-five thousand (25,000) citizens, men, women, and children, in Savannah, that must also be fed, and how he is to feed them beyond a few days I cannot imagine, as I know that his requisitions for corn on the interior counties of Georgia were not filled, and we are in possession of the rice-fields and mills which could alone be of service to him in this neighborhood. He can draw nothing from South Carolina, save from a small corner down in the southeast, and that by a disused wagon road. I could easily get possession of this, but hardly deem it worth the risk of making a detachment which would be in danger by its isolation from the main army.

Our whole army is in fine condition as to health, and the weather is splendid. For that reason alone, I feel a personal dislike to turning northward.

I will keep Lieutenant Dunn here until I know the result of my demand for the surrender of Savannah, but, whether successful or not, shall not delay my execution of your orders of the 6th, which will depend alone upon the time it will require to obtain transportation by sea.

I am, with respect, &c., your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General United States Army.

Lieutenant General U. S. GRANT,

Commander-in-Chief, City Point, Virginia.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, near Savannah, Ga., December 17, 1864.

GENERAL: You have doubtless observed, from your station at Rosedew, that sea-going vessels now come through Ossabaw sound and up Ogeechee, to the rear of my army, giving me abundant supplies of all kinds, and more especially of heavy ordnance necessary to the reduction of Savannah. I have already received guns that can cast heavy and destructive shot as far as the heart of your city. Also, I have for some days held and controlled every avenue by which the people and garrison of Savannah can be supplied, and I am therefore justified in demanding the surrender of the city of Savannah and its dependent forts, and shall await a reasonable time your answer before opening with heavy ordnance. Should you entertain the proposition, I am prepared to grant liberal terms to the inhabitants and garrison; but should I be forced to resort to assault or the slower and surer process of starvation, I shall then feel justified in resorting to the harshest measures, and shall make little effort to restrain my army, burning to avenge the great national wrong they attach to Savannah and other large cities, which have been so prominent in dragging our country into civil war.

I enclose you a copy of General Hood's demand for the surrender of the town of Resaca, to be used by you for what it is worth.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

General WILLIAM J. HARDEE,
Commanding Confederate Forces in Savannah.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, near Savannah, Ga., December 18, 1864—8 p m.

GENERAL: In compliance with the plan I indicated to you some days since, I made a demand during yesterday on General Hardee for the surrender of the city of Savannah and its dependent forts, and to-day received his answer declining to accede. You are aware I am ordered to carry this army to Virginia by sea, but I hope still to get possession of Savannah before sufficient transportation can be had to enable me to comply with General Grant's order. The thirty (30) pounder Parrotts which you sent me are now being hauled to batteries prepared for them, and in about two days' time, if we can possibly get the ground to stand upon, we shall assault the enemy's lines at four or more points. It is all-important that the railroad and telegraph wire should be broken between Savannah and Charleston, and the very best point is where your forces are represented to be, viz., near the Tullafinny. It seems to me that our operations here, especially along the Savannah river, must have drawn away every man from that quarter that they could possibly spare, and a bold rush on the railroad would probably develop a weaker force there than is supposed to be, or it may be that you could diminish that force, and use the balance in a small handy detachment east of Tullafinny, over about Old Pocotaligo. I merely throw out these ideas, and reiterate that it would aid us very much in this quarter if that force of yours be kept most active, more especially if you succeed in breaking the railroad and the telegraph wire, the further toward Charleston the better. Even if nothing better can be done, let them whale away with their thirty (30) pounder Parrotts, and break the road with cannon balls. It is possible, as a part of the general movement, that I may send a force in co-operation

with the navy toward the Union plank-road from the direction of Bluffton. I will go over and see the admiral again to-morrow, and it may be that I will see you, as in your last note you said that you would return again.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General J. G. FOSTER,
Commanding Department of the South, Hilton Head.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, near Savannah, Ga., December 18, 1864.

GENERAL: I wrote you at length by Colonel Babcock on the 16th instant. As I therein explained my purpose, yesterday I made a demand on General Hardee for the surrender of the city of Savannah, and to-day received his answer refusing. Copies of both letters are herewith enclosed. You will notice that I claim that my lines are within easy cannon range of the heart of Savannah, but General Hardee claims we are four and a half miles distant. But I myself have been to the intersection of the Charleston and Georgia Central railroad, and the three (3) mile post is but a few yards beyond, within the line of our pickets. The enemy has no pickets outside of his fortified line, which is a full quarter of a mile within the three (3) mile post; and I have the evidence of Mr. R. R. Cuyler, president of the Georgia Central railroad, who was a prisoner in our hands, that the mile-posts are measured from the Exchange, which is but two squares back from the river. But by to-morrow morning I will have six (6) 30-pounder Parrott's in position, and General Hardee will learn whether I am right or not. From the left of our line, which is on the Savannah river, the spires can be plainly seen, but the country is so densely wooded with pine and live-oak, and lies so flat, that we can see nothing from any other part of our lines. General Slocum feels confident that he can make a successful assault at one or two points in front of the 20th corps, and one or two in front of General Davis's (14th) corps. But all of General Howard's troops, the right wing, lie behind the Little Ogeechee, and I doubt if it can be passed by troops in the face of an enemy; still we can make strong feints, and if I can get a sufficient number of boats I shall make a co-operative demonstration up Vernon river or Wassaw sound. I should like very much, indeed, to take Savannah before coming to you; but, as I wrote to you before, I will do nothing rash or hasty, and will embark for the James river as soon as General Easton, who is gone to Port Royal for that purpose, reports to me that he has an approximate number of vessels for transportation of the contemplated force. I fear even this will cost more delay than you anticipate, for already the movement of our transports and the gunboats has required more time than I had expected. We have had dense fogs, and there are more mud banks in the Ogeechee than were reported, and there are no pilots whatever.

Admiral Dahlgren promises to have the channel buoyed and staked; but it is not done yet. We find only six (6) feet water up to King's bridge at low tide, about ten (10) up to the rice-mills, and sixteen (16) to Fort McAllister. All these points may be used by us, and we have a good strong bridge across Ogeechee at King's, by which our wagons can go to Fort McAllister, to which point I am sending the wagons not absolutely necessary for daily use, the negroes, prisoners of war, sick, &c., en route for Port Royal.

In relation to Savannah, you will remark that General Hardee refers to his still being in communication with his war department. This language he thought would deceive me, but I am confirmed in the belief that the route to which he refers, namely, the Union plank road, on the South Carolina shore, is

inadequate to feed his army and the people of Savannah, for General Foster assures me that he has his force on that very road near the head of Broad river, and that his guns command the railroad, so that cars no longer run between Charleston and Savannah. We hold this end of the Charleston road, and have destroyed it from the three (3) mile post back to the bridge about twelve (12) miles above.

In anticipation of leaving this country, I am continuing the destruction of their railroads, and at this moment have two divisions and the cavalry at work breaking up the Gulf railroad from the Ogeechee to the Altamaha, so that even I do not take Savannah, I will leave it in a bad way. But I still hope that events will give me time to take Savannah, even if I have to assault with some loss. I am satisfied that unless we take it, the gunboats never will, for they can make no impression upon the batteries which guard every approach from the sea. And I have also a faint belief that when Colonel Babcock reaches you, you will delay operations long enough to enable me to succeed here. With Savannah in our possession, at some future time, if not now, we can punish South Carolina as she deserves, and as thousands of people in Georgia hope we will do.

I do sincerely believe that the whole United States, north and south, would rejoice to have this army turned loose on South Carolina, to devastate that State in the manner we have done in Georgia, and it would have a direct and immediate bearing on your campaign in Virginia.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Lieut. General U. S. GRANT,
City Point, Virginia.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, near Savannah, Ga., December 19, 1864.

GENERAL: The general-in-chief has gone to the bay. He directs me to further instruct you to push the preparations for the attack on the defences of Savannah as rapidly as possible, and then await further directions before doing more.

He will endeavor to get co-operations from Admiral Dahlgren and General Foster, with whom he will confer before returning. If in the mean time anything should occur that you would wish to communicate to him, please to send to me and I will forward.

I am, general, with respect,

L. M. DAYTON, *Aide-de-Camp.*
Major General SLOCUM, *Commanding Left Wing.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI
In the field, near Savannah, Ga., December 19, 1864.

GENERAL: The general-in-chief has gone to the bay. He wishes you to push the preparations for attacking Savannah with all possible speed, but to await orders for the attack. He will see General Foster and the admiral before returning, and will get co-operation from both if possible. Should anything occur that you would like to communicate to the general, I will forward for you.

I am, general, with respect,

L. M. DAYTON, *Aide-de-Camp.*
Major General O. O. HOWARD,
Commanding Army of the Tennessee.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, near Savannah, Ga., December 22, 1864—5 a. m.

GENERAL: The general-in-chief has just returned to his headquarters, having been somewhat delayed on his way back from Port Royal by high winds. You are no doubt already aware that the enemy has evacuated Savannah, and our troops are in full possession of the city. For the present, however, supplies will continue to be received *via* Ogeechee river and the King's bridge road. The general directs me to say that he wishes you, until further orders, to continue to guard the depot of supplies at King's bridge with your cavalry, on the west side of the river, in connexion with the brigade of infantry still remaining between Big and Little Ogeechee. He is anxious to hear as soon as possible from General Mower's force sent down the Gulf railroad, also from your cavalry sent towards the Altamaha, and desires that you will at once send him all information you have or may obtain respecting them. He will himself go into Savannah this morning, and remove his headquarters thither, and will send you further orders after going there.

I am, general, respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY HITCHCOCK,

Major and A. A. G.

Brigadier General KILPATRICK,

Commanding Cavalry Division, Army of Georgia.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Savannah, Ga., December 22, 1864.

DEAR GENERAL: I take great satisfaction in reporting that we are in possession of Savannah and all its forts. At first I proposed to extend across the river above the city from Slocum's left, but the enemy had a gunboat and ram heavily armed that would have made the step extra-hazardous; also the submerged rice-fields on the northeast bank were impracticable. I then went to Hilton Head to arrange with General Foster to re-enforce his movement from Broad river, but before I had completed the move Hardee got his garrison across and off on the Union plank-road. Our troops entered at daylight yesterday, took about eight hundred (800) prisoners, over one hundred (100) guns, some of the heaviest calibre, and a perfect string of forts from Savannah around to McAllister; also twelve thousand (12,000) bales of cotton, one hundred and ninety (190) cars, thirteen (13) locomotives, three (3) steamboats, and an immense supply of shells, shot, and all kinds of ammunition. There is a complete arsenal here, and much valuable machinery. The citizens mostly remain, and the city is very quiet. The river below is much obstructed, but I parted with Admiral Dahlgren yesterday at 4 p. m., and he will at once set about removing them and opening a way. The enemy blew up an iron-clad, the Savannah, a good ram, and three tenders, (small steamers.) As yet we have made but a partial inventory, but the above falls far short of our conquests. I have not a particle of doubt but that we have secured one hundred and fifty (150) fine guns with plenty of ammunition.

I have now completed my first step, and should like to go on to you *via* Columbia and Raleigh, but will prepare to embark as soon as vessels come. Colonel Babcock will have told you all, and you know better than anybody else how much better troops arrive by a land march than when carried by transports. I will turn over to Foster Savannah and all its out-posts, with, say, one division of infantry, Kilpatrick's cavalry, and plenty of artillery. Hardee has, of course, moved into South Carolina, but I do not believe his Georgia troops, militia and fancy companies, will work in South Carolina. His force is reported by citizens at from fifteen to twenty thousand (15 to 20,000.)

The capture of Savannah, with the incidental use of the rivers, gives us a magnificent position in this quarter, and if you can hold Lee, and if Thomas can continue as he did on the 18th, I could go on and smash South Carolina all to pieces, and also break up roads as far as the Roanoke. But, as I before remarked, I will now look to coming to you as soon as transports are ready. We all well and as confident as ever.

Yours truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Lieut. General U. S. GRANT,
Com'dg Armies of the United States, City Point, Va.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, December 16, 1864.

GENERAL: Lieutenant General Grant informs me that in his last despatch sent to you, he suggested the transfer of your infantry to Richmond. He now wishes me to say that you will retain your entire force, at least for the present, and, with such assistance as may be given you by General Foster and Admiral Dahlgren, operate from such base as you may establish on the coast. General Foster will obey such instructions as may be given by you. Should you have captured Savannah, it is thought that by transferring the water-batteries to the land side, that place may be made a good depot, and base for operations on Augusta, Branchville, or Charleston. If Savannah should not be captured, or if captured and not deemed suitable for this purpose, perhaps Beaufort would serve as a depot. As the rebels have probably removed their most valuable property from Augusta, perhaps Branchville would be the most important point at which to strike, in order to sever all connexions between the Virginia and the Northwestern railroads. General Grant's wishes, however, are that this whole matter of your future actions should be left entirely to your discretion.

We can send you from here a number of complete batteries of field artillery, with or without horses, as you may desire. Also, as soon as General Thomas can spare them, all the fragments, convalescents and furloughed men of your army. It is reported that Thomas defeated Hood yesterday, near Nashville, but we have no particulars, nor official reports, telegraphic communications being interrupted by a heavy storm. Our last advices from you were in General Howard's note, announcing his approach to Savannah.

Yours, truly,

H. W. HALLECK,
Major General, Chief of Staff.

Major General SHERMAN,
Via Hilton Head.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, December 18, 1864.

MY DEAR GENERAL: Yours of the 13th, by Major Anderson, is just received. I congratulate you on your splendid success, and shall very soon expect to hear of the crowning work of your new campaign, in the capture of Savannah. Your march will stand out prominently as the great one of this great war. When Savannah falls, then for another wide swath through the centre of the confederacy. But I will not anticipate. General Grant is expected here this morning, and will probably write you his own views.

I do not learn from your letter, or Major Anderson, that you are in want of

anything which we have not provided at Hilton Head. Thinking it probable that you might want more field artillery, I had prepared several batteries, but the great difficulty of foraging horses on the coast will prevent our sending any, unless you actually need them. The hay crop this year is short, and the quartermaster's department has great difficulty in procuring a supply for our animals.

General Thomas has defeated Hood, near Nashville, and it is hoped that he will completely crush his army. Breckinridge, at last accounts, was trying to form a junction near Murfreesboro', but as Thomas is between them, Breckinridge must either retreat or be defeated.

* * * * *

Orders have been issued for all officers and detachments, having three months or more to serve, to rejoin your army, *via* Savannah. Those having less than three months to serve will be retained by General Thomas. Should you capture Charleston, I hope that by *some* accident the place may be destroyed; and if a little salt should be sown upon its site, it may prevent the growth of future crops of nullification and secession.

Yours, truly,

H. W. HALLECK,
Major General, Chief of Staff.

Major General W. T. SHERMAN, *Savannah.*

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D. C., December 18, 1864.

MY DEAR GENERAL: I have just received and read, I need not tell you with how much gratification, your letter to General Halleck. I congratulate you and the brave officers and men under your command on the successful termination of your most brilliant campaign. I never had a doubt of the result. When apprehensions for your safety were expressed by the President, I assured him, with the army you had, and you in command of it, there was no danger, but you would *strike* bottom on salt water some place. That I would not feel the same security, in fact would not have intrusted the expedition to any other living commander.

* * * * *

Breckinridge is said to be making for Murfreesboro'. If so, he is in a most excellent place. Stoneman has nearly wiped out John Morgan's old command, and five days ago entered Bristol. I did think the best thing to do was to bring the greater part of your army here and wipe out Lee. The turn affairs now seem to be taking has shaken me in that opinion. I doubt whether you may not accomplish more toward that result where you are than if brought here, especially as I am informed since my arrival in the city that it would take about two months to get you here, with all the other calls there are for ocean transportation.

I want to get your views on what ought to be done and what can be done. If you capture the garrison of Savannah, it certainly will compel Lee to detach from Richmond, or give us nearly the whole south. My own opinion is, Lee is averse to going out of Virginia; and if the cause of the south is lost, he wants Richmond to be the last place surrendered. If he has such views, it may be well to indulge him until we get everything else in our hands.

Congratulating you and the army again upon the splendid results of your campaign, the like of which is not read of in past history, I subscribe myself, more than ever, if possible, your friend,

U. S. GRANT, *Lieutenant General.*

Major General W. T. SHERMAN,
Commanding Military Division of the Mississippi.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Savannah, Ga., December 23, 1864.

DEAR GENERAL: Major Dixon arrived last night, bringing your letter of the 10th December, for which I am very much obliged, as it gives me a clear and distinct view of the situation of affairs at Nashville up to that date. I have also from the War Department a copy of General Thomas's despatch, giving an account of the attack on Hood on the 15th, which was successful, but not complete. I await further accounts with anxiety, as Thomas's complete success is necessary to vindicate my plans for this campaign, and I have no doubt that my calculations that Thomas had in hand (including A. J. Smith's troops) a force large enough to whip Hood in fair fight was correct. I approve of Thomas's allowing Hood to come north far enough to enable him to concentrate his own men, though I would have preferred that Hood should have been checked about Columbia. Still, if Thomas followed up his success of the 15th, and gave Hood a good whaling, and is at this moment following him closely, the whole campaign in my division will be even more perfect than the Atlanta campaign, for at this end of the line I have realized all I had reason to hope for, except in the release of our prisoners, which was simply an impossibility.

December 24.—I have just received a letter from General Grant, giving a detail of General Thomas's operations up to the 18th, and I am gratified beyond measure at the result

Show this letter to General Thomas, and tell him to consider it addressed to him, as I have not time to write more now. I want General Thomas to follow Hood to and beyond the Tennessee, and not to hesitate to go on as far as Columbus, Mississippi, or Selma, Alabama, as I know that he will have no trouble whatever in subsisting his army anywhere below Sand mountain and along the Black Warrior. In the poorest part of Georgia I found no trouble in subsisting my army and animals, some of my corps not issuing but one (1) day's bread from Atlanta to Savannah.

Keep me fully advised by telegraph, *via* New York, of the situation of affairs in Tennessee. I will be here probably ten (10) days longer, and in communication for a longer time.

I am, very truly, yours,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

General J. D. WEBSTER,

Nashville, Tennessee.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

Savannah, Ga., December 24, 1864.

GENERAL: Your letter of December 18th is just received. I feel very much gratified at receiving the handsome commendation you pay my army. I will, in general orders, convey to the officers and men the substance of your note.

I am also gratified that you have modified your former orders, as I feared that the transportation by sea would very much disturb the unity and *morale* of my army, now so perfect.

The occupation of Savannah, which I have heretofore reported, completes the first part of our game and fulfils a great part of your instructions; and I am now engaged in dismantling the rebel forts, which bear upon the sea and channels, and transferring the heavy ordnance and ammunition to Fort Pulaski and Hilton Head, where they can be more easily guarded than if left in the city.

The rebel inner lines are well adapted to our purpose, and, with slight modifications, can be held by a comparatively small force, and in about ten (10) days I expect to be ready to sally forth again. I feel no doubt whatever as to our future plans. I have thought them over so long and well that they appear as clear as

daylight. I left Augusta untouched on purpose, because the enemy will be in doubt as to my objective point, after crossing the Savannah river, whether it be Augusta or Charleston, and will naturally divide his forces. I will then move either on Branchville or Columbia, by any curved line that gives me the best supplies, breaking up in my course as much railroad as possible, then ignoring Charleston and Augusta both. I would occupy Columbia and Camden, pausing there long enough to observe the effect. I would then strike for the Charleston and Wilmington railroad, somewhere between the Santee and Cape Fear rivers, and, if possible, communicate with the fleet under Admiral Dahlgren (whom I find a most agreeable gentleman, in every way accommodating himself to our wishes and plans.) Then I would favor Wilmington, in the belief that Porter and Butler will fail in their present undertaking. Charleston is now a mere desolated wreck, and is hardly worth the time it would take to starve it out. Still, I am aware that, historically and politically, much importance is attached to the place, and it may be that, apart from its military importance, both you and the administration would prefer I should give it more attention; and it would be well for you to give me some general idea on that subject, as otherwise I would treat it, as I have expressed, as a point of little importance, after all its railroads leading into the interior are destroyed or occupied by us. But on the hypothesis of ignoring Charleston and taking Wilmington, I would then favor a movement direct on Raleigh. The game is then up with Lee, unless he comes out of Richmond, avoids you and fights me, in which case I should reckon on your being on his heels.

Now that Hood is used up by Thomas, I feel disposed to bring the matter to an issue as quick as possible. I feel confident that I can break up the whole railroad system of South Carolina and North Carolina, and be on the Roanoke, either at Raleigh or Weldon, by the time the spring fairly opens; and if you feel confident that you can whip Lee outside of his intrenchments, I feel equally confident that I can handle him in the open country.

One reason why I would ignore Charleston is this: That I believe they will reduce the garrison to a small force, with plenty of provisions, and I know that the neck back of Charleston can be made impregnable to assault, and we will hardly have time for siege operations.

I will have to leave in Savannah a garrison, and, if Thomas can spare them, I would like to have all detachments, convalescents, &c., belonging to these four corps sent forward at once. I don't want to cripple Thomas, because I regard his operations as all important, and I have ordered him to pursue Hood down into Alabama, trusting to the country for supplies.

I reviewed one of my corps to-day, and shall continue to review the whole army. I don't like to boast, but I believe this army has a confidence in itself that makes it almost invincible. I wish you would run down and see us; it would have a good effect, and would show to both armies that they are acting on a common plan. The weather is now cool and pleasant, and the general health very good.

Your true friend,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Lieut. General U. S. GRANT,
City Point, Virginia.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Savannah, December 24, 1864.

GENERAL: I had the pleasure of receiving your two letters of the 16th and 18th instant to-day, and I feel more than usually flattered by the high encomiums you have passed on our recent campaign, which is now complete by the occupation of Savannah.

I am also very glad that General Grant has changed his mind about embarking my troops for James river, leaving me free to make the broad swath you describe through South and North Carolina, and still more gratified at the news from Thomas in Tennessee, because it fulfils my plans which contemplated his being fully able to dispose of Hood in case he ventured north of the Tennessee river. So I think, on the whole, I can chuckle over Jeff. Davis's disappointment in not turning my Atlanta campaign into a "Moscow disaster."

I have just finished a long letter to General Grant, and have explained to him that we are engaged in shifting our base from the Ogeechee over to the Savannah river, dismantling all the forts made by the enemy to bear upon the salt-water channels, and transferring the heavy ordnance, &c., to Fort Pulaski and Hilton Head, and in remodelling the enemy's interior lines to suit our future plans and purposes. I have also laid down the programme of a campaign which I can make this winter, which will put me in the spring on the Roanoke in direct communication with him on the James river. In general terms, my plan is to turn over to General Foster the city of Savannah and to sally forth with my army re-supplied, cross the Savannah, feign on Charleston and Augusta, but strike between, breaking en route the Charleston and Augusta railroad, also a large part of that from Branchville and Camden toward North Carolina, and then rapidly move to some point of the railroad from Charleston to Wilmington, between the Santee and Cape Fear rivers; then communicating with the fleet in the neighborhood of Georgetown, I would turn upon Wilmington or Charleston, according to the importance of either; I rather prefer Wilmington, as a live place, over Charleston, which is dead and unimportant when its railroad communications are broken. I take it for granted the present movement on Wilmington will fail. If I should determine to take Charleston I would turn across the country, (which I have hunted over many a time, from Santee to Mount Pleasant,) throwing one wing on the peninsula between Ashley and Cooper. After accomplishing one or the other of these ends, I would make a bee-line for Raleigh, or Weldon, when Lee would be forced to come out of Richmond or acknowledge himself beaten. He would, I think, by the use of the Danville railroad, throw himself rapidly between me and Grant, leaving Richmond in the hands of the latter. This would not alarm me, for I have an army which I think can manœuvre, and I would force him to attack me at a disadvantage, always under the supposition that Grant would be on his heels; and if the worst come to the worst, I could fight my way down to Albemarle sound or Newbern.

I think the time has come now when we should attempt the boldest moves, and my experience is that they are easier of execution than more timid ones, because the enemy is disconcerted by them—as, for instance, my recent campaign.

I also doubt the wisdom of concentration beyond a certain point, as the roads of this country limit the amount of men that can be brought to bear in any one battle; and I don't believe that any one general can handle more than sixty thousand (60,000) men in battle.

I think my campaign of the last month, as well as every step I take from this point northward, is as much a direct attack upon Lee's army as though I were operating within the sound of his artillery.

I am very anxious that Thomas should follow up his success to the very uttermost point. My orders to him before I left Kingston were, after beating Hood, to follow him as far as Columbus, Mississippi, or Selma, Alabama, both of which lie in districts of country which I know to be rich in corn and meat.

I attach more importance to these deep incursions into the enemy's country, because this war differs from European wars in this particular—we are not only fighting hostile armies but a hostile people, and must make old and young, rich and poor, feel the hard hand of war, as well as their organized armies. I know that this recent movement of mine through Georgia has had a wonderful

effect in this respect. Thousands who had been deceived by their lying papers into the belief that we were being whipped all the time, realized the truth, and have no appetite for a repetition of the same experience. To be sure, Jeff. Davis has his people under a pretty good shape of discipline, but I think faith in him is much shaken in Georgia, and I think before we are done South Carolina will not be quite so tempestuous.

I will bear in mind your hint as to Charleston, and don't think "salt" will be necessary. When I move the 15th corps will be on the right of the right wing, and their position will bring them naturally into Charleston first; and if you have watched the history of that corps, you will have remarked that they generally do their work up pretty well. The truth is, the whole army is burning with an insatiable desire to wreak vengeance upon South Carolina. I almost tremble at her fate, but feel that she deserves all that seems in store for her. Many and many a person in Georgia asked me why we did not go to South Carolina; and when I answered that I was *en route* for that State, the invariable reply was, "Well, if you will make those people feel the severities of war, we will pardon you for your desolation of Georgia."

I look upon Columbia as quite as bad as Charleston, and I doubt if we shall spare the public buildings there as we did at Milledgeville.

I have been so busy lately that I have not yet made my official report, and think I had better wait until I get my subordinate reports before attempting it, as I am anxious to explain clearly not only the reasons for every step, but the amount of execution done, and this I cannot do until I get the subordinate reports; for we marched the whole distance in four or more columns, and of course I could only be present with one, and generally that one engaged in destroying railroads. This work of destruction was performed better than usual, because I had an engineer regiment provided with claws to *twist the bars* after being heated. Such bars can never be used again; and the only way in which a railroad line can be reconstructed across Georgia is to make a new road from Fairburn station, twenty-four (24) miles southwest of Atlanta, to Madison, a distance of one hundred (100) miles, and before that can be done I propose to be on the road from Augusta to Charleston, which is a continuation of the same.

I felt somewhat disappointed at Hardee's escape from me, but really am not to blame. I moved as quick as possible to close up the "Union causeway," but intervening obstacles were such that before I could get my troops on the road Hardee had slipped out. Still, I know that the men that were in Savannah will be lost, in a measure, to Jeff. Davis, for the Georgia troops under G. W. Smith declared they would not fight in South Carolina, and they have gone north, en route for Augusta; and I have reason to believe the North Carolina troops have gone to Wilmington; in other words, they are scattered. I have reason to believe that Beauregard was present in Savannah at the time of its evacuation, and I think that he and Hardee are now in Charleston, doubtless making preparations for what they suppose will be my next step.

Please say to the President that I received his kind message through Colonel Markland, and feel thankful for his high favor. If I disappoint him in the future, it shall not be from want of zeal or love to the cause.

Of you I expect a full and frank criticism of my plans for the future, which may enable me to correct errors before it is too late. I do not wish to be rash, but want to give my rebel friends no chance to accuse us of want of enterprise or courage.

Assuring you of my high personal respect, I remain, as ever, your friend,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

Major General H. W. HALLECK,
Chief of Staff, Washington, D. C

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Savannah, Ga., December 28, 1864.

GENTLEMEN: I have a copy of the resolutions adopted by you. They are surely strong enough and patriotic enough. I will aid you all that is possible, and do all in my power to encourage you and to defend you in your course. I do think we have been at war long enough for truth to reveal itself. We are fellow-countrymen, and bound by every principle of honor and honesty to maintain and defend the "Union" given us by Washington, and that is all I aim at; and the moment Georgia resumes her place in the Union, and sends her representatives to Congress, she is at once at peace, and all the laws, both national and State, are revived. If you will stay at home quietly and call back your sons and neighbors to resume their peaceful pursuits, I will promise you ammunition to protect yourselves and property. If rebel soldiers do any of you violence I will retaliate; and if you will bring your produce to Savannah I will cause it to be protected in transitu and allow it to be sold in market to the highest bidder, and our commissary will buy your cattle, hogs, sheep, &c.

It would be well to form a league and to adopt some common certificate, so that our officers and soldiers may distinguish between you and open rebels. I will be glad to confer with any of your people, and will do all that is fair to encourage you to recover the peace and prosperity you enjoyed before the war.

I am, with respect,

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General.

MESSRS. P. J. STANFIELD, A. J. PAGITT, AND OTHERS,
of Liberty and Tatnall Counties, Georgia.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Savannah, Ga., December 29, 1864.

GENERAL: I have read with pleasure your report just received, as well as those of your brigade commanders.

I beg to assure you that the operations of the cavalry under your command have been skilful and eminently successful. As you correctly state in your report, you handsomely feigned on Forsyth and Macon, afterwards did all that was possible towards the rescue of our prisoners at Millen, which failed simply because the prisoners were not there; and I will here state (that you may have it over my signature) that you acted wisely and well in drawing back from Wheeler to Louisville, as I had instructed you not to risk your cavalry command. And subsequently, at Thomas's station, Waynesboro', and Brier creek, you whipped a superior cavalry force, and took from Wheeler all chance of boasting over you. But the fact that to you, in a great measure, we owe the march of four strong columns of infantry, with heavy trains and wagons, over three hundred (300) miles through an enemy's country, without the loss of a single wagon, and without the annoyance of cavalry dashes on our flanks, is honor enough for any cavalry commander.

I will retain your report for a few days that I may, in my report, use some of your statistics, and then will forward it to the War Department, when I will indorse your recommendations, and make such others as I may consider necessary and proper.

I am, truly, your friend,

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General Commanding.

Brigadier General JUDSON KILPATRICK,

Commanding Cavalry Division, Army of Georgia.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Savannah, Ga., December 31, 1864.

GENERAL: The steamer leaves with the mail this afternoon at 5 p. m. I write only to say that since my last to you there is nothing of importance to communicate. The city is perfectly quiet and orderly. The enemy appear to be making preparations to receive us over in South Carolina. As soon as I can accumulate a sufficient surplus of forage and provisions to load my wagons I shall be ready to start. We find the Savannah river more obstructed than we expected. It is filled with crib-works loaded with paving-stones, making mud islands, with narrow, tortuous and difficult channels. All our stores have to be lightered up from the ship's anchorage about Tybee.

I have been engaged in reviewing my troops, and feel a just pride in their fine soldierly condition and perfect equipment.

I propose at once to make lodgements in South Carolina about Port Royal, opposite this city, and up about Sister's ferry. When all is ready, I can feign at one or more places and cross at the other; after which my movements will be governed by those of the enemy, and such instructions as I may receive from Lieutenant General Grant before starting. I do not think I can employ better strategy than I have hitherto done, namely, make a good ready, and then move rapidly to my objective, avoiding a battle at points where I would be encumbered by wounded, but striking boldly and quickly when my objective is reached.

I will give due heed and encouragements to all peace movements, but conduct war as though it could only terminate with the destruction of the enemy and the occupation of all his strategic points.

The weather is fine, the air cool and bracing, and my experience in this latitude convinces me that I may safely depend on two good months for field work.

I await your and General Grant's answer to my proposed plan of operations before taking any steps indicative of future movements. I should like to receive, before starting, the detachments left behind in Tennessee belonging to these four corps; and it would be eminently proper that General Foster should be re-enforced by about five thousand (5,000) men, to enable him to hold Savannah without calling upon me to leave him one of my old divisions, which is too valuable in the field to be left behind in garrison.

I would also deem it wise so far to respect the prejudices of the people of Savannah as not to garrison the place with negro troops. It seems a perfect bugbear to them, and I know that all people are more influenced by prejudice than by reason.

The army continues in the best of health and spirits, and, notwithstanding the habits begotten during our rather vandalic march, its behavior in Savannah has excited the wonder and admiration of all.

I am, with great respect, very truly yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General Commanding.

Major General H. W. HALLECK,

Chief of Staff, Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Savannah, Ga., December 31, 1864.

GENERAL: Your note enclosing Mr. Cohen's of this date is received, and I answer frankly through you his inquiries.

First. No one can practice law as an attorney in the United States without acknowledging the supremacy of our government. If I am not in error, an

attorney is as much an officer of the court as the clerk, and it would be a novel thing in a government to have a court to administer law that denied the supremacy of the government itself.

Second. No one will be allowed the privileges of a merchant; or, rather, to trade is a privilege which no one should seek of the government without in like manner acknowledging its supremacy.

Third. If Mr. Cohen remains in Savannah as a denizen, his property, real and personal, will not be disturbed, unless its temporary use be necessary for the military authorities of the city. The title to property will not be disturbed in any event until adjudicated by the courts of the United States.

Fourth. If Mr. Cohen leaves Savannah under my Special Order No. 143, it is a public acknowledgment that he "adheres to the enemies of the United States," and all his property becomes forfeited to the United States. But, as a matter of favor, he will be allowed to carry with him clothing and furniture for the use of himself, his family, and servants, and will be transported within the enemy's lines, but not by way of Port Royal.

These rules will apply to all people, and from them no exceptions will be made.

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

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Major General F. P. BLAIR,

Commanding 17th Army Corps.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Savannah, Ga., December 31, 1864.

DEAR ADMIRAL: Captain Breese has this moment arrived with your letter of December 29, and I assure you it does my heart good to feel that I am once more near you. I hope soon we will meet again in person.

I have already submitted to Generals Halleck and Grant a plan for a campaign which will bring my whole army to Wilmington, which I know I can take as easily, if not more so, than Savannah. I do not think you can take those shore-batteries with your gunboats, or do more than drive the gunners to the cover of their bomb-proofs. I have examined carefully many of the forts about Savannah, and find them so well covered by traverses and bomb-proof shelters that you might blaze away at them for a month, from the direction of the sea channels, without materially harming them. I have no doubt, however, from what you say, that Butler's men ought to have taken Fort Fisher in about three minutes, for its bomb-proofs cannot possibly shelter more than two hundred men, who would be, as you say, crouching in a defenceless position as against an attacking force. But even after you have got Fisher, then comes Caswell, Fort Johnson, and, I suppose, a string of forts all the way back to Wilmington. Now, I propose to march my whole army through South Carolina, tearing up railroads and smashing things generally; feign on Charleston, and rapidly come down on Wilmington from the rear, taking all their works in reverse. I submitted this plan to General Grant on the 24th, and shall expect his answer very soon, and will be ready to start the moment I can replenish my wagons with bread, sugar, coffee, &c.

At present the Savannah river is badly obstructed by heavy cribs filled with cobblestones, which have served to make islands of mud and sand, leaving narrow, difficult, and tortuous channels between. Through these channels all our stores have to be brought in launches and light-draught boats, of which we have an inadequate number, so that thus far we barely get enough for daily consumption. But all hands are hard at work, and I hope by the 10th of January to get enough ahead to load our wagons and be ready to start. It will

take some time for me to reach Wilmington, but I am certain that mine is the only mode by which the place can be taken effectually.

My army is a good one, but not large enough to make detachments from. I had to leave with Thomas enough men to whip Hood, and have written to General Grant to send to Foster enough men to hold Savannah while I move with my entire force.

It is very important that I should have two or more points along the coast where I can communicate with you, and where I could have some spare ammunition and provisions in reserve, say Bull's bay, Georgetown, and Masonboro.'

I think, when you come to consider my position, you will agree with me that my proposition is better than to undertake to reduce, in detail, the forts about Wilmington; and you can so manoeuvre as to hold a large portion of the enemy to the sea-coast while I ravage the interior; and when I do make my appearance on the coast we will make short work of them all.

I have shown to Captain Breese my letters to Grant and Halleck, and will explain to him fully everything that will interest you, and as soon as I can hear from General Grant, will send a steamer to you advising you of the time of starting. I rather fear, however, that the President's anxiety to take Charleston may induce Grant to order me to operate against Charleston rather than Wilmington, though I much prefer the latter.—Charleston being a dead cock in the pit altogether.

I am, most truly, your friend,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Admiral D. D. PORTER,

Commanding North Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
City Point, Va., December 26, 1864.

GENERAL: Your very interesting letter of the 22d instant, brought by the hands of Major Gray, of General Foster's staff, is just at hand.

As the major starts back at once, I can do no more at present than simply acknowledge its receipt. The capture of Savannah, with its immense stores, must tell upon the people of the south. All well here.

Yours, truly,

U. S. GRANT, *Lieutenant General.*

Major General W. T. SHERMAN,

Savannah, Georgia.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
City Point, Va., December 27, 1864.

GENERAL: Before writing you definite instructions for the next campaign I wanted to receive your answer to my letter written from Washington. Your confidence in being able to march up and join this army pleases me, and I believe it can be done. The effect of such a campaign will be to disorganize the South, and prevent the organization of new armies from their broken fragments. Hood is now retreating with his army broken and demoralized. His loss in men has probably not been far from 20,000 besides deserters. If time is given, the fragments may be collected together, and many of the deserters reassembled. If we can we should act to prevent this. Your spare army, as it were, moving as proposed, will do this.

In addition to holding Savannah, it looks to me that an intrenched camp ought to be held on the railroad between Savannah and Charleston. Your

movements towards Branchville will probably enable Foster to reach this with his own force. This will give us a position in the south from which we can threaten the interior without marching over long, narrow causeways, easily defended, as we have heretofore been compelled to do. Could not such a camp be established about Pocotaligo or Coosawhatchie?

I have thought that, Hood being so completely wiped out for present harm, I might bring A. J. Smith here with from ten thousand to fifteen thousand. With this increase I could hold my lines, and move out with a greater force than Lee has. It would compel him to retain all his present force in the defences of Richmond or abandon them entirely. This latter contingency is probably the only danger to the easy success of your expedition. In the event you should meet Lee's army you would be compelled to beat it or find the sea-coast. Of course I shall not let Lee's army escape if I can help it, and will not let it go without following it to the best of my ability.

Without waiting further directions, then, you may make preparations to start on your northern expedition without delay. Break up the railroads in South and North Carolina, and join the armies operating against Richmond as soon as you can.

I will leave out all suggestions about the route you should take, knowing that your information, gained daily in the progress of events, will be better than any that can be obtained now. It may not be possible for you to march to the rear of Petersburg; but failing in this, you could strike either of the sea-coast ports in North Carolina held by us. From there you could easily take shipping. It would be decidedly preferable, however, if you could march the whole distance. From the best information I have you will find no difficulty in supplying your army until you cross the Roanoke. From there here is but a few days' march, and supplies could be collected south of the river to bring you through. I shall establish communication with you there by steamboat and gunboat. By this means your wants can be partially supplied.

I shall hope to hear from you soon, and to hear your plan, and about the time of starting.

Please instruct Foster to hold on to all the property captured in Savannah, and especially the cotton. Do not turn it over to citizens or treasury agents without orders of the War Department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT, *Lieutenant General.*

Major General W. T. SHERMAN,

Commanding Military Division of the Mississippi.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Savannah, Ga., January 2, 1865.

GENERAL: I have received by the hands of General Barnard your note of 26th, and letter of 27th December.

I herewith enclose to you a copy of a projet which I have this morning, in strict confidence, discussed with my immediate commanders. I shall need, however, larger supplies of stores, especially grain. I will enclose to you with this letters from General Easton, quartermaster, and Colonel Beckwith, commissary of subsistence, setting forth what will be required, and trust you will forward them to Washington, with your sanction, so that the necessary steps may be taken at once to enable me to carry out this plan on time. I wrote you very fully on the 24th, and have nothing to add to that. Everything here is quiet, and if I can get the necessary supplies in my wagons I shall be ready to start at the time indicated in my projet, (January 15.) But until those supplies are in hand I can do nothing; after they are I shall be ready to move with

great rapidity. I have heard of the affair at Cape Fear; it has turned out as you will remember I expected. I have furnished General Easton a copy of the despatch from the Secretary of War. He will retain possession of all cotton here, and ship it as fast as vessels can be had to New York. I shall immediately send the 17th corps over to Port Royal, by boats furnished by Admiral Dahlgren and General Foster, without interfering with General Easton's vessels, to make a lodgement on the railroad at Pocotaligo.

General Barnard will remain with me a few days, and I shall send this by a staff officer, who can return on one of the vessels of the supply fleet. I suppose that now General Butler has got through with them, you can spare them to us.

My report of recent operations is nearly ready, and will be sent on in a day or two, as soon as some further subordinate reports come in.

I am, with great respect, very truly, your friend,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Lieut. General U. S. GRANT, *City Point.*

EXECUTIVE MANSION,

Washington, December 26, 1864.

MY DEAR GENERAL SHERMAN: Many, many thanks for your Christmas gift, the capture of Savannah. When you were about leaving Atlanta for the Atlantic coast, I was anxious, if not fearful; but feeling that you were the better judge, and remembering that "nothing risked, nothing gained," I did not interfere. Now, the undertaking being a success, the honor is all yours; for I believe none of us went further than to acquiesce. And taking the work of General Thomas into the count, as it should be taken, it is indeed a great success. Not only does it afford the obvious and immediate military advantages, but, in showing to the world that your army could be divided, putting the stronger part to an important new service, and yet leaving enough to vanquish the old opposing force of the whole—Hood's army—it brings those who sat in darkness to see a great light. But what next? I suppose it will be safer if I leave General Grant and yourself to decide.

Please make my grateful acknowledgments to your whole army, officers and men.

Yours, very truly,

A. LINCOLN.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Savannah, January 6, 1865.

DEAR SIR: I am gratified at the receipt of your letter of December 26, at the hands of General Logan, especially to observe that you appreciate the division I made of my army, and that each part was duly proportioned to its work.

The motto, "Nothing venture, nothing win," which you refer to, is most appropriate, and should I venture too much, and happen to lose, I shall bespeak your charitable inference.

I am ready for the "great next" as soon as I can complete certain preliminaries, and learn of General Grant his and your preferences of intermediate "objectives."

With great respect, your servant,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

His Excellency President LINCOLN, *Washington.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Savannah, January 16, 1865.

GENERAL: I have your reports of Saturday and yesterday, and am glad you got the position of Pocotaligo so cheaply. It is of great value to us in the future, and I wish you to have it thoroughly strengthened, and all water channels to its south and east reconnoitred. Don't seem to feel up the peninsula, but rather towards the Salkehatchie. Go on and accumulate supplies and stores, and get ready, as soon as possible, to sally forth with your whole wing, supplied as well as possible. I have ordered Slocum to push one division to Hardeeville and Puryburg, and to open up communication with you. I will try and get Davis started by Wednesday, but cannot hear of the troops from Baltimore, to relieve Geary here. I will not move from Pocotaligo till we get a good supply in our wagons, as that is the great point.

Truly yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

Major General HOWARD,
Commanding Right Wing, Beaufort.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Savannah, Ga., January 16, 1865.

GENERAL: Since my letter of this morning, I have official reports from General Howard, commanding right wing. He crossed from Beaufort island on Saturday, the 14th, by Port Royal ferry, to the main land, with the 17th corps, General Blair, and marched for Pocotaligo. They encountered the enemy near Garden's corner, but soon outflanked him and followed, dislodging him from position to position, till he took refuge in a strong fort at Pocotaligo. This is described as a well-constructed enclosed work, pierced for twenty-four (24) guns, and the approaches covered by the peculiar salt-marsh points that guard this coast. Night overtook the command there, and Sunday morning the enemy was gone. Howard expresses great satisfaction thereat, as it was Sunday, and it saved him an assault which might have cost him some valuable lives. As it was, he lost Lieutenant Chandler, of General Leggett's staff, killed, and Captain Kellogg, of General Giles A. Smith's staff, wounded. He writes that eight or ten will cover his loss. He reports three guns captured at Garden's corner. We are therefore now in possession of good high ground on the railroad at Pocotaligo, with a good road back twenty-five (25) miles to Beaufort.

I will order Howard to forage toward Charleston, but proceed to get my army and trains across, and can start north the moment I can get my wagons loaded.

The weather at sea has been so stormy that vessels are behind, and it has been touch and go to get daily food. I have ordered Slocum to push a division up to Hardeeville and Puryburg, and think I can use the Savannah river up to that point. We are hard at work corduroying the roads across the rice-fields by the Union causeway.

The Secretary told me I would surely receive four thousand (4,000) men from Baltimore, to garrison Savannah. They are not heard of here yet.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

Lieut. General U. S. GRANT,
City Point, Virginia.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Savannah, Ga., January 17, 1865.

DEAR ADMIRAL: I am this moment in receipt of your letter of January 12, with the roll of maps, for which I am much obliged, and I hope you will succeed at Fisher, as it will set free much of your fleet for other purposes; but if Terry does not assault, he should occupy the peninsula at the narrow neck represented on the map, about four miles north of Fisher, with a strong line looking to the rear, and a battery of 20-pounder Parrotts commanding the channel of Cape Fear river. I know that the enemy would not naturally keep in Fort Fisher to exceed five or six hundred (500 or 600) men, and they could be held there; still, if he takes it, it settles that matter, and the majority of his troops could return to Grant, or re-enforce Newbern, and work out towards Kingston.

I will send my railroad man, W. W. Wright, up to Newbern, and can send any number of cars and locomotives, so that we can use that road back to Kingston and Goldsboro'. We have here also a good deal of railroad iron.

Pursuant to my plan, the 17th corps got Pocotaligo and the railroad on the 15th, and I would now be in motion for Branchville and Orangeburg, only stores have been delayed by the storms of the past month. But the possession of Pocotaligo and road back to Beaufort, as also from here forward to Hardeeville, gives us a clear start, and I will be off as soon as I can get bread enough to load my wagons.

The division of Grover, sent by Grant to hold Savannah, has begun to arrive, so I can take with me my entire army.

I have studied the maps well, and like the appearance of Newbern and Goldsboro', and would like Newbern held with all tenacity. If Lee sees the points, he may try to checkmate me there; and if you have anything to do with it, hold fast to Newbern with the tenacity of life. I explained, in person, its importance to the Secretary of War, who promised to run in there and attend to it.

I will make a good ready, and then stand from under. I shall account it a happy day if I stand once more on your deck. The world shall not be grieved at little jealousies, for we feel a just pride in the pure courage and patriotism of each other.

I will write you again before I again drive out of sight and hearing.

Very truly, your friend,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Admiral D. D. PORTER,

Commanding North Atlantic Squadron, off Wilmington.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Savannah, Ga., January 17, 1865.

DEAR ADMIRAL: I have this moment received your note of the 16th instant, with the letter and roll of charts from Admiral Porter. I send you, herewith, letter to Admiral Porter, which I beg you will send him at your earliest convenience, but it is not of enough importance to detach a ship.

I regret exceedingly the loss of the monitor Patapsco, especially that she carried down so many valuable lives.

Admiral Porter thinks he and General Terry can take Fort Fisher, or, at all events, occupy the peninsula above it, and cut it off from Wilmington. Of this we shall hear soon, as he proposes to renew the attack on the 13th or 14th; and in case of taking Fort Fisher he would send to Charleston all his fleet, save enough to blockade Wilmington, and keep up communication for the troops on shore; otherwise, he could hold on there to engage the attention of the enemy about there, to keep them from me.

You will have heard that we took Pocotaligo on the 15th according to my plans, and we now have the 17th corps, General Blair, strongly intrenched on the railroad. I would by this time also have had my left wing at Sister's ferry, but have been and still am delayed by the non-arrival of our stores necessary to fill our wagons.

The first instalment of General Grover's division, which is to garrison Savannah, has just arrived, and all will be in to-morrow.

I would prefer you should run no risk at all. When we are known to be in rear of Charleston, about Branchville and Orangeburg, it will be well to watch if the enemy lets go of Charleston, in which case Foster will occupy it; otherwise the feint should be about Bull's bay.

We will need no cover about Port Royal, nothing but the usual guard-ships. I think you will concur with me that, in anticipation of the movement of my army to the rear of the coast, it will be unwise to subject your ships to the heavy artillery of the enemy or his sunken torpedoes.

I will instruct Foster, when he knows I have got near Branchville, to make a landing of a small force at Bull's bay, to threaten, and it may be occupy the road from Mount Pleasant to Georgetown. This will make the enemy believe I design to turn down against Charleston, and give me a good offing for Wilmington. I will write you again, fully, on the eve of starting in person.

Your friend,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Admiral J. A. DAHLGREN,

Commanding South Atlantic Squadron, off Charleston.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Savannah, Ga., January 18, 1865.

DEAR GENERAL: Your note of January 17, with enclosures, is received. It is best that all the 15th corps not yet off should march, and that you get your whole command in the neighborhood of Pocotaligo and Coosawhatchie, and make as many wharves as possible, that you may accumulate stores in your wagons.

Slocum has two (2) divisions at Hardeeville and Puryburg, and to-day a gunboat and two transports move up to that point, and it will be five days before Slocum can have Sister's ferry and Robertsville.

The division of Cuvier Grover is now arriving, and will occupy Savannah; this will relieve Geary's division.

Davis will start to-morrow for Sister's ferry, on the west bank of Savannah, with Kilpatrick's cavalry. I now have official notice that Terry carried Fort Fisher by assault, capturing seventy-two (72) guns and one thousand seven hundred and eighty (1,780) prisoners. This closes up Cape Fear river and helps us. I want them also to strengthen Newbern and work out the railroad towards Goldsboro'.

Get your command so as to move north as soon as possible, and get all the bread and forage accumulated you can.

As soon as possible we will cast off, and then for another cruise that will, in my judgment, do more to bring matters to a crisis than the last.

Choose the best points you can find to land stores for Pocotaligo. Don't cross the Salkehatchie, but hold all the ground up to it as though we intended to break across. The next movement I want the enemy to feel is from the left flank. Puryburg is reported a fine point, with deep river and a good bluff.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

General HOWARD.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Savannah, Ga., January 19, 1865.

GENERAL: At my suggestion your command has been re-enforced by the troops serving in North Carolina and a division under command of Major General Grover. I have also turned over to you the city of Savannah and forts dependent, and beg now to indicate, in general terms, the course which I propose to pursue, and your share of the undertaking.

I propose to march, as soon as my wagons are loaded with forage and provisions, to the railroad leading from Augusta to Charleston, striking it to the west of Branchville, breaking up that road effectually. I will then move in compact order, and occupy that space of country lying in the triangle formed by Kingston, Columbia, and Camden. There I propose to devote some attention to Columbia and the railroads in that neighborhood. If I find sufficient forage and subsistence for my army, and meet with no reverse, I may move with rapidity to Florence, South Carolina, in hopes to rescue some ten thousand (10,000) prisoners confined there; at all events, breaking up the road there. I will move direct for Smithland, at the mouth of Cape Fear river, or to Newbern, North Carolina, according to the condition of my army at that time.

When you hear of our being in motion about Coosawhatchie, towards Barnwell, I want a diversion created at Bull's bay, against the Mount Pleasant and Georgetown road, about the twenty-four (24) mile post, to create the impression that my purpose is to swing down against Charleston by the peninsula between the Ashley and Cooper. I think one thousand (1,000) men, with the co-operation of the navy, will be sufficient to accomplish that end. At the same time the command at Morris's island should feel the forces on James's island, either to detect the diminution of the enemy's forces there, or to compel the enemy to keep as many troops there as possible. I regard any attempt to enter Charleston harbor by its direct channel, or to carry it by storm, or James's island, as too hazardous to warrant the attempt. Therefore, any demonstration in that quarter should be merely diversions, or to take advantage of anything they may neglect by reason of my appearance in their rear.

After I have passed the Santee, similar diversions should be made about Georgetown, and, if the opportunity presents itself, the fort there might be carried and dismantled; and I would like to have a good lookout kept by the navy for any boat or message I might send down the Santee or Peedee with a cipher despatch. I have already furnished Admiral Dahlgren with the key, which is the same used by our telegraphic operators, a copy of which you had better procure at once through the War Department from Washington.

In whatever you may do to aid me along the coast by diversions, I must leave you in a great measure to be guided by such information as reaches you from sources controlled by the enemy, of which you must be duly suspicious; but bearing in mind the foregoing, and knowing the strength and temper of my army, you can arrive at a pretty fair conclusion.

I take it for granted that Forts Fisher and Macon, on the North Carolina coast, will be held secure, and it would be well that you give to each commanding officer, from time to time, such instructions as will make them co-operate with the general movement to the extent of their power. I attach great importance to the point at Newbern, and think you had better send to that point an inspector general. Notify the commanding officer of the importance of the position, and if need be re-enforce him. Notify him, further, that the railroad from Morehead City to Newbern must be looked to with great care. I propose to send to Newbern an officer in whom I have great confidence, Colonel W. W. Wright, to examine the railroad, to ascertain the quantity of rolling stock, and to convey there, by the time I can arrive, increased stock and iron, with the necessary operatives to extend the road to Kingston and Goldsboro'. But, as a

matter of course, these preliminary preparations should be made so as to attract as little attention as possible. In this connexion, I would caution you, and by you to caution others, against the mischievous newspaper men who would sacrifice the whole army for a little personal notoriety. If any of them are about and likely to divulge so important a secret, don't risk them, but imprison them till the time is past. At this moment we have learned the capture of Wilmington, which may modify matters somewhat, but the general principles above indicated will be still applicable and sufficient for your guidance.

I would like to have you confer frequently with Admirals Dahlgren and Porter, apprise them of all movements, and call upon them for any assistance in the way of gunboats, &c.

I am, with respect, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General J. G. FOSTER,
Commanding Department of the South.

HEADQUARTERS. MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field Savannah, Ga., January 21, 1865.

GENERAL: In fulfilment of my project, General Howard moved the 17th corps, General Blair, from Thunderbolt to Beaufort, South Carolina, and on the 14th, by a rapid movement, secured the Port Royal ferry and moved against Pocotaligo, which he gained on the 15th, the day appointed. By that course he secured the use of the ground in South Carolina up to the Salkehatchie, (Salkechter,) and General Slocum was ordered, in like manner, to get his wing up about Robertsville, by the way of the Savannah river and the Union causeway.

The transfer of men, animals, and wagons by steamers is a very slow process, and on the 19th General Slocum had only two divisions of the 20th at Puryburg and Hardeeville, with open communications with Howard. John E. Smith crossed by the Union causeway, on which Slocum had put ten days' hard work, but the hard rains had raised the Savannah river, so that the whole country was under water, and the corduroy road, on the Union causeway, was carried away, cutting off one brigade of John E. Smith, one division of the 15th corps, (Corse's,) and all of the 14th corps, (General Davis's.) All were ordered to move up the west bank of the Savannah, to cross at Sister's ferry, but the rains have so flooded the country that we have been brought to a standstill; but I will persevere and get the army, as soon as possible, up to the line from Sister's ferry to Pocotaligo, where we will have *terra firma* to work on. Our supplies have come daily, that is, we have never had four days' forage ahead; but I will depend on enough coming to get me out to the neighborhood of Barnwell, where we will find some.

General Grover's division now occupies Savannah, which I had re-fortified, and I have turned over everything to General Foster, so that nothing now hinders me but water. I rather think the heavy rains in January will give us good weather in February and March. You cannot do much in Virginia till April or May; and when I am at Goldsboro', and move against Raleigh, Lee will be forced to divide his command or give up Richmond.

As soon as possible, if I were in your place, I would break up the department of the James. Make the Richmond army one; then when I get to Goldsboro' you will have a force to watch Lee, and I can be directed to gradually close in, cutting all communications. In the mean time Thomas's army should not be reduced too much, but he should hold Chattanooga, Decatur, and Eastport, collect supplies, and in all February and March move on Tuscaloosa, Selma, Montgomery, and back to Rome, Georgia, when he could be met from Chatta-

nooga. I take it for granted that Beauregard will bring, as fast as he can, such part of Hood's army as can be moved over to Augusta, to hit me in flank as I swing round Charleston. To cover the withdrawal, Forrest will be left in Mississippi and West Tennessee to divert attention by threatening the boats on the Mississippi and Tennessee rivers. This should be disregarded, and Thomas should break through the shell, expose the trick, and prevent the planting of corn this spring in middle Alabama.

The people of Georgia, like those of Mississippi, are worn out with care; but they are so afraid of their own leaders that they fear to organize positive resistance. Their motives of honor and fair play are that, by abandoning the cause now, they would be construed as mean for leaving their comrades in the scrape. I have met the overtures of the people frankly, and given them the best advice I know how.

I enclose copies of orders issued for the guidance of General Foster and other officers on this coast. These orders are made in conference with the Secretary of War.

I have been told that Congress meditates a bill to make another Lieutenant General for me. I have written to John Sherman to stop it, if it is designed for me. It would be mischievous, for there are enough rascals who would try to sow differences between us, whereas you and I now are in perfect understanding. I would rather have you in command than anybody else, for you are fair, honest, and have at heart the same purpose that should animate all I should emphatically decline any commission calculated to bring us into rivalry, and I ask you to advise all your friends in Congress to this effect, especially Mr. Washburne. I doubt if men in Congress fully realize that you and I are honest in our professions of want of ambition. I know I feel none, and to-day will gladly surrender my position and influence to any other who is better able to wield the power. The flurry attending my recent success will soon blow over and give place to new developments.

I enclose a letter of general instructions to General Thomas, which I beg you to revise and endorse or modify.

I am truly yours,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Lieut. General U. S. GRANT,

City Point, Virginia.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Savannah, January 21, 1865.

GENERAL: Before I again dive into the interior and disappear from view, I must give you in general terms such instructions as fall within my province, as commander of the division.

I take it for granted that you now reoccupy in strength the line of the Tennessee from Chattanooga to Eastport. I suppose Hood to be down about Tuscaloosa and Selma, and that Forrest is again scattered to get horses and men, and to divert attention. You should have a small cavalry force, say two thousand (2,000) men, to operate from Knoxville through the mountain pass along the French Broad into North Carolina, to keep up the belief that it is to be followed by a considerable force of infantry. Stoneman could do this while Gillem merely watches up the Holston.

At Chattanooga should be held a good reserve of provisions and forage, and in addition to its garrison a small force that could on short notice relay the railroad to Resaca. Prepare to throw provisions down to Rome on the Coosa. You remember I left the railroad track from Resaca to Kingston and Rome with such a view. Then with an army of twenty-five thousand (25,000) infantry

and all the cavalry you can get, under Wilson, you should move from Decatur and Eastport to some point of concentration about Columbus, Mississippi, and then march to Tuscaloosa and Selma, Alabama, destroying fences, gathering horses and mules and wagons, to be burned, and doing all the damage possible, burning up Selma, that is the navy yard, the railroad back towards the Tombigbee, all iron foundries, mills, or factories. If no considerable army opposes you, you might reach Montgomery and deal with it in like manner, and then, at leisure, work back along the Selma and Rome road *via* Talladega and Blue mountain, to the valley of Chattanooga to Rome, or Lafayette. I believe such a raid perfectly practicable and easy, and that it would have an excellent effect.

It is nonsense to suppose that the people of the south are enraged or united by such movements. They reason very differently. They see in them the sure and inevitable destruction of all their property; they realize that the confederate armies cannot protect them, and they see in the repetition of such raids the inevitable result of starvation and misery. You should not go south of Selma and Montgomery, because south of that line the country is barren and unproductive.

I would like to have Forrest hunted down and killed, but doubt if we can do that yet. While you are thus employed I expect to pass through the centre of South and North Carolina, and I suppose Canby will also keep all his forces active and busy. I have already secured Pocatigo and Grahamsville, from which I have firm roads into the interior. We are all well.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General GEORGE H. THOMAS,
Commanding army in the field, North Alabama, via Nashville.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Savannah, Ga., January 21, 1865.

DEAR GENERAL: I have this moment received your letter of the 17th, enclosing the very full and complete returns, which give me all the data save only the gauge of your railroad, of which we are in doubt; one of my charts represents the gauge as 4 feet 10 inches, and the other at 5 feet. I shall send up my principal railroad man, Colonel W. W. Wright, to look at it and accumulate at Morehead City and Newbern iron and cars ready for use when the time comes. We can supply all those of the five-foot gauge out of captured stock. I don't want you to risk Newbern or Morehead City, and to take Kingston now would attract attention, and lengthen your line too much to be held with any degree of security. Therefore, don't attempt to hold more than you now have, until you know I am near at hand, and you can discover the effect of my approach.

I shall aim to reach Goldsborough, the effect of which will be threefold:

- 1st. With my army at Goldsborough the enemy could not remain at Wilmington.
- 2d. I would have two railroads to the coast for supplies, viz: Morehead City and Wilmington.
- 3d. Goldsborough is the point from which to strike Raleigh.

If my army can fight its way across South Carolina and reach Goldsborough, these results will be certain.

I have already secured Pocatigo, and am moving my army into position on a line from Sister's ferry, on the Savannah, across to Pocatigo, whence I will move around Charleston and across the country to Fayetteville and Goldsborough or Wilmington, according to the supplies I find. General Foster will hold Savannah, &c., and will have a small force in hand to take advantage of

any let-go the enemy may venture to make. I would have been off before this, but am delayed by the rains, which have flooded the whole country. Don't attract attention, but hold Newbern and Morehead City (Fort Macon) secure as points for me to depend on. Don't risk anything; let me run the risk, but stand prepared to aid me as I approach. I leave my chief quartermaster and commissary here to follow me up with boats and supplies.

I do not think Grant will spare you any more men, nor do I think them necessary for the simple defensive position you should maintain. As I approach you I may aim for the railroad near where it crosses the Neuse, near Kingston. As I suppose there the enemy will oppose me, it may be prudent to open communication with you before I cross and attack the position at Kingston or Goldsborough. But Goldsborough is the strategic point I shall aim to secure in North Carolina.

I am, with respect, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

General INNIS N. PALMER,

Commanding District of North Carolina, Newbern.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Beaufort, S. C., January 24, 1865.

DEAR ADMIRAL: Weather now fine and promises us dry land. I will go to-day to Pocotaligo and Coosawhatchie; to-morrow will demonstrate on Salkehatchie, and would be obliged if you would feel up Edisto or Stono, just to make the enemy uneasy on that flank, and to develop if he intends to hold fast to Charleston and Columbia, or both. It will take five days for Slocum to get out of the savannas of Savannah, and during that time I will keep Howard seemingly moving direct on Charleston, though with no purpose of going beyond the Salkehatchie.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General.

Admiral DAHLGREN.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Beaufort, S. C., January 24, 1865.

GENERAL: I was directed this morning by General Sherman to write you by steamer Arago as follows:

He reached here yesterday from Savannah, and this morning went up to Pocotaligo to look to matters in person, and proposes to-morrow to secure Salkehatchie bridge as a demonstration, and also to reconnoitre until Slocum gets out to high ground from Sister's ferry. The storm has been severe and continuous for several days, delaying movements by bad roads; but now it is clear, the roads are improving rapidly, and it bids fair for good weather. I may hear from the general during the night, and will then despatch you further.

I am, with respect,

L. M. DAYTON,

Assistant Adjutant General.

Lieut. General GRANT,

City Point, Va.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Pocotaligo, S. C., January 27, 1865.

DEAR ADMIRAL: I have now reconnoitred all the country from the Salkehatchie bridge back to and including Coosawhatchie. The enemy had fortified every path leading from the various landings to the railroad, and could have bothered us a good deal had we not got Pocotaligo in the way we did, by the several diversions and the quick, prompt attack. From here we will find no trouble in getting an offing. I have official reports that Slocum got off for Sister's ferry on the 25th, and he should be there to-morrow. It will take him till Monday or Tuesday to cross over, load his wagons, and rendezvous at Robertsville, when we will be off. I hope this cold, clear weather will last for that time, as the roads here would cut to the hub after an hour's rain.

I have been feeling the Combahee ferry, and also at the bridge, but the river is over its banks and fills the swamps for a mile back—too deep at points to wade, and too shallow at others to use boats. I can only see a few rebels on the other bank, but a prisoner captured says there is a brigade back a short distance, and a considerable force about Green Pond, ten (10) miles east of this. We find no enemy this side of the Salkehatchie except cavalry, which is simply watching us, but I will clear it away in a hurry when we are ready to move. I will be sure to let you know the moment we are off, and will leave Hatch's division of Foster's command here to cover our movement.

I am, with respect, yours truly

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General.

Admiral DAHLGREN,

Commanding South Atlantic Squadron.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Pocotaligo, S. C., January 27, 1865.

GENERAL: We had heavy and continuous rains up to and including the 24th instant, causing all the rivers, the Savannah included, to overflow their banks, and making the roads simply impassable. I came up to this point on the 25th, and with the troops here, the 17th corps, have been demonstrating against the Salkehatchie, but that stream is out of its banks, and we cannot cross. I only aim to drive the enemy over towards Edisto, a little further from our flank, when I move against the Charleston and Augusta road. I have in person reconnoitred the ground from the Salkehatchie bridge back to Coosawhatchie, and find the country very low and intersected by creeks and points of salt marsh, making roads very bad, but I am pushing to get the right wing here, and have official notice from General Slocum that he had the 20th corps, General Williams, on this side the Savannah, at Puyrsburg, and on the 25th the 14th corps, General Davis, would resume his march from Cherokee Hill, ten (10) miles out of Savannah, where he was caught by the rain-storm, so that I expect to hear of the left wing and cavalry marching to Sister's ferry to-morrow. A gunboat and fleet of transports will attend the left wing up the Savannah river, and General Slocum is ordered to replenish his wagons, rendezvous at Robertsville, and report his readiness to me.

I expect on Monday or Tuesday next, viz: February 1, to be all ready, when I will move rapidly up towards Barnwell, and wheel to the right on the railroad at Midway, leaving Branchville to the right; after destroying that road, I will move on Orangeburg, and so on to Columbia, avoiding any works the enemy may construct in my path, and forcing him to fight me in open ground if he

risk battle. I will use Hatch's division, of Foster's command, four thousand, (4,000,) to cover my movement, by posting it between this and Salkehatchie bridge. You will note that our position is now nearer Branchville than Charleston. I get a few deserters and have made some prisoners who report cavalry only between me and Barnwell, and infantry between us and Charleston. Of course I shall keep up the delusion of an attack on Charleston always, and have instructed General Foster to watch the harbor close from Morris island, and when he hears of my firing on the railroad near Branchville, to make a landing at Bull's bay, and occupy the Georgetown road, twenty-four (24) miles east of Charleston; Admiral Dahlgren will also keep up the demonstration on Charleston.

My chief difficulties will be to supply my army, but on this point I must risk a good deal, based upon the idea that where other people live we can, even if they have to starve or move away. Weather is cold and clear. I will write again.

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General Commanding.

Major General H. W. HALLECK,

Chief of Staff, Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Pocotaligo, S. C., January 28, 1865.

GENERAL: Yours of the 27th is received, and I am pushing my efforts to secure a departure by Monday or Tuesday next. I have in person reconnoitred the country from Salkehatchie bridge to Coosawhatchie. The country is very low and swampy, and impassable, save by the roads marked on our maps. I have no doubt this whole belt of land once formed the sea-coast, with its sound, islands and marsh, which, by the progress seaward of the beach, is left inland, but still possessing its character of sound islands, surrounded by fresh-water marsh. This is the first point of *terra firma*, and has better connexions inland. As near as I can learn, Gillisonville, on the south of Coosawhatchie, is a corresponding point of the main land, and Robertsville, of course.

Therefore, until I am surely between Augusta and Charleston it would be imprudent to let go this point. I have ordered General Hatch to move to a camp between this place (which is near Pocotaligo depot) and Salkehatchie bridge, and to picket Coosawhatchie fort and the fort back at Pocotaligo bridge. The latter is the key point for "defence," but for offence the line of the railroad is the proper one. I would, therefore, not reduce Hatch's force here till you have ascertained the effect on Charleston by my appearance west of Branchville. All Salkehatchie is under water for a mile on either side of the regular bed, and it is almost impossible to get to it.

The bridges have been burned by the enemy, who seems to occupy the opposite bank, but his force, if amounting to anything, is kept well back.

I could see a few men at the railroad bank, and what seemed a gun en embra-sure, but it was not fired, although our men stood in tempting groups on the railroad bank this side in easy 6-pounder range.

We find cavalry to our front towards Barnwell, and hear of some infantry, but I suppose the enemy simply is watching me, and keeps his main force where it can be thrown rapidly on exposed points.

Your demonstration on Willeton is right, but should not be more than a demonstration—that is, a lodgement seemingly to cover the disembarkation of a large body. The admiral's feeling up the Edisto and Steno is well, but my movement to the rear of Charleston is the principal, and all others should be accessory, merely to take advantage of any "let go."

Try and keep me well advised of Slocum's progress; he reports that Davis would move on the 25th, and he should be at Sister's ferry to-day. I shall cause him to be felt for to-morrow.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Major General J. G. FOSTER,

Commanding Department of the South, Hilton Head.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Pocotaligo, S. C., January 28, 1865.

GENERAL: Yours of yesterday came at night. If Easton did not give vessels to carry Logan's mules, it was for a most excellent reason, that he did not have them. Slocum reports that he had ordered Davis to move on the 25th, and he should reach Sister's ferry to-day; the rear can close on him while he lays his bridge. Slocum was to go by river, so as to meet Davis and Williams there. I confide in his energy and judgment to get his command across by Monday. You may now let Foster's troops occupy the old fort at Pocotaligo bridge, where the Charleston and Savannah turnpike road crosses; they will also hold Coosawhatchie fort, but the main body move to-day to a camp covering the Salkehatchie bridges, prepared to fall back on Pocotaligo fort, and the works at the depot now occupied by Mower and Leggett. You may now move your two corps to points in front, north of the railroad, and be ready to march by all the roads leading north, between the Coosawhatchie and Salkehatchie, with your wagons to close up the moment they are loaded. Roads are now comparatively good. Giles Smith's division should make room for Hatch, but Mower and Leggett can start from their present camps. The 15th corps should take position to the left or right front, according to your intention of giving one or the other the right of your movement. We will have to get nearly up to Barnwell before turning toward Midway. The point marked Heywardsville looks like a good point for the 15th corps, and could be reached from the position of John E. Smith's camp. Giles Smith could move to the point about four (4) miles north and west of the Salkehatchie bridge, when you would have your two corps already to move by separate roads, viz: one following substantially the Salkehatchie, and the other the Coosawhatchie, leaving Corse to make his junction as arranged at Hickory Hill. Hatch can supply his command by boats altogether, so as not to occupy our roads at all. You had better begin this movement to-morrow.

I am, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General HOWARD,

Commanding Right Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Pocotaligo, S. C., January 28, 1865.

GENERAL: The modifications you suggest in my general directions are approved, and the movements ordered for to-morrow will be deferred to Monday, provided the weather does not change. You should push matters now that the weather is fair, and better leave behind those who are not ready, as, do what you may, some will not be ready.

You cannot count on crossing Salkehatchie till you are in Barnwell district, nor is it practicable. Your right flank should aim for Midway and Columbia.

Yours, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General O. O. HOWARD,
Commanding Right Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Pocotaligo Depot, January 28, 1865.

GENERAL: General Williams reports to me to-day, from Puryburg, that you have passed up the Savannah river to Sister's ferry, and, therefore, I infer you will be there, and that Davis can get out to Robertsville by Monday. On that day Howard will have the 15th corps at McPhersonville, and the 17th at a point north of the Salkehatchie bridge, ready to start the moment you are ready. Remember that every day's delay takes away one day's rations from Howard, and, if possible, be all ready to start on Tuesday from Robertsville. The 15th corps will keep along the east of Coosawhatchie, the 17th along the Salkehatchie, and will cross it at River's bridge, in Barnwell district; the order of march and general orders will be the same as on the Georgia march. Until we reach the Charleston and Augusta road, I want the most rapid possible movement, Kilpatrick to keep to your left front. Corse should cross to your rear to Hickory Hill, and fall in with his corps there. Work hard to load your wagons, and report to me here at Pocotaligo Depot your readiness to move on Tuesday, if possible. I think you can find two or more good roads, and these will improve as we go north unless the weather changes. It is very important that we hurry to our first point before Hood gets across and makes a junction about Columbia.

If you are all ready on Tuesday you may act on the supposition that Howard is equally so. Let Kilpatrick see this letter. I will shift over to see you up about the edge of Barnwell district.

I am, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General SLOCUM,
Commanding Right Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Pocotaligo, S. C., January 29, 1865.

GENERAL: I have your letter of yesterday. Tell Admiral Dahlgren I regret the loss of the Dia-Ching, but can quote Admiral Porter, who told me once, that "ships were made to be lost." Your movement, by Edisto, is good; but understand me as of opinion, that if the enemy mans his works facing the sea, you cannot gain them, save at a disadvantage, but by demonstrating at points of land from which troops can move against the railroad by a rapid, quick march, you compel him to keep the entire railroad guarded from Charleston to Salkehatchie; but I don't care about the road being actually broken until the latter part of next week. If you know that the enemy falls behind the Edisto, you should break the railroad anywhere this side of him, and then you could reduce Hatch's command here to the number you calculated, viz: one thousand (1,000) men; but so long as McLaws (rebel) has the railroad, by which he can handle four or five thousand (4,000 or 5,000) men rapidly, it will be imprudent

to leave Hatch too weak. There is no use in a force here at all unless it is on the railroad. This point, Pocotaligo, is the most salient, and therefore best; but, if deemed unsafe at any time, the fort at Coosawhatchie would fulfil the same conditions, and its river is deeper and better. I have no doubt a steamboat could work up to the Coosawhatchie fort at high tide; flats drawn by barges could, certainly. I merely want a point of security here till I am surely beyond the Santee, and by a force here you better cover your island and the Savannah river than by any other disposition of your troops.

I expect from Tennessee a force of some five to eight thousand (5,000 to 8,000) men belonging to the four (4) corps with me here. Stop them at Hilton Head, and use them, unless they get there in time to reach me, which is very improbable. Out of them you can make up a good command to demonstrate on Charleston, Georgetown, and from Smithville, Cape Fear river, as I progress, aiming to join their respective commands when we touch the seaboard. If I break the railroad to Augusta and Columbia, it will be well to strike that to Wilmington, unless Wilmington, in the mean time, be taken by Terry. The easiest point to reach that railroad will be from Cape Fear river, to the south and west of Wilmington.

Make as much display on Edisto and about Stono, next Wednesday and Thursday, as possible, and cause the troops at Morris island to make a lodgement on James island, if possible. That is the vital part of Charleston harbor.

I am, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General J. G. FOSTER,
Commanding Department of the South.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D. C., January 21, 1865.

GENERAL: Your letters brought by General Barnard were received at City Point and read with interest. Not having them with me, however, I cannot say that in this I will be able to satisfy you on all points of recommendation, as I arrived here at 1 p. m. and must leave at 6 p. m., having in the mean time spent over three hours with the Secretary and General Halleck. I must be brief.

Before your last request to have Thomas make a campaign into the heart of Alabama, I had ordered Schofield to Annapolis, Maryland, with his corps. The advance, 6,000 will reach the seaboard by the 23d, the remainder following as rapidly as railroad transportation can be procured from Cincinnati. The corps numbers over 21,000 men.

* * * * *

Thomas is still left with a sufficient force (surplus) to go to Selma under an energetic leader. He has been telegraphed to to know whether he could go; and if so, by which of several routes he would select. No reply is yet received. Canby has been ordered to act offensively from the sea-coast to the interior towards Montgomery and Selma. Thomas's forces will move from the north at an early day, or some of his troops will be sent to Canby. Without further re-enforcements, Canby will have a moving column of 20,000 men.

Fort Fisher, you are aware, has been captured. We have a force there of 8,000 effective; at Newbern about half that number. It is rumored through deserters that Wilmington also has fallen. I am inclined to believe the rumor, because, on the 17th, we know the enemy were blowing up their works about Fort Caswell, and that on the 18th Terry moved on Wilmington.

If Wilmington is captured, Schofield will go there; if it is not, he will be

sent to Newbern. In either event all the surplus forces at the two points will move to the interior, towards Goldsboro', in co-operation with your movements. From either point railroad communication can be run out, there being here abundance of rolling stock, suited to the gauge of those roads. There have been about 16,000 men sent from Lee's army south; of these you will have 14,000 against you if Wilmington is not held by the enemy, casualties at Fort Fisher having overtaken about 2,000.

All these troops are subject to your orders as you come in communication with them. They will be so instructed. From about Richmond I will watch Lee closely, and if he detaches much more, or attempts to evacuate, will pitch in. In the mean time should you be brought to a halt anywhere, I can send two corps of 30,000 effective men to your support from the troops about Richmond.

To resume: Canby is ordered to operate to the interior from the gulf; A. J. Smith may go from the north, but I think it doubtful. A force of 28,000 or 30,000 will co-operate with you from Newbern or Wilmington, or both; you can call for re-enforcements.

This will be handed to you by Captain Hudson, of my staff, who will return with any message you may have for me. If there is anything I can do for you in the way of having supplies on shipboard, at any point on the sea-coast ready for you, let me know it.

Yours, truly,

U. S. GRANT, *Lieutenant General.*

Major General W. T. SHERMAN,

Commanding Military Division of the Mississippi.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Pocotaligo, S. C., January 29, 1865.

DEAR GENERAL: Captain Hudson has this moment arrived with your letter of January 21, which I have read with interest.

The capture of Fort Fisher has a most important bearing on my campaign, and I rejoice in it for many reasons, because of its intrinsic importance, and because it gives me another point of security on the seaboard. I hope General Terry will follow it up by the capture of Wilmington, although I do not look for it from Admiral Porter's despatch to me. I rejoice that Terry was not a West Pointer, that he belonged to your army, and that he had the same troops with which Butler feared to make the attempt.

Admiral Dahlgren, whose fleet is re-enforced by some more iron-clads, wants to make an assault *à la* Fisher on Fort Moultrie, but I withhold my consent for the reason that the capture of all Sullivan's island is not conclusive as to Charleston; the capture of James island would be, but all pronounce that impossible at this time. Therefore I am moving, as hitherto designed, for the railroad west of Branchville, then will swing across to Orangeburg, which will interpose my army between Charleston and the interior. Contemporaneous with this, Foster will demonstrate up the Edisto, and afterwards make a lodgement at Bull's bay, and occupy the common road which leads from Mount Pleasant toward Georgetown. When I get to Columbia, I think I shall move straight for Goldsboro' *via* Fayetteville. By this circuit I cut all roads and devastate the land, and the forces along the coast commanded by Foster will follow my movement, taking anything the enemy lets go, or so occupy his attention that he cannot detach all his forces against me. I feel sure of getting Wilmington, and maybe Charleston, and being at Goldsboro', with its railroads finished back to Morehead City and Wilmington, I can easily take Raleigh, when it seems that Lee must come out of his trenches or allow his army to be absolutely invested. If Schofield comes to Beaufort he should be pushed out

to Kingston, on the Neuse, and maybe Goldsboro', or rather a point on the Wilmington road south of Goldsboro'. It is not necessary to storm Goldsboro', because it is in a distant region, of no importance in itself; and if its garrison is forced to draw supplies from its north, it will be eating up the same stores on which Lee depends for his command.

I have no doubt Hood will bring his army to Augusta, and Canby and Thomas should penetrate Alabama as far as possible, to keep employed at least a part of Hood's army; or, what would accomplish the same thing, Thomas might re-occupy the railroad from Chattanooga forward to the Etowah, viz: Rome, Kingston, and Allatoona, thereby threatening Georgia. I know that the Georgia troops are disaffected. At Savannah I met delegates from the several counties of the southwest that manifested a decidedly hostile spirit to the confederate cause. I nursed it along as far as possible and instructed Grover to keep it up.

My left wing must now be at Sister's ferry, crossing the Savannah river to the east bank. Slocum has orders to be at Robertsville to-morrow, prepared to move on Barnwell. Howard is here, all ready to start for the Augusta railroad at Midway.

We find the enemy on the east side of the Salkehatchie, and cavalry in our front, but all give ground on our approach and seem to be merely watching us. If I start on Tuesday, in one week I will be near Orangeburg, having broken up the Augusta road from the Edisto westward twenty or twenty-five miles. I will be sure that every rail is twisted. Should I encounter too much opposition near Orangeburg, then I will for a time neglect that branch and rapidly move on Columbia and fill up the triangle formed by the Congaree and Wateree, tributaries of the Santee, breaking up that great centre of the Carolina roads. Up to that point I feel full confidence, but from there I may have to manoeuvre some, and will be guided by the questions of weather and supplies. You remember I had fine weather all February for my Meridian trip, and my memory of the weather at Charleston is that February is usually a fine month. Before the March storms come I should be within striking distance of the coast. The months of April and May will be the best for operations from Goldsboro' to Raleigh and the Roanoke. You may rest assured that I will keep my troops well in hand, and if I get worsted will aim to make the enemy pay so dearly that you will have less to do. I know this trip is necessary to the war. It must be made sooner or later, and I am on time and in the right position for it. My army is large enough for the purpose, and I ask no re-enforcement, but simply wish the utmost activity at all other points, so that concentration against me may not be universal. I expect Davis will move heaven and earth to catch me, for success to my column is fatal to his dream of empire. Richmond is not more vital to his cause than Columbia and the heart of South Carolina.

If Thomas will not move on Selma, order him to occupy Rome, Kingston, and Allatoona, and again threaten Georgia in the direction of Athens.

I think the poor white trash of the south are falling out of their ranks, by sickness, desertion, and every available means, but there is a large class of vindictive southerners who will fight to the last. The squabbles in Richmond, the howls in Charleston, and the disintegration elsewhere, are all good omens to us; but we must not relax one iota, but, on the contrary, pile up our efforts.

I would ere this have been off, but we had terrific rains which caught me in motion, and nearly drowned some of my columns in the rice-fields of the Savannah, swept away our causeway which had been carefully corduroyed, and made the swamps hereabout mere lakes of slimy mud; but the weather is now good, and I have my army on *terra firma*. Supplies, too, came for a long time by daily dribbles instead of in bulk, but this is now all remedied, and I hope to start on Tuesday.

I will issue instructions to Foster based on the re-enforcement of North Caro-

lina; and if Schofield come, you had better relieve Foster, who cannot take the field and needs an operation on his leg; and let Schofield take command, with headquarters at Beaufort, North Carolina, and with orders to secure, if possible, Goldsboro', with its railroad communication back to Beaufort and Wilmington. If Lee lets us get that position he is gone up.

I will start with my Atlanta army, sixty thousand, (60,000,) supplied as before, and depending on the country for all excess of thirty (30) days. I will have less cattle on the hoof, but I hear of hogs, cows, and calves in Barnwell and the Columbia districts. Even here we found some forage. Of course the enemy will carry off and destroy some forage, but I will burn the houses where the people burn forage, and they will get tired of that.

I must risk Hood, and trust to you to hold Lee or be on his heels if he comes south. I observe that the enemy has some respect for my name, for they gave up Pocotaligo quick when they heard that the attacking force belonged to me. I will try and keep up that feeling, which is a real power.

With respect, your friend,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Lieut. General U. S. GRANT,
City Point, Virginia.

I leave my chief quartermaster and commissary behind to follow coastwise.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Pocotaligo, S. C., January 29, 1865.

GENERAL: I have just received despatches from General Grant, stating that Schofield's corps, the 23d, twenty-one thousand (21,000) strong, is ordered east from Tennessee and will be sent to Beaufort, North Carolina. That is well; I want that force to secure a point on the railroad about Goldsboro', and then to build the road out to that point. If Goldsboro' be too strong to carry by a rapid movement, then a point near the Neuse, south of Goldsboro', but holding the bridge and position about Kingston, and fortify it strong. The movement should be masked by the troops already at Newbern. Please notify General Palmer that these troops are coming, and for him to prepare to receive them. Major General Schofield will command them in person, and is admirably adapted for the work. If it is possible I want him to secure Goldsboro' with the railroad back to Morehead City and Wilmington. As soon as General Schofield reaches Fort Macon, have him to meet some one of your staff to explain in full the detail of the situation of affairs with me, and you can give him chief command of all troops at Cape Fear and in North Carolina. If he finds the enemy has all turned south against me, he need not follow, but turn his attention against Raleigh; but if he can secure Goldsboro' and Wilmington, it will be as much as I expect before I have passed the Santee. Send him all detachments of men that have come to join my army. They can be so organized and officered as to be more efficient, for they are nearly all old soldiers who have been detached or on furlough. Until I pass the Santee you can better use these detachments at Bull's bay, Georgetown, &c.

I will instruct General McCallum, of the railroad department, to take his men up to Beaufort, North Carolina, and use them on the road out. I do not know that he can employ them on any road here. I did instruct him, while awaiting information from North Carolina, to employ them in building a good trestle bridge across Port Royal ferry, but I now suppose the pontoon bridge will do. If you move the pontoons be sure to make a good road out to Gar-

den's corner and mark it with sign-boards, obstructing the old road, so that should I send back any detachments they would not be misled.

I prefer that Hatch's force hereabouts should not be materially weakened until I am near Columbia, when you may be governed by the situation of affairs about Charleston. If you can break the railroad between this and Charleston, then this force could be reduced.

I am, with respect, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General J. G. FOSTER,
Commanding Department of the South.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Pocotaligo, S. C., January 29, 1865.

GENERAL: I have well reconnoitred hereabouts, and am satisfied that it is not to our interest to reconstruct, at this time, any of the railroads out of Savannah. After securing all the property there, I wish you to transfer your men and tools to North Carolina, (Newbern,) unless Wilmington should fall into our possession, and prepare to make railroad communication to Goldsboro' by the middle of March. You need not build the bridge over Port Royal, which I requested of you at Savannah; that can be done by Foster's command.

General Grant advises me of heavy re-enforcements being sent to North Carolina. You may therefore at once transport Colonel Wright and his operators to Newbern or Wilmington, if that place be in our possession, and prepare timber, iron, cars and locomotives adapted to the roads of North Carolina, enough to build out to Goldsboro' when you can get possession of the road.

Let Colonel Wright report to General Schofield or other commanding officer he may find, who, on presenting this letter will furnish all aid.

General Easton will furnish the necessary transportation.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

General McCALLUM,
Railroad Department, Savannah,
In his absence, Colonel W. W. Wright.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Pocotaligo, S. C., January 29, 1865.

GENERAL: I wish you to-morrow to send a detachment to the forks of the road this side of the Salkehatchie, and then make demonstrations as though preparatory to cross over to the east side. Try and make a pathway of fallen timber through the swamp so as to enable skirmishers to appear near the river bank at the railroad and wagon road bridges; also, if possible, let one or more horsemen try to pass through the water along the wagon road. I think the water must have subsided enough for this. Also let a party take tools and prepare, on the railroad causeway, a place (countersunk) for two guns en embasure.

Report to me what is seen by night. I will remain here until I hear from General Slocum about Robertsville, when the whole army will move north, leaving you to cover this point. I deem it important to hold the position on the railroad for some time, say ten (10) days after I leave, and during that time to feel across the Salkehatchie in the direction of Charleston, so as to destroy the

railroad as far towards the Edisto as possible. As long as the railroad is intact up to Salkhatchie you will see an enemy may rapidly interpose between here and Port Royal, which might incommode us. At the same time General Foster will try and cut the road between this and Charleston, the effect of which will be to make the enemy guard the road in its whole length. After I have reached the Augusta road I do not think this road will be of much use to the enemy.

I am, with respect,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

General HATCH, *Commanding Division.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Pocotaligo, S. C., January 30, 1865.

GENERAL: The general-in-chief desires me to say that he is waiting anxiously to hear from General Slocum, that he may know all is ready, and will then give the order for moving. General Slocum has orders to report his readiness. He (General Sherman) wishes you to hold your command in readiness and prepared to reach Hickory Hill Post Office the next march; also to have General Blair reconnoitre with a view of learning if there be a practicable road for communication and marching from McPhersonville to Robertsville.

There is a lot of recruits, &c., here that will report to you to-night; the general says if you have arms you may put them to duty, but if not, and can't make good use of them, you may send them to Beaufort if you wish.

The general does not wish you to move beyond your present position until all are ready and orders made.

I am, with respect,

L. M. DAYTON, A. A. G.

Major General O. O. HOWARD,
Commanding Army of the Tennessee.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Pocotaligo, S. C., January 31, 1865.

GENERAL: Howard moves Wednesday morning *via* Hickory Hill and River's bridge. Communicate with me at Hickory Hill, and follow us as rapidly as possible by the old Orangeburg road, by Lawtonville, Duck Branch Post Office, and Beaufort bridge. Let Kilpatrick's cavalry keep on your left front.

I have not heard of your crossing the Savannah yet, but negroes report your pushing the enemy through Lawtonville.

Make the most possible of this fine weather.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

Major General SLOCUM, *Sister's Ferry.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, 4 miles from Hickory Hill, February 1, 1865—1 p. m.

GENERAL: Your letters of January 31 are received. I cannot modify my orders relative to General Saxton having the charge of recruiting blacks. The Secretary made that point. I think the impression at Washington is that both you and I are inimical to the policy of arming negroes, and all know that Saxton is not, and his appointment reconciles that difficulty.

If anything serious occurs correspond directly with Mr. Stanton, and make your points. Let Grant know I am in motion, and telegraph to Easton that Slocum has to wait for provisions it will be dead loss, as we are eating up ours. Let Hatch continually feel the Salkehatchie, and the moment the enemy lets go, get the railroad broken back to the Edisto.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Major General J. G. FOSTER,
Commanding Department of the South.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, near Hickory Hill, February 1, 1865.

GENERAL: Your note of this morning is received. All right; get word over to Slocum that I have started and will be opposite River's bridge to-morrow. I may await him there, or go on to the railroad about Midway. He should push cavalry first, and corps by corps, as fast as ready. Keep feeling at the Salkehatchie bridge and the ferry, and if the enemy lets go, follow up to the Edisto. Let's coop him in Charleston, close. Foster will demonstrate about Edisto island.

Roads are very fair, obstructed at the swamps, but we cut away about as fast as a column marches. We find some hogs, bacon, and corn, but much has been carried off by Wheeler, who is ahead.

Open communication to-night with Slocum from Coosawhatchie to Robertsville.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Brigadier General JOHN P. HATCH,
Commanding Coast Division.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Hickory Hill, S. C., February 1, 1865—5 p. m.

GENERAL: I have a letter from General Williams detailing your difficulties. I think you had better despatch Williams with his two divisions, and Kilpatrick's cavalry, by the road leading through Duck Branch Post Office, to Beaufort bridge, and overtake us and follow as soon as possible with the balance. I deem it important to get on the railroad as soon as possible. We will march slowly, say ten or twelve miles a day, towards Midway, and I want you to come up on our left, say at Blackville or Graham's. You will find some meat and forage. We have already found some.

Wheeler had a division of cavalry here, but they ran; they had obstructed the roads, but these were cleared out without delay. Tell Corse he may come by Hickory Hill or Duck Branch, as he finds most convenient. You might occupy roads to the left for convenience.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Major General H. W. SLOCUM,
Commanding Left Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
Hickory Hill Post Office, S. C., February 2, 1865—3 3/4 a. m.

GENERAL: I have just read your despatch. You may go on with two divisions and secure, if possible, Rivers's bridge. Let one division keep to Angle-

sey's post office by the south of Whippy. Logan will move so as to get his head of column on the road leading from Duck Branch post office to Anglesey's. That road (the old Orangeburg) is supposed to be on good, firm ground, and is an old road leading to Beaufort's bridge, which is the one I expect to use.

Wheeler's cavalry is mostly to our left. At Rivers's you will find rebel infantry and artillery in position.

Slocum is unable to cross the Savannah by reason of water over the banks; will have to bridge three-quarters of a mile, from four to six feet of water. We may have to go to the railroad without him. I have a cipher despatch from him, the contents of which, when translated, I will tell the bearer of this.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

Major General O. O. HOWARD,
Commanding Army of the Tennessee.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
*In the field, 2½ miles north of Duck Branch Post Office,
31½ from Pocotaligo February 2, 1865—7 p. m.*

GENERAL: I wrote you on the road yesterday touching the matter of General Saxton, and gave you my reasons for not changing my orders. I still adhere to that conclusion, but have no objection whatever that you should apply to the Secretary of War direct, and leave him to judge. But as to military discipline, I decide that General Saxton cannot go to a military post, and do anything which, in the judgment of its commander, is calculated to produce confusion and disorder. The commanding officer of a post is the proper person to see that it does not become encumbered with idle or worthless vagabonds of any color, sex, or kind. You may sustain General Grover in anything he may do as to maintaining good order and government at Savannah.

The Secretary of War is charged by Congress with the administration of the war policy, and we are bound to respect his authority and wishes, and these are contained in my orders. If General Saxton presumes on any special influences, let him alone and he will commit some breach of military propriety, when you will take action.

I consider he has no more control over organizations of colored troops after they are mustered and paid than the superintendent of the general recruiting service for white troops. During the inchoate existence of a regiment or company he may use it about his rendezvous for guard and police; but after troops are organized as companies, battalions, or regiments, mustered in and paid by the United States, they at once become, like any other part of your command, subject to your orders and details. Indeed, were I in your place I would prefer this disposition, as it relieves you of all the details of organization. As to Littlefield's duties, you can put him subject to Saxton, or you can give him the details of any other officers and men of your command at your own option. You may require him to apply for such details as he wants, and you can make them just as you would for the quartermaster.

As to the nomination of officers for negro regiments, that purely belongs to the appointing power, the President, who may delegate it to whom he sees fit. As to steamboats, I don't think General Easton has any feeling as to you, but I think he has an idea that Major Thomas, much his junior, is left to judge. If he knows that you give the subject your personal attention he will be content. It would be well for you to confer with him, for I have given him "*carte blanche*," and hold him accountable as to my immediate army.

My movements now will depend for a day or two on Slocum, but you had better be all ready for the steps I indicated. We find a good deal of cavalry on all the roads, but they do not delay our march. The infantry is behind the Salkehatchie, which is a swampy, ugly stream, all the way up to Barnwell. I am much obliged for the paper. All well.

Yours truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

General J. G. FOSTER,
Commanding Department of the South.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, February 3, 1865—5 p. m.

General HOWARD:

Your note and orders of last night were not received until a few moments ago. General Logan got here last night, and to-day drove the enemy from a position on the other side of Duck creek. General Williams brought up five brigades of Slocum's troops, but no later news of Slocum; thinks he will have a hard time to get across Savannah river at all.

I ordered Wood's division to Anglesey's post office, and John E. Smith is between. To-morrow the 15th corps will move on Beaufort's bridge, which is also strongly defended, and I will order Williams toward Barnwell, to the point marked "Hayes."

I will myself stop at Anglesey's post office till I hear what progress is made to effect a lodgment across the Salkehatchie. General Wood's is now at Anglesey's, and will lead to Beaufort's to-morrow. If Slocum were up I would move him to Barnwell at once, but can use Williams to produce the same effect.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Duck Branch Post Office, February 3, 1865.

GENERAL: Move your command to-morrow; two divisions to Beaufort's bridge, and one to Anglesey's post office. Better pursue the same order as now, and let all march—say at 6 a. m. That will bring the divisions of Wood and John E. Smith at Beaufort's, and Hazen's at Anglesey's. I will move Williams by our left rear around to Arnold church and Hayes.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

General LOGAN,
Commanding 15th Corps.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Duck Branch Post Office, S. C., February 4, 1865—3 a. m.

GENERAL: Enclosed I send you copy of report just received from Major General Howard, his operations giving full possession of the Salkehatchie.

General Sherman desires that you will move your command slowly to the point indicated in the instructions sent yesterday p. m., these operations giving you,

probably, a clear road ; it is reported that Wheeler has passed around our front across the Salkehatchie.

Please communicate with General Slocum the progress made and our present situation, and the fact of our being in possession of the Salkehatchie, given by Mower's assault to-day ; also such other items as will be of information to him. We will move as indicated.

I am, general, with respect,

L. M. DAYTON,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Brevet Major General WILLIAMS,
Commanding 20th Corps.

P. S.—Send substance of this to Slocum. I think you had better send the bulk of your train, under small escort, by the direct road to Beaufort's bridge, to which point you may conduct your command around by Allendale post office and Arnold church, making as much display as possible. Take enough wagons and artillery with you to forage *good*, and try and be at Beaufort's bridge to-morrow night, so you can pass the Salkehatchie there without fail. Then, probably, we shall move without waiting for Slocum, though I want Kilpatrick up as quick as possible ; but he should swing round to Barnwell, but not further west without orders.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Beaufort's Bridge, S. C., February 5, 1865.

GENERAL : General Kilpatrick is now up to Allendale post office, and will move to-morrow on Barnwell, and thence to join us about Bamberg.

I wish your wing to move now with all expedition consistent with due caution, and make a strong lodgement on the South Carolina railroad anywhere from Graham's to the Edisto.

I will instruct General Williams to cross here, and move four miles towards Barnwell, and thence follow cross-roads in the direction of Graham's station.

I suppose you will move the 17th corps direct on Midway, and the 15th corps on Bamberg. I will attend the 15th corps.

I am yours, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

General HOWARD,
Commanding Army of the Tennessee.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Beaufort's Bridge, S. C., February 5, 1865.

GENERAL : Captain Newton has just arrived, and I am glad you are up. The enemy is all in the mist as to our movements, save they think Slocum's command has gone up to Augusta, and that I am moving on Branchville. We carried the position at Rivers's yesterday, and to-day have passed both corps across—17th at Rivers's, and 15th here at Beaufort's. I sent Williams round by Allendale to make a feint on Barnwell. To-morrow the 17th corps will move rapidly on Midway, and the 15th on Bamberg ; Williams will follow in reserve.

The enemy intended to defend the line of Salkehatchie, but are now falling back to the Edisto. Presuming you get to-day to Allendale Post Office, I want

you to-morrow to move rapidly on Barnwell, keeping up any feint you may please in the direction of Augusta. Next day strike the railroad where you please, from Blackville to Lowry's. If you can, get and destroy cars, locomotives, and depots, but don't delay long, but effectually destroy some piece of the track, enough to cut communication, and then turn to us about Duncanville or Bam-burg. You will find plenty of corn and bacon. I think Wheeler's forces are scattered, and he has no idea where you are up to this moment, so you can act with a rush. Some cavalry retreated before General Williams to the northwest, towards Augusta, and other parts across the bridges of Salkehatchie. I don't care about your going into Barnwell, and only refer to it as the point where you will likely find cleared roads across the swamp. The bridges amount to nothing; the swamp is the worst, and you may cross it wherever you please. I expect to hear from you the night of February 7, or morning of the 8th, when I will be with the 15th corps not far from Duncanville or Bam-burg.

On this side the Salkehatchie we find the roads fine, with farms and abundance of forage. None has been destroyed.

The farmers west of Salkehatchie were ordered to move their forage and stock to the east of Salkehatchie, the rebels expecting to hold that line.

Mystify the enemy all you can, but break that road while I move straight on it about Lowry's.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

General KILPATRICK,

Commanding Cavalry, Allendale.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Beaufort's Bridge, S. C., February 5, 1865.

GENERAL: The right wing of the army will move early to-morrow against the South Carolina railroad in the neighborhood of Bam-burg.

I wish you to cross the Salkehatchie and move for the same point, but for convenience of movement suggest you take the Barnwell road to Ayer's, where a road leads to Blackville which intersects one coming into the direct Bam-burg road from here, at the Little Salkehatchie. As you approach the Little Salkehatchie I think you can find some road to Bam-burg, without coming into collision with the 15th corps, that will occupy ten miles of that road; I think such a road will be found from Nimmon's to Duncanville, crossing Little Salkehatchie, above or at Dowling's mill. I will be near the leading division of the 15th corps. Kilpatrick will be about Barnwell to-morrow night, and will strike the railroad next day between Blackville and Graham's.

If you can find any other road than the one I suggest, which is nearly parallel with the one travelled by the 15th corps, and not more than six or seven miles off, you can take it; always sending me word, and in case of hearing the sound of serious battle, change your course towards it.

I am, yours, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General Commanding.

General A. S. WILLIAMS, *Commanding 20th Corps.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Beaufort's Bridge, S. C., February 5, 1865.

GENERAL: I have instructed General Howard to move the right wing, and make a lodgement on the South Carolina railroad, in the neighborhood of Bam-burg. You may, therefore, in anticipation of the movement, make orders for

the 15th corps to take the direct road to Duncanville. Kilpatrick will move by Barnwell, and I have ordered General Williams to cross the Big Salkehatchie by this bridge; thence to take the Barnwell road out as far as Ayer's, where a road branches to Blackville. He will follow that to about Nimmon's, trusting to find some road leading up to Graham's or Duncanville.

I would like, if possible, that Hazen should be on the north side of the Barnwell road by eight o'clock, so that Williams can pass him, and that the two armies should not get mixed at the place where Hazen's camp now is.

I am, yours, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Major General J. A. LOGAN,
Commanding 15th Corps.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, five miles from Bamburg, February 6, 1865.

GENERAL: You may make your orders, and march to-morrow on Lowry's Station, South Carolina railroad, and make a strong lodgement and break up the road. Inasmuch as the enemy must, by this time, have detected our plan, you should be prepared for battle. You know that the 17th corps is approaching Midway by the road from Rivers's bridge, and should now be within eight miles. You have only five miles to Bamburg, and one more to Lowry's. Williams is just behind you, and Kilpatrick is supposed to be at Barnwell, and has orders to strike the railroad about Blackville and turn to Bamburg. Williams is ordered to move straight on Graham's Station, unless he hears you engaged, when he will turn to your left flank.

You had better march with two divisions, disencumbered of all wagons save a few with cartridges, and the ambulances, and let your train follow to any point you may select, about Bamburg or Lowry's, to be parked. As soon as you reach the railroad set to work to destroy it effectually, viz: every rail must be twisted.

Your advance should push out a mile or so beyond the railroad, towards South Edisto, on the Cannon's Bridge road. If you hear Howard engaged lean towards Midway, but get the road broken anyhow. I will be with you, but want you to fight your own battle, as I am a non-combatant. The enemy ought to fight us, but I don't believe he will.

Yours, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Major General J. A. LOGAN,
Commanding 15th Corps.

Have the left-hand road at the church clear for Williams by 8 a. m.

S.

[Cipher despatch.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
Armies in the field, Lowry's Station, February 7, 1865.

General FOSTER, *Hilton Head, S. C.:*

We are on the railroad at Midway. Weather bad; water high, and roads bad. These may force me to turn against Charleston before crossing the Santee. Enemy has retreated east and north across the Edisto. We will break up fifty miles of this road towards Augusta, and then move over towards Columbia.

Watch Charleston close, and threaten Bull's bay. Hatch's force should now get across to Edisto, about Jacksonboro' and Willstown. Slocum is not yet up.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

[Cipher despatch.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
Army in the field, February 7, 1865.

Admiral DAHLGREN :

We are on the South Carolina road at Midway, and will break fifty miles from Edisto towards Augusta ; I then cross towards Columbia. Weather is bad and country full of water. This cause may force me to turn against Charleston. I have ordered Foster to move Hatch up to the Edisto about Jacksonboro' and Willstown, also to make that lodgement at Bull's bay.

Watch Charleston close ; I think Davis will order it to be abandoned lest he lose its garrison as well as guns. We are all well, and the enemy retreats before us. Send word to Newbern that you have heard from me, and the probabilities are that high waters may force me to the coast before I reach North Carolina, but to keep Wilmington busy.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Lowry's, February 7, 1865.

GENERAL : We are on the railroad and the enemy has retreated across the Edisto. I propose to break up the road westward, so you may let Geary join Williams about Graham's, and let Davis take any road you may prefer to the left to reach the neighborhood of Blackville. You may send that corps (14th) through Barnwell for the sake of forage. We find plenty, but I fear we leave but little behind us. Weather is villanous, but we can't help it and must do the best we can.

Send back to Coosawhatchie fort, or any other point you may think best, the enclosed cipher messages to General Foster and Admiral Dahlgren. Send by several messengers and by secure roads.

Yours, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

Major General SLOCUM, *on the Road.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Lowry's Station, S. C., Railroad, February 7, 1865.

GENERAL : Your note of 2 p. m. is received. We are all on the road, and will break road to-morrow and then move up towards Augusta. You can remain where you are and try and secure the bridge at the head of Young's island. I will pass the Edisto, above that point, and as high as Guignard's bridge. Make a good break while you are about it. If you feel confident you may move up the road, making occasional breaks, and meet us on your return about White

Pond in two days after to-morrow. I will order Davis's corps to come round through Barnwell to White Pond or Windsor's. Don't risk much, but keep your horses and men well in hand.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

General KILPATRICK, *Commanding Cavalry.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Lowry's Station, S. C., February 8, 1865.

GENERAL: Yours of this date is received. Burn all cotton. The confederate congress has appropriated all cotton to its own use. It is the only cash article left to the enemy. I send you a letter to Wheeler in answer to his, which you can leave with the lady to be sent to Wheeler as best she can.

Destroy the railroad and its attachments, tanks, sheds, everything that facilitates its use. I will send you orders for to-morrow, which amount to moving up to Blackville. If you hear of Geary to-day in reach, turn him at once to Blackville; Slocum should move the 14th corps towards Williston. I think the left wing will cross the Edisto about Guignard's and Pine Log bridges. I want to get the left wing on the Orangeburg and Edgefield road as soon as possible. We are twisting the iron here beautiful. I will send the engineers up to you to-morrow, they do the work best.

W T. SHERMAN

Major General.

General A. S. WILLIAMS, *Graham's.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, February 8, 1865.

GENERAL: Yours addressed to General Howard is received by me. I hope you will burn all cotton and save us the trouble. We don't want it, and it has proven a curse to our country. All you don't burn, I will. As to private houses occupied by peaceful families, my orders are not to molest or disturb them, and I think my orders are obeyed. Vacant houses, being of no use to anybody, I care little about, as the owners have thought them of no use to themselves. I don't want them destroyed, but do not take much care to preserve them.

I am, with respect, yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Major General J. WHEELER,

Commanding Cavalry Corps, Confederate Army.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Lowry's, February 8, 1865.

GENERAL: I have just received your note in cipher. I send you a copy of orders for the next move which will give you the key to the whole. Wheeler writes to General Howard, offering not to burn cotton if we don't burn houses. I assured him that he would oblige me by burning cotton, as it saves us the trouble; that we don't burn occupied houses; but if people vacate their own houses, I don't think they should expect us to protect them.

You may burn all cotton. Spare dwelling-houses that are occupied, and teach your men to be courteous to women—it goes a great ways—but take all provisions and forage you need. Act as though you are, or are to be, followed by infantry.

I expect Hood's army will try and join the South Carolina army about Co-

lumbia, and I will try and interpose again at Orangeburg. I will order the 14th corps to Williston and Guignard's bridge or Pine Log bridge. Edisto is narrow and easily crossed up there. The Orangeburg and Edgefield road is the key line of South Carolina.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

General KILPATRICK, *Blackville.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Graham's Station, February 9, 1865.

DEAR GENERAL: Your note of this morning is received. Williams moved hence for Blackville this morning. The Michigan engineers have been ordered to your flank to twist railroad iron. Tell Williams I have inspected his work here, and the bars are not twisted. Better do half the work and do it thoroughly; unless there be a warp the bar can be straightened again. All the cavalry is now, and has been, on your flank. Kilpatrick was last night up at Williston, where he whipped a division of cavalry, and is moving to break up railroad, partially, as far as Aiken.

I was in hopes you would turn Davis off below Coosawhatchie swamp through Barnwell to Williston or White pond. Get him as soon as possible at work on the railroad from Williston west, and in the mean time have the bridge at Guignard's and Pine Log examined so as to cross there, or at the head of Young's island. My orders of yesterday give the next movement.

To-day, Howard, with the 17th corps, is moving to Binnaker's bridge. Two divisions of the 15th corps are at the forks of the roads west of this, and the other at Holman's bridge.

Don't take any of Kilpatrick's cavalry to make escorts or orderlies, for he has to fight and contend now with double and nearly treble his numbers. For courier duty and orderlies pick up horses and mount drummers and non-combatants. If necessary to get horses break up teams and use mules for ambulances, burning up the empty wagons. Howard has no cavalry save one fragment of mounted infantry. By keeping on our left you will have, henceforth, good forage.

Pine Log ford will be the place for Kilpatrick to cross over the South Edisto. Your best points will be the head of Young's island and Guignard's.

We must all turn amphibious, for the country is half under water. Mower had to fight at the Salkehatchie with his men up to their arm-pits, he setting the example.

I think we can spend all of to-morrow on railroad-breaking, but next day we must be across Edisto. You can gain time on Howard as he swings against Orangeburg. Your wing will move on Columbia.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Major General SLOCUM, *Blackville.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Walker's House, near S. C. Railroad,

February 9, 1865—2½ p. m.

GENERAL: An officer has just left me for Blackville, where Slocum will arrive with Geary's division, which completes the 20th corps at Blackville. Davis is moving for Barnwell, and will come up to the west of Blackville about Williston. I have ordered Slocum to put in to-morrow good on the railroad, and then look to crossing the Edisto at the head of Young's island and at Guignard's.

I want you to effect a crossing at or between Binnaker's and Holman's bridges. Do it in your own way, using all the 17th corps and one division of the 15th corps, sent by Logan to Holman's bridge. If you can secure a lodgement to-morrow and get to work on a bridge at Binnaker's, it will be time enough to cross day after to-morrow. All accounts appear that the road from Binnaker's to Orangeburg is better than from Holman's.

I am seven miles from Binnaker's, five from Holman's, and six from Blackville. I will probably go up to Blackville to-morrow to see Slocum.

Keep me well advised of your purposes. As soon as Logan completes the destruction of the railroad to Blackville he can move his two other divisions down to Holman's, or where you need them.

It is, to me, patent that the enemy has only cavalry at the Edisto, and we must keep it busy, that Kilpatrick may encounter less about Aiken. His movement on Aiken, besides the substantial damage, will disconcert the part of S. D. Lee's corps that did not get over the railroad.

Proceed to effect a lodgement on the north of the Edisto by cautious, but persistent, efforts; once across, the enemy will fall behind the Santee.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Major General HOWARD,

Commanding Right Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, near Graham's, South Carolina Railroad,

February 10, 1865.

GENERAL: I have just returned from Blackville, where I saw General Slocum. The 20th corps is all up and at work destroying railroad. The 14th corps, General Slocum thinks, will reach Williston to-night. I also learn that General Corse is close at hand. So all things are in readiness for the move on Orangeburg. General Slocum will have his two corps on the Orangeburg and Edgefield road, opposite the new bridge at the head of Fair's island and Guignard's, by the day after to-morrow. You had better move the 17th corps straight on Orangeburg, aiming to get within two or three miles, ready the next day to cross by pontoons above Orangeburg and make a lodgement on the road. The 15th corps should move to-morrow to Bull-fight pond, and next day to North Edisto, at the mouth of Mill Branch creek, or Caw Caw, according to the appearance about Orangeburg. I will accompany the 15th corps and camp with it to-morrow night.

I want to have the railroad broken good from about Orangeburg up above the State road, (Matthew's Post Office,) but would prefer that one corps should do the work, leaving the 15th corps to follow a course more to the west, in support of the left wing, in the event of Dick Taylor having got to Augusta with Hood's old army.

Slocum's orders will take him by the most direct road possible to Columbia, but making to the left about the Sand Hills in case he comes in contact with one of your columns. I have nothing from Kilpatrick to-day.

If to-morrow, or next day, we observe a concentration of force about Orangeburg, I can draw from Slocum by the Edgefield road.

I will notify General Logan to put his corps in motion to-morrow for Bull-fight pond.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

General O. O. HOWARD,

Commanding Right Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Walker's House, February 10, 1865.

GENERAL: I have this moment written General Howard that he may begin his movement on Orangeburg. You may, therefore, in the morning early put your corps in motion for Bull-fight pond, on the Edgefield and Orangeburg road, and there await orders from General Howard or myself. I will accompany you, going from here direct to Holman's bridge.

I am, &c., yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN.

Major General JNO. A. LOGAN,

Commanding 15th Corps.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, February 10, 1865.

GENERAL: Your note from Johnston's is just received. I cannot change my plans now, as they are in progress. I don't care about Aiken, unless you can take it with a dash, and, as Wheeler's attention is drawn to that quarter, you can let it work.

To-morrow the right wing moves on Orangeburg, and after breaking that railroad good, we will proceed as heretofore indicated. Davis should be at Williston to-night, or early to-morrow. Keep in communication with him, and conform to his movements.

It won't pay to have infantry chasing Wheeler's cavalry; it is always a bad plan, and is injurious to detach infantry, save for a day or a single occasion. You can see Davis when he comes up, and he can spare a brigade for a day or so; but I don't want a brigade of infantry to go off to the flank, when the whole army would have to wait for it, or it would be marched to death to catch up.

Wheeler or a part of his command was on the north side of South Edisto yesterday, and the concentration of the enemy is being made at Columbia, though I have no doubt that attention has been drawn towards Augusta; but I will not delay the main move an hour, and, therefore, want Davis to move on as soon as he can repair the bridge. Slocum will give him his orders, and I wish you to conform to the movements of the left corps, give it notice of danger from the direction of Augusta, and only attack Wheeler when he exposes himself. When operating near General Davis's corps, he will doubtless let you have a brigade of infantry, from time to time, but not as a permanent thing.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General.

General KILPATRICK,

Commanding Cavalry.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, 21 miles from Columbia, February 13, 1865.

GENERAL: Yours of this date is received. I would like to have Blair try and stampede the guard at the Congaree bridge by a semblance of attack, for which purpose one division to the rear of his trains, and leaving one to advance on the bridge, burning only the trestles, while the other confines its attention to twisting bars.

Corse's and Wood's are now within five or six miles of Sandy creek. I think you can put all the 15th corps across Sandy creek to-morrow, and Blair's trains

and division to Sandy Creek Post Office, where the Orangeburg and State roads meet. One march, viz: the day after to-morrow, will bring us easily up abreast of Columbia.

Captain Audenreid, in riding ahead to-day, captured a rebel lieutenant just out of Columbia, and passing himself off as a rebel, extracted from him much information.

The force now at Columbia is small, and the people are not expecting us now, thinking that Augusta or Charleston is our objective. I think Slocum will be abreast of Columbia to-morrow. I will keep with the leading division of this corps.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

General HOWARD,
Commanding Right Wing.

P. S.—If you want more roads beyond Sandy creek you can depend on any number to the left. The country is of poor pine lands, and is full of farm roads. To-day the road was perfect, and there seemed any number running to every point of the compass.

S.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, opposite Columbia, February 16, 1865.

GENERAL: General Howard has to pass Saluda and Broad rivers at the same time, requiring more bridging than he has. I send this through him, that he may note on it how many boats he wants. I suppose you can spare ten, as you will be able to remove that over the Saluda before you pass the Broad.

In case Howard calls for any pontoons, he will conduct them to the point where he needs them.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General SLOCUM,
Commanding, &c.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, opposite Columbia, S. C., February 16, 1865.

DEAR GENERAL: I see the bridge over Broad burning. It is very important that you effect a crossing to-night. If necessary get over the Saluda the bulk of the 15th corps, then take up enough pontoons to finish one across the Broad.

Send an officer with the enclosed note to General Slocum, who can send you ten boats before daylight. Slocum can pass Broad river as high up as Alston, and thereby use his bridges at one day's interval.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General HOWARD,
Commanding Right Wing.

Send the enclosed by an officer to conduct the pontoons.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Winnsboro', S. C., February 21, 1865—6 p. m

DEAR GENERAL: Generals Slocum and Davis are here. Slocum sends his wagons and pontoons to-morrow straight for the ferry at Rocky Mount post office, by Gladden's grove; he will keep four divisions breaking up road as far as the Chester district line, and aim to cross his whole command day after to-morrow. Let Blair finish up the road good to this point, and then assemble at Poplar spring and effect a crossing of the Wateree, prepared to get all across the day after to-morrow. Slocum will assemble his command at Gladden's. Communicate with me there or at Rocky Mount. After crossing, Slocum will have the road from Lancaster to Chesterfield, and you from your ferry straight for Cheraw, dipping a little south to get on the Camden road. I will keep with the 20th corps, which is General Slocum's right.

Yours, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General HOWARD.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Winnsboro', February 21, 1865.

GENERAL: I presume you to be now about Lemon's or Buck-Head post office, and base my present calculations on that supposition. I would like you to move with your whole force to the neighborhood of Blackstock depot, or Springwell post office, taking position and manœuvring so as to seem to be the advance of the whole army, in the direction of Chesterville and Charlotte, and to cover General Davis's operations in breaking up the railroad as far as he can during to-morrow and next day. As soon as Davis withdraws to cross the Catawba, move with him and cross to the east bank of the Catawba (or Wateree) on Slocum's pontoons, which will be laid at Rocky Mount post office. I would like to have you all across during the night of the 23d, so you can move next day on Lancaster. I would like to have the railroad bridge across Broad river at the mouth of Tiger burned, and I think the enemy himself will burn it if you approach it or send a small party to threaten it; also several of the bridges and trestles on the same railroad below where it crosses Broad river about Ashford's ferry and about Dawkins's. I hope you have already damaged that road considerably. I wish, as a rule, whenever you are near a railroad, you will, unless cautioned otherwise, have your men burn bridges, depots and water-tanks, and break switches; also, all saw-mills should be destroyed—not only burned, but their engines and boilers disabled. Davis will be near you and be on hand in case of need, but I don't want you to be drawn off so that you cannot have your trains and men ready to pass the pontoons during the night of the 23d. Better caution your commanders so as to keep in your foragers, else they will be left behind, as some were about Columbia.

I will be with this wing some days and would like to see you either here, or, better, at the bridge in crossing the Catawba.

I enclose you General Slocum's orders for to-morrow and next day. General Howard will be at Poplar spring and Peay's ferry.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Major General KILPATRICK,
Commanding Cavalry.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Rocky Mount Post Office, February 22, 1865—9 p. m.

GENERAL: Yours of to-day from Peay's ferry, has just been received. General Sherman desires me to say that he would like to have you put your whole command over the river with due expedition, and suggests it would be well to move out in the direction intended, some ten or twelve miles, say Russell Place, until the high or table land may be reached. He also wishes you to reconnoitre for roads towards Cheraw well, and towards Camden.

Two divisions of the 20th corps, with the entire train of this wing, have reached this point, and are mostly in camp; the bridge is completed ready for crossing; the balance of the command is destroying railroad.

Yours, with respect,

L. M. DAYTON,

Assistant Adjutant General.

Major General HOWARD,

Commanding Right Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Rocky Mount, S. C., February 23, 1865.

GENERAL: Yours of last night is received; your disposition of matters is all right. The bridge is laid and troops are crossing. I am anxious to get the wagons across and up on high ground before the rain comes. I wish you would keep your cavalry on roads to the north of the direct one by Gladden's grove, as that will be needed all day for infantry and wagons. You shall have the bridge as fast as your brigades arrive.

I regret the matter you report that eighteen of your men have been murdered after surrender, and marked that the enemy intended to kill all foragers. It leaves no alternative; you must retaliate man for man, and mark them in the like manner. Let it be done at once. We have a perfect war-right to the products of the country we overrun, and may collect them by foragers or otherwise. Let the whole people know the war is now against them because their armies flee before us and do not defend their country or frontier as they should. It is pretty nonsense for Wheeler, and Beauregard, and such vain heroes, to talk of our warring against women and children. If they claim to be men they should defend their women and children and prevent us reaching their homes. Instead of maintaining their armies let them turn their attention to their families, or we will follow them to the death; they should know that we will use the produce of the country as we please.

I want the foragers to be regulated and systematized, so as not to degenerate into common robbers; but foragers, as such, to collect corn, bacon, beef, and such other products as we need, are as much entitled to our protection as our skirmishers and flankers.

You will, therefore, at once shoot, and leave by the road-side, an equal number of their prisoners, and append a label to their bodies stating that man for man shall be killed for every one of our men they kill. If our foragers commit excesses punish them yourself, but never let an enemy judge between our men and the law. For my part I want the people of the south to realize the fact that they shall not dictate laws of war or peace to us. If there is to be any dictation we want our full share.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General Commanding.

Major General KILPATRICK,

Commanding Cavalry.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Rocky Mount Post Office, February 23, 1865—10 a. m.

GENERAL: I have just been down to the bridge. It will take all of to-day and to-morrow to get this wing across and out. You may go ahead, but keep communication with me.

I expect Kilpatrick here this p. m., and will send him well to the left. He reports that two of his foraging parties were murdered by the enemy after capture, and labelled "death to all foragers." Now, it is clearly our right to subsist our army on the enemy. Napoleon always did it; but could avail himself of the civil power he found in existence to collect forage and provisions by regular impressments. We cannot do that here, and I contend, if the enemy fails to defend his country, we may rightfully appropriate what we want. If our foragers are out under mine, yours, or other proper authority, they must be protected. I have ordered Kilpatrick to select of his prisoners man for man, shoot them, and leave them by the road-side labelled, so that our enemy will see that for every man he executes he takes the life of one of his own.

I want the foragers, however, to be kept within reasonable bounds for the sake of discipline. I will not protect them when they enter dwellings and commit wanton waste—as women's apparel, jewelry, and such things as are not needed by our army; but they may destroy cotton and tobacco, because these are assumed by the rebel government to belong to it, and are used as a valuable source of revenue. Nor will I consent to our enemy taking the lives of our men on their judgment. They have lost all title to property, and can lose nothing not already forfeited, but we should punish our own soldiers for a departure from our orders, and if the people resist our foragers I will not deem it wrong, but the confederate army must not be supposed to be the champions of any people.

I lay down these general rules, and wish you to be governed by them. If any of your foragers are murdered, take life for life, leaving a record of each.

I am, with respect,

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General Commanding.

Major General HOWARD, *Commanding Right Wing.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Rocky Mount, February 23, 1865.

GENERAL: Your note of to-day is received. I don't see that we can do better than to follow the roads you have indicated, although they carry you too far south. General Davis will cross to-morrow and get on the road from Lancaster to Cheraw, *via* Chesterfield. General Williams is now at Colonel Ballard's, but his trains are not yet across. Kilpatrick will cross at 7 p. m., move out five miles, and to-morrow move to Lancaster, and there await General Davis's coming. I will accompany General Williams, and expect to be about Hanging Rock to-morrow night; thence will find a road across to Chesterfield. I fear much the present rain will make the roads very bad. You will have better roads and should move slower. If circumstances warrant, you might send a small cavalry force into Camden and get more positive news of Charleston; it might save your being troubled by cavalry to burn the bridge. If you should calculate that you will reach Cheraw much in advance of us, you may threaten Florence, or actually break the railroad near there to divert attention from our real course.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

General HOWARD, *Commanding Right Wing.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

*In the field, 1 mile north of Warrenton,**15 miles south of Lancaster, February 24, 1865.*

GENERAL: General Davis is not yet across, and the roads are so very bad that I think it will take him all day and to-morrow to get well over and up on high land. The 20th corps is here. We can see the 17th corps passing eastward, about one mile south.

General Davis is ordered to take roads that will bring him into the direct road from Lancaster to Chesterfield, and the 20th corps will move by Hanging Rock, and thence by roads to the south of Davis. Unless the rain cease we will have a hard time. Don't push too fast, but gather as much food as you can *en route*. I think you could send into Camden with safety, but there is no object. When you get to Lynch's creek you might pass the 9th Illinois cavalry across, and push them toward Florence, with orders to break two or three bridges about Timmons ville, and then to rejoin you at Cheraw. I don't believe there is any cavalry of the enemy down there, and ours might pick up some good horses. The only object would be to prevent the shipment, by cars, of the garrison of Charleston to Fayetteville or Wilmington to oppose us. If, at the time, you suppose all of the Charleston garrison is east of Florence, the expedition would not be advisable.

I believe Foster is in possession of Charleston, because of the general belief to that effect, and the reports of the negroes you sent me. I have also just released a prisoner, captured yesterday by the 20th corps, who was a bright lad, sixteen (16) years old, son of Richard Bacot, who was at West Point with me, and whom I knew well at Charleston. This boy left Charleston last Thursday at 12 m., at which time he says our troops had been shelling the city for twenty-four hours from James's island. He was a hospital attendant, and was sent along with the sick from the hospitals to Florence, thence to be conveyed to the hospital at Cheraw. He said the orders for the evacuation had been published, and the garrison were to be rendezvoused along the Florence road at Porcher's and Bonneau's; they were removing the powder and ammunition, but would leave the heavy guns. The gunboats were to be blown up. He says the first orders were to go to Columbia, but they were changed.

If you can possibly employ a negro to go through to Charleston, make a cipher despatch, telling our general position and destination, and an order of liberal payment.

I think you will have good roads, and that there is no danger in our spreading out this side of Cheraw, thence to Fayetteville roads favor us, as also from Fayetteville to our destination. At both Cheraw and Fayetteville are bridges that can be secured by holding the towns responsible.

We find no enemy hereabouts, and suppose them all to be about Charleston and Salisbury. General Kilpatrick must now be at Lancaster; he crossed last night and was off this morning.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General.

Major General HOWARD,

Commanding Right Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, February 24, 1865.

GENERAL: It is officially reported to me that our foraging parties are murdered after captured, and labelled "death to all foragers;" one instance of a lieutenant and seven men near Chesterville, and another of twenty "near a ravine

eighty rods from the main road," about three miles from Feasterville. I have ordered a similar number of prisoners in our hands to be disposed of in like manner.

I hold about one thousand prisoners captured in various ways, and can stand it as long as you, but I hardly think these murders are committed with your knowledge, and would suggest that you give notice to the people at large that every life taken by them results in the death of one of your confederates.

Of course you cannot question my right to "forage on the country." It is a war right as old as history. The manner of exercising it varies with circumstances, and if the civil authorities will supply my requisitions I will forbid all foraging. But I find no civil authorities who can respond to calls for forage and provisions, therefore must collect directly of the people. I have no doubt this is the occasion of much misbehavior on the part of our men, but I cannot permit an enemy to judge, and punish with wholesale murder.

Personally I regret the bitter feelings engendered by this war, but they were to be expected, and I simply allege that those who struck the first blow and made war inevitable ought not in fairness to reproach us for the natural consequences. I merely assert our "war right" to forage, and my resolve to protect my foragers to the extent of life for life.

Your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General United States Army.

Lieut. General WADE HAMPTON,

Commanding Cavalry forces, C. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Hanging Rock, February 27, 1865.

GENERAL: Your letter is just received. It is all important that you keep me advised. Davis was slow in using the bridge, and it was carried away and was not mended until to-day. He will be all over to-night. The movement you describe is the proper one—to keep on the left rear of the left infantry corps.

I have word from Howard that will put him near Cheraw to-morrow night, and I will push to meet him, but must wait till General Davis gets along; probably will be about Horton's tavern to-morrow night. Keep feeling the different roads towards Charlotte till you hear General Davis is well towards the head of Lynch's creek and then draw off.

General Howard captured a good many horses and mules and some militia; he will send a division light to Florence simply to break that road, and prevent the removal of any more railroad stock.

There is little doubt our troops are in Charleston, and General Howard reports that a despatch reached Camden yesterday that we also had taken Wilmington. In that event the enemy will collect all his force about Raleigh as soon as he sees I am not coming to Charlotte.

Keep me advised daily. A despatch sent to the nearest corps to be forwarded will answer the purpose, but I think Hampton will draw off as soon as he feels General Howard's approach to Cheraw. General Howard is moving on the two roads from Young's and Tillersville.

General Slocum's 20th corps will probably pass at Blakeney's, and General Davis's at MacManus's. You will have no trouble with Lynch's creek, as it is passable anywhere above MacManus's.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Major General KILPATRICK, *Lancaster.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Finley's Bridge, Lynch's Creek, March 1, 1865.

GENERAL: General Slocum has the 20th corps across Lynch's creek and a good bridge. General Davis is across the Catawba, and ought to be about fifteen miles behind us. To-morrow all will move forward fifteen miles, which will bring us near Chesterfield, next day at Cheraw; General Davis, in the mean time, closing his gap. Push General Blair straight on Cheraw. With the 15th corps move on the same point, careful to reach the railroad below Cheraw and break it; then on Cheraw. We will cross to the north of Cheraw. The enemy cannot hold Cheraw against us, because it is on a branch road, and we can insulate it. Johnston, if there, will not fight with a bridge behind him. We may have to cross the Pedee with a serious enemy in front, but we must not allow the confederates time to fortify Cheraw.

I know Hampton was, in person, above Lancaster, also Wheeler. I had an original communication from Wade Hampton yesterday, and he is still watching Kilpatrick, who is at Lancaster, till Davis gets past. Push with all energy straight on Cheraw, cutting its roads below, and I will be up on the 3d instant.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

General O. O. HOWARD,
Commanding Right Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, March 2, 1865.

GENERAL: The 20th corps is now starting from Big Lynch's creek for Chesterfield, twenty miles distant. The 14th corps is now at Little Lynch's creek, behind us, and will march by MacManus's bridge towards Chesterfield.

General Howard was, on the 28th February, across Lynch's creek, at Tiller's, and General Blair within sixteen miles of Cheraw. All move on Cheraw, where it is said the Charleston and Wilmington garrison are expecting to meet us. I don't believe they will fight on this side the Pedee, but you may move on General Davis's left, near Chesterfield, and by the time you get there I can select the points of crossing; but if there be any enemy at Cheraw he will, of course, break the bridge there, and force us to use pontoons, in which case we will probably use Cheraw and Sneedsboro'.

General Howard sent his company of scouts from Tiller's towards the Charleston and Wilmington road, but they met two brigades of cavalry near Mount Elon Post Office, and were driven back. General Howard reports Hampton's headquarters at Darlington, but I doubt it. I don't think the enemy would leave his cavalry or any material part of it between us and the sea. Doubtless he is watching and using the railroad east and south of us, but to what extent I cannot conjecture until I know whether our people have Wilmington. I suppose that Schofield, by this time, must be on the railroad north of Wilmington at or near Goldsboro'.

Keep near General Davis's left, and act defensively till we know about Cheraw. I will be with the 20th corps, near Chesterfield, where the Lancaster road meets this, about four miles this side of Chesterfield. I will send infantry to Chesterfield to secure, if possible, the bridges across Thompson's creek, near that place. To-morrow at Cheraw.

You should be to-night on Lynch's creek, and to-morrow near Chesterfield.

Roads are sandy and good. Enemy leaves us good bridges, and thus far we find not even pickets. General Blair found some cavalry on his road, who gave ground easily.

Yours, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

General KILPATRICK, *near Lancaster.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Chesterfield, S. C., March 3, 1865—6 a. m.

GENERAL: I got your despatch from Blakeney's last night. I want you to interpose between Charlotte and Cheraw until we are across. General Blair's head of column was thirteen miles southwest of Cheraw last night. General Jackson's division of the 20th corps pushed Butler's cavalry at a run through Chesterfield and across the bridges of Thompson's creek, saving the one on the Wadesboro' road, excepting one post, which the enemy had time to cut. The other bridge on the Cheraw road was burned. The balance of the corps is pretty well strung out by reason of the roads. I don't know exactly where General Davis is, but will direct him on Sneedsboro', and would like you to report to me the nature of the roads, especially the one from Mount Croghan, by Sinclair. By the way, what is your true position, and you should get a party over on the plank road on the line of Jones's creek, and cut off any courier line from Wadesboro'. I think Hardee will try and escape towards Wadesboro', and in that event you will strike his flank; anyhow I want you to let go everything and cut his column, reporting to me that I may throw infantry across; but until I hear the exact state of matters at Cheraw, will move the right wing on Cheraw and left wing on Sneedsboro'. I don't much care now what Beauregard does. He has no railroad now to circulate on, and must foot it, as we do; but he has not the trains that we have, and he can move more rapidly than we. I want, of course, to get across Pedee, and will then fight him where he pleases, and don't care for his Virginia re-enforcements; we have to meet them some time, and now as well as later. Only let me know in advance as much as possible the route or routes on which his infantry moves. His cavalry gives no clue by which I can judge. My belief, however, is, that Beauregard is tied to a railroad, and that railroad will be from Charlotte to Danville. I have no doubt that Wilmington is, or soon will be, in our hands, and, moreover, that Schofield will, or has, made a lodgement on the Goldsboro' road. A mere strong picket of observation towards Monroe to give General Davis notice of the approach of danger will suffice. The bulk of your force should be north of Thompson's creek from Burche's up towards Jones's creek. Reconnoitring parties should examine Pedee from Jones's creek down, but do nothing to show a purpose to cross.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

Major General KILPATRICK,
Commanding Cavalry.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Chesterfield, S. C., March 3, 1865—7 a. m.

GENERAL: General Kilpatrick reports that he is near Blakeney's, and will move to-day around the head of Thompson's creek, to the neighborhood of Sinclair, and reconnoitre well across to the Pedee. General Blair also reports

from his position thirteen miles from Cheraw, on the Camden road. General Howard halted him there until the 15th corps got up in supporting distance. The 15th corps has been delayed by all sorts of mishaps occasioned by high water, but General Blair, pursuant to my orders, is moving straight on Cheraw. I want you to finish up the two bridges here; get up your troops from the rear, and move the 20th corps towards Cheraw, north of Thompson's creek, until you know General Blair is in Cheraw, when it will work across to the plank road and up to Sneedsboro', where I design your wing and the cavalry to cross over. You may instruct General Davis to move on Sneedsboro' at once, but I don't see as he can do better than to come here and use your upper bridge, unless he gets better roads and more forage by Mount Croghan, Sinclair, MacQuaig's, &c.

I believe that Hardee is at Cheraw with his Charleston garrison, and it may be part of the Wilmington force, but I rather think these latter will be used to meet Schofield about Goldsboro', but I want Hardee attacked rapidly and boldly, if in any position this side of the Pedee. If he makes the mistake to fight on this side, we ought to catch him. I have instructed General Kilpatrick to get a brigade of cavalry across to the plank road at once, to observe and attack any force moving on that road from any direction. If Hardee tries to escape towards Wadesboro', we must let go our trains and attack him in flank. I think Beauregard without many wagons is tied to his Charlotte and Danville railroad. He would not dare depend on the coast road, held as it is and threatened at Goldsboro'. Let us get across the Pedee at all hazards, as soon as possible, and then we are all right with Fayetteville as our objective, and the Cape Fear river as an alternate base of operations.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Major General SLOCUM.

Commanding Left Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Chesterfield, S. C., March 3, 1865—2½ p. m.

GENERAL: Your despatch of 3.30 p. m. yesterday from Black creek is just received. I wrote this a. m. to General Blair a letter to be sent to you, which may reach you before this, but will repeat.

General Slocum took Chesterfield yesterday, driving Butler's cavalry to and through the town, but the enemy broke one of the bridges and burned the other. Both are now repaired, and General Slocum will push one division down on the north bank so as to uncover your crossing; but send me word as soon as you are over that the 20th corps may cross over to the Pedee towards Sneedsboro', where I want his wing and the cavalry to cross. Of course I am a little impatient to get across Pedee before Beauregard can swing around from Charlotte and Salisbury and oppose our crossing. Once across the Pedee I don't fear the whole confederate army, for, if need be, we can swing in against the right bank of Cape Fear, and work down until we meet our people; but I shall aim to reach Fayetteville and Goldsboro', where I know Schofield must now be.

I have ordered General Davis from MacManus' bridge *via* Mount Croghan to Sneedsboro', and Kilpatrick is above him towards Wadesboro'. Roads are very bad up here, either quick-sand or red clay. The country is also poor; still, thus far we find forage, bacon, and corn-meal.

I met at Winnsboro' Mrs. Aiken, wife of the very Colonel Aiken you report as killed in the fight with Duncan. She was a Miss Gayle, of Mobile, sister of Mrs. General Gorgas, of the rebel ordnance department. In her conversation with me she said she supposed her husband would have to "submit" or get

killed, and I answered her that "such was the case," but I hardly thought so soon to be a prophet.

I will send your letter to General Slocum with instructions to read it, and push one or two divisions down towards Cheraw as fast as possible, leaving his wagons near the Sneedsboro' road. I will stay here to-night, and to-morrow go down in hopes to go into Cheraw. I don't believe Hardee will fight on this side the river, and it is now too late for him to slip out by way of Wadesboro'.

Your rear division will have plenty of time to close up while you are getting your crossing secured and bridged. I take it all the bridges across Thompson's creek are gone, unless it be the railroad bridge, which may have been spared for the sake of the rebel wounded that must still be there. I also feel confident that Wilmington is in our possession, and that none of its garrison is at Cheraw.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

Major General HOWARD,
Commanding Right Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Chesterfield, S. C., March 3, 1865—5.45 p. m.

GENERAL: Your despatch from Cheraw to the general-in-chief is received. He has written you twice to-day, viz., once direct, and once through General Blair; and he desires me to say those letters contain his views and wishes as regards immediate operations, *i. e.*, for you to concentrate your command at Cheraw, and make a crossing of, and lodgement beyond the Pedee with all possible despatch, as it is all-important that we at once hold its left bank.

If you think you will have time, the general would like to have you send any kind of a force from the rear portion of your command, (probably mounted would be the best,) down to Florence, with directions to destroy everything of public property there. We will come into Cheraw to-morrow morning.

It is not probable there is much of an enemy at Florence.

I am, general, with respect, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Major General HOWARD,
Commanding Army of the Tennessee.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Chesterfield, S. C., March 3, 1865.

GENERAL: To-morrow the general-in-chief will move into Cheraw and join the army of the Tennessee. He wishes you to proceed and cross the Pedee with your command at Sneedsboro', as soon as possible, and also directs me to say he will make full orders at Cheraw for the next movement.

I am, general, with respect, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Major General H. W. SLOCUM,
Commanding Left Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Cheraw, S. C., March 4, 1865—8 p. m.

GENERAL: I got here at 10 a. m., and found the 17th corps in town, and laying a pontoon bridge across the Pedee. The 15th corps is also here, and their trains are coming in all safe. The bridge is down; one division (Mower's) is across, and is skirmishing about two miles out.

Hardee commanded here, and had, it is said, about fifteen thousand men, but I doubt if he had more than the Charleston garrison and S. D. Lee's corps, in all ten thousand. There was a gunboat here that had come up when the Yankees got Georgetown, but it was blown up to-day, about six miles down the river. There is a good deal of property here, such as guns, (25,) ammunition, &c., and more of a town than I expected to find.

General Howard has sent a mounted force to destroy property at and near Florence, which cannot return before the day after to-morrow, by which time I think he can have all his command across. Of course, the sooner we reach Fayetteville the better, but we must move in compact masses, as either column may encounter the whole of Hardee's command, and it may be re-enforced by some from Charleston. I have no doubt that Schofield is at work in North Carolina. I feel assured he is fully possessed of my views, and will have Goldsboro', with both the Wilmington and Newbern roads, done by the 15th instant, the day appointed. Still, it is but prudent to continue, as heretofore, to collect all the food possible, in case we are delayed thereabouts. There is a story afloat that six thousand of Schofield's men are already at Fayetteville, which will be a great success, better than we expected; but I know General Grant will spare no efforts to second us; he is fully alive to the importance of our movements.

Get your bridge down, and cross over as fast as possible, and stretch out on the roads you want, and I will order General Howard to conform to you. If you can get out ten miles during all Tuesday, it will be as much as I expect.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General Commanding.

Major General SLOCUM, *Commanding Left Wing.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Cheraw, S. C., March 4, 1865—8 p. m.

GENERAL: I have just received your note, and the copy of your orders. I would not be surprised if it were true that some of Schofield's command were at Fayetteville. I know General Grant's anxiety for us, and he will move heaven and earth to co-operate. Your orders are all right. I have written to General Slocum, who is at Sneedsboro', and he will use the roads by Mark's creek and McFarland's bridge, and all roads north of it. It may be well for you to let General Slocum have a day's start, that the column may assume an echelon towards the north. General Slocum can hardly have all across earlier than Tuesday, and I have intimated that I would like him to be ten miles out during all Tuesday. The river with him seems to be wider than with you.

Get a good scout or two ready for me to send a message to Wilmington as soon as any of your heads of columns are across Lumber river.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General Commanding

Major General HOWARD,
Commanding Right Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Cheraw, S. C., March 5, 1865.

GENERAL: I was on the point of making an order for the next movement, but on looking over my last, No. 16, I find it covers the ground up to our next objective. You have the choice of roads, and I understand from Captain Ludlow that you want McFarland's and Love's bridges. All right. Let General Davis lead into Fayetteville, holding the 20th corps in support, with the cavalry on his left rear. I will hold General Howard back, but close enough to come up if Johnston wants to fight. I will now fight him if he dare, and, therefore, wish you to act on that idea, keeping each corps ready to bold the enemy if he appears in force on your left, but his strength must be developed before other corps are called from their roads. I have notified General Howard of this order, and he has simply asked, instead of holding on here to make slow marches, to gather forage and meal. I send you a copy of his orders of march. I also send you an open letter for General Kilpatrick, which read and forward to him. Major Audenreid, of my staff, left him yesterday ten miles this side of Wadesboro', and my orders to him were to hold his command, covering all roads, especially the plank road between Wadesboro' and your troops. After you have got a covering force across the Pedee, let Kilpatrick have the bridge, and move out to your left front—say Rockingham. We have been badly treated by the weather, but I hope for a better spell henceforth.

I will get messages through to Wilmington the moment any head of column is across Lumber creek, and feel sure that Schofield will meet us in force at Goldsboro'. I will draw from Savannah, Charleston, and Wilmington at least twenty-five thousand men to re-enforce our army at Goldsboro', and will put them under Schofield, as the centre or reserve, restoring the organization of the Atlanta campaign. With that army replenished and refreshed we can make things move. Indeed, I feel confident that nothing can now stand before us. I find here additional signs of discomfiture; three thousand six hundred barrels of powder are among our spoils, and the surgeons of the confederate hospitals admit that Hardee left them without supplies, or even orders. Keep me well advised of progress, and I will make things conform to your movements.

I am, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General SLOCUM,
Commanding Left Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Cheraw, S. C., March 5, 1865.

GENERAL: I was on the point of making a new general order of movement, but on examining my last, No. 16, I find it provides for the next stage. General Howard has crossed here, and is now passing trains and troops, but I will hold him back to allow General Slocum to lead to Fayetteville.

General Howard has sent some mounted infantry down to Florence to damage things there, and they cannot return until to-morrow. In the mean time General Slocum will pass over and move out on roads leading to McFarland's and Love's bridges. I will hold the right wing back, and in reserve, keeping on roads to the south of General Slocum. As soon as he has a covering force across the Pedee he will notify you and give you his bridge, when move out to Rockingham, and thence conform to his movements, getting up to Solemn Grove, and thence along down south of Little river to the roads coming into Fayetteville from Manchester.

There is a rumor here that General Schofield is already at Fayetteville. It is certain he took Wilmington not by the evacuation of the place, but by force, capturing Haygood's brigade. This simplifies our work very much, and will give me large re-enforcements as soon as I need them.

Hardee left here in haste and confusion, going across Pedee and burning the bridge, but we have already a pontoon bridge across, and two divisions out a couple miles. Butler's division of cavalry is with him. The enemy left here valuable stores, twenty-four good guns, three thousand six hundred barrels powder, two thousand muskets, the hospitals, and much ammunition and stores.

I don't think Joe Johnston will try to concentrate his forces this side of Raleigh.

Your, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

General KILPATRICK,
Commanding Cavalry.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Cheraw, S. C., March 6, 1865.

GENERAL: I shall, in person, to-day cross the Pedee, and go out on the main Fayetteville road about five miles, to the point of Phill's creek where are encamped two divisions of the 15th corps. There I shall await the fact that you are all across and off for Fayetteville, and will try and hold the right wing ready to turn to you in case Johnston attempts to strike you in flank, or to move on towards Fayetteville, aiming to arrive there at or near about the same time with your rear. I propose your command should first enter and occupy Fayetteville, and secure the bridge, if possible; otherwise to make a lodgement across with pontoons. En route break the railroad which is known as the Wilmington and Charlotte; but it is only partially down to Rockingham. It is of little importance, but being on it, we might as well use up some of its iron. At its depots you may find some corn and meal.

On approaching Fayetteville you may give out that if the bridge is destroyed we will deal harshly by the town; but if there be no positive resistance, and if the enemy spare the bridge, I wish the town to be dealt with generously. Of course we will dispose of all public stores and property, but will spare private houses. Use wheat, corn, meal, bacon, animals, wagons, &c., needed by your command, but try and keep the foragers from insulting families, by word or rudeness. It might be well to instruct your brigade commanders that we are now out of South Carolina, and that a little moderation may be of political consequence to us in North Carolina.

At Fayetteville, if we can secure boats of any kind, even coal-flats, I will send down Cape Fear river the bulk of the refugees, white and black, which swells our numbers and consumes the food necessary for our combatants. I have no doubt of having daily intercourse with you by courier or in person, and only name these points that you may initiate measures to accomplish these ends.

The enemy has abandoned many caissons loaded with ammunition, on his route of retreat, and if you can push or threaten him about Rockingham I doubt not he will drop more. The moment General Davis strikes the plank road he should push with all possible speed into Fayetteville.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General SLOCUM,
Commanding Left Wing, Sneedsboro'.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, near Cheraw, S. C., March 6, 1865.

GENERAL: A copy of your orders, issued at Easterling's for to-morrow's movement, enclosed to the general-in-chief, has been received. The general desires me to say the order is satisfactory to him, and in modification has only instructed General Logan to remain in his present camp until such time as the 20th corps, now passing, can get by him on to the left-hand road *via* Clark's creek.

I am, general, yours with respect,

L. M. DAYTON,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Major General HOWARD,
Commanding Right Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
*In the field, Camp on Fayetteville Road,
 13 miles from Cheraw, March 7, 1865.*

GENERAL: Yours of this date, 11 a. m., is just received. I am well pleased to learn that Hardee is making well north. Though willing to fight Joe Johnston, who now commands in chief, I would prefer to work over to the new base, to clear our columns of the impediments and make junction with Schofield, who is, doubtless, working up towards Goldsboro'. If I can get that point secure, with both railroads down to Wilmington and Newbern, you will perceive what a base I will have. Raleigh will be easy of conquest, and we can drive all Carolina north of the Roanoke, where the concentrated armies of the Confederacy will have contracted foraging ground. But of that hereafter. Now I will make for Fayetteville, and only ask you to keep up the seeming appearance of pushing after Hardee, but really keep your command well in hand and the horses and men in the best possible order as to food and forage.

To-morrow night I will send messengers with my orders for Schofield, but shall aim to reach Goldsboro'. I don't want to make southing. Our infantry columns are doing well. I will let Davis enter Fayetteville first, and if the people will spare the bridge, I want all to be easy on the citizens; but if they burn bridges or bother us, we must go the whole figure. In conversation with people evince a determination to maintain the Union, but treat all other matters as beneath a soldier's notice. Give us a whole country with a government, and leave details to the lawyers.

Deal as moderately and fairly by the North Carolinians as possible, and fan the flame of discord already subsisting between them and their proud cousins of South Carolina. There never was much love between them. Touch upon the chivalry running away, always leaving their families for us to feed and protect, and then on purpose accusing us of all sorts of rudeness.

I expect to reach Fayetteville by Saturday, and I will determine as quick as possible what is next for you, but I don't see as you can do better than hold on that flank. There is a body of infantry and cavalry left down in the pocket about Florence that might be caught, but it won't pay to chase them. Horse flesh is too precious. Keep your horses in the best order for the day when we must have a big fight; not, however, on this turn.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

General KILPATRICK,
Commanding Cavalry, Rockingham.

[Cipher.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Laurel Hill, N. C., Wednesday, March 8, 1865.

COMMANDING OFFICER, Wilmington, N. C.:

We are marching on Fayetteville; will be there Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, and then will march for Goldsboro'.

If possible, send a boat up Cape Fear river, and have word conveyed to General Schofield that I expect to meet him about Goldsboro'. We are all well and have done finely. The rain makes our roads difficult and may delay me about Fayetteville, in which case I would like to have some bread, sugar, and coffee; we have abundance of all else. I expect to reach Goldsboro' by the 20th instant.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Bethel Church, 26 miles from Fayetteville, N. C.,
March 10, 1865—2 p. m.

GENERAL: Yours of 11.20 is just received. The heavy rain last night caught Hazen's train in a swamp, and he has had to corduroy five miles, and his train is not up yet. General Corse is behind him, just on this side of Lumber river. I will come on in the morning as fast as possible, but you may go on, ready to support General Slocum, who reports, that he will be ready to enter Fayetteville to-morrow. I have no doubt Johnston will try and get some troops to oppose, and it is well for us to anticipate his preparations, and therefore you may push so as to threaten the town on the southwest. Let General Blair take from the plank road to the river the two divisions of the 15th corps on the direct road communicating with Williams on the left, but let Slocum break into town.

I will send a staff officer to him at daylight with orders to shove right in and push for the bridge.

I think if the enemy fights us with a bridge to his rear, he commits a mistake, of which we must take immediate advantage.

If any cause delay me have preparations made at once to cross over to the east bank of Cape Fear, below the town, but we will pause thereabouts until we can get some real news from Wilmington. You may send any number of messengers to convey the intelligence that we are hereabouts, all well, and bound for Goldsboro', unless necessity force us toward Wilmington.

I regret that this column has lost this day, but it seems inevitable.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General HOWARD,
Commanding Right Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Raft Swamp, N. C., March 10, 1865.

GENERAL: The heavy rain of last night caught the column with which I am in the swamp, which is bottomless, and has to be cleared and corduroyed for miles to let the trains and artillery pass.

The 17th corps is now at Rockfish creek, and will have time to repair the bridges and push into Fayetteville to-morrow, Saturday. I want you to go in first; this you can do in your own way, but General Howard will have the 17th corps and two divisions of the 15th corps near enough to support. Do all that is possible to secure the bridge across Cape Fear; but if, as I suppose will be the case, the enemy burn it, effect a lodgement at once across, and make a pontoon bridge with a brigade across intrenched. We will wait there some days. Destroy nothing until I meet you unless there be special reason that you know I will approve. I will try and be near you at sunset.

Should it be that Johnston has resolved to defend Fayetteville with a large force, it is to our interest, and you can engage his attention on the north and northwest, while General Howard closes in to the southwest. Avoid intrenchments, but make haste to prevent the making of them.

I send you this message, which may seem superfluous, but I am with troops delayed by the swamp, and cannot afford to leave anything to chance. I have sent messengers and orders to Wilmington.

I set much store on a lodgement east of Cape Fear river, and would advise your having the pontoons convenient.

The weather is now clearing away, and will give us, I hope, some days of sunshine. Our roads here are swampy in the extreme, but yours, I hope, have proven better.

Yours, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General SLOCUM,
Commanding Left Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Fayetteville, N. C., March 11, 1865.

GENERAL: I have just received your report, and read it with great satisfaction. I feared it was more, as the enemy claims from two to four hundred prisoners, which were conducted through Fayetteville. You may rest a couple of days, and then be ready to cross the river. I think there are some of the enemy that failed to escape across the bridge. You might send a strong foraging party up to the Little river bridge, and burn the railroad bridge. The enemy have sent a good deal of ordnance up towards the coal mines on the railroad. I would like to have it and the cars and the locomotives destroyed, but can hardly spare time. We will lay the pontoons to-morrow and cross on Monday. I am at the arsenal. I did not get a despatch from you at Solemn Grove.

Yours, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

General KILPATRICK,
Commanding Cavalry.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Fayetteville, N. C., March 11, 1865.

Major General TERRY, *Wilmington:*

I have just received your despatch of the 7th. We entered Fayetteville to-day, Hardee retreating eastward with twenty thousand men, and burning the bridge across Cape Fear river. We will cross the river to-morrow and start for 'Goldsboro' on Tuesday. You can calculate the time of my arrival by the

weather. I will strike the Wilmington railroad about Faison's. We are all well, and have destroyed a vast amount of stores, and done the enemy irreparable damage. I will destroy the arsenal utterly. I want everything concentrated at or as near Goldsboro' as possible, with the railroad finished as near as possible.

We have a large number of negroes and refugees that I may send to Wilmington.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

[By scout.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Fayetteville, N. C., March 11, 1865.

General TERRY, *Wilmington, N. C.:*

I may send a train of wagons down the road along Cape Fear river to convey refugees and negroes that have followed my army from South Carolina.

Please ask Admiral Porter to have some gunboats feel up Cape Fear river as high as Elizabeth City, or at all events as high up as the wreck of the Chicamunga, at Indian Wells. The rebels burned their steamboats here.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Fayetteville, N. C., March 12, 1865.

GENERAL: I have just received your message by the tug which left Wilmington at 2 p. m. yesterday, and arrived here without trouble. The scout who brought me your cipher message started back last night with my answers, which are superseded by the fact of your opening the river.

General Howard just reports that he has secured one of the enemy's steamboats below the city, and General Slocum will try to secure two known to be above, and we will load them with refugees, white and black, which have clung to our skirts, impeded our movements, and consumed our food.

We have swept the country well from Savannah here, and my men and animals are in fine condition. Had it not been for the foul weather, I would have caught Hardee at Cheraw, or here; but at Columbia, Cheraw, and here, we got immense stores, and have destroyed machinery, guns, ammunition, and property, of inestimable value to our enemy. At all points he has fled from us, "standing not on the order of his going."

The people of South Carolina, instead of feeding Lee's army, will now call on Lee to feed them.

I want you to send me all the shoes, stockings, drawers, sugar, coffee, and flour, you can spare; finish the loads with oats or corn. Have the boats escorted and let them run at nights at any risk. We must not lose time for Joe Johnston to concentrate at Goldsboro'. We cannot prevent his concentrating at Raleigh, but he shall have no rest. I want General Schofield to go on with his railroad from Newbern as far as he can, and you do the same from Wilmington. If we can get the roads to, and secure Goldsboro' by April 10, it will be soon enough, but every day now is worth a million of dollars. I can whip Joe Johnston provided he don't catch one of my corps in flank, and I will see that my army marches hence to Goldsboro' in compact form.

I must rid my army of from twenty to thirty thousand useless mouths; as many to go down Cape Fear as possible, and balance to go in the vehicles and on captured horses *via* Clinton to Wilmington.

I thank you for the energetic action that has marked your course, and shall be most happy to meet you.

I am truly your friend,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

Major General TERRY,
Commanding U. S. Forces, Wilmington, N. C.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Fayetteville, N. C., March 12, 1865.

DEAR GENERAL: We reached this place yesterday at noon—Hardee, as usual, retreating across the Cape Fear, burning his bridge but our pontoons will be up to-day, and with as little delay as possible I will be after him towards Goldsboro'.

A tug has just come up from Wilmington, and before I get off from here I hope to get up from Wilmington some shoes and stockings, sugar, coffee, and flour. We are abundantly supplied in all else, having in a measure lived off the country.

The army is in splendid health, condition, and spirit, though we have had foul weather and roads that would have stopped travel to almost any other body of men I ever heard of.

Our march was substantially what I designed—straight on Columbia, feigning on Branchville and Augusta. We destroyed, in passing, the railroad from the Edisto nearly up to Aiken; again from Orangeburg to the Congaree; again from Columbia down to Kingsville and the Wateree, and up towards Charlotte as far as the Chester line; thence I turned east on Cheraw, and thence to Fayetteville. At Columbia we destroyed immense arsenals and railroad establishments, among which were forty-three cannon. At Cheraw we found also machinery and material of war from Charleston, among which twenty-five guns and three thousand six hundred barrels of powder, and here we find about twenty guns and a magnificent United States arsenal.

We cannot afford to leave detachments, and I shall, therefore, destroy this valuable arsenal, for the enemy shall not have its use; and the United States should never again confide such valuable property to a people who have betrayed a trust.

I could leave here to-morrow, but want to clean my columns of the vast crowd of refugees and negroes that encumber me; some I will send down the river in boats, and the balance I will send to Wilmington by land under small escort as soon as we are across Cape Fear river.

I hope you have not been uneasy about us, and that the fruits of this march will be appreciated. It had to be made not only to secure the valuable depots by the way, but its incidents, in the necessary fall of Charleston, Georgetown, and Wilmington. If I can now add Goldsboro' without too much cost, I will be in position to aid you materially in the spring campaign.

Joe Johnston may try to interpose between me here and Schofield about Newbern; but I think he will not try that, but concentrate his scattered armies at Raleigh, and I will go straight at him as soon as I get my men reclothed and our wagons reloaded.

Keep everybody busy and let Stoneman push towards Greensboro' or Charlotte from Knoxville; even a feint in that quarter will be most important.

The railroad from Charlotte to Danville is all that is left the enemy, and it won't do for me to go there on account of the red clay hills, that are impassable to wheels in wet weather.

I expect to make a junction with General Schofield in ten days.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Lieut. General U. S. GRANT,

Commanding United States Army, City Point.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Fayetteville, N. C., March 12, 1865.

GENERAL: We reached this place yesterday without opposition. Our march was exactly as I expected, and its fruits all I could have asked for. We have destroyed vast magazines at Columbia, Cheraw, and here, and have destroyed effectually the railroad system of South Carolina.

From Cheraw I sent a small cavalry force to Florence, but it found a force of infantry and cavalry more than it could match, and had to return, breaking only the railroad trestles down as far as Darlington. The enemy still has much railroad stock and munitions on the track about Sumterville and Florence, and if you can make up a force of two thousand five hundred men out of your Charleston and Savannah garrisons, I want you to reach that road and destroy everything possible, and exhaust the country of supplies. The best points of departure are Georgetown and the Santee bridge. I think Admiral Dahlgren could send some light gunboats up the Santee, but don't know enough about the bar. The distance from Georgetown does not exceed sixty miles, and we look on sixty miles as a pleasant excursion. As soon as you accomplish this, reduce your garrisons at Savannah and Charleston to the minimum, and re-enforce the movement on Goldsboro', which is the real objective now. I expect to be there in ten days.

My army is in splendid health and condition, and we have had no battle involving more than a single brigade or division at a time. Our foragers have had plenty of fighting on a limited scale, and have gathered more bacon, chickens, turkeys, and corn-meal than I believed were in the country. We are now only short of bread, sugar, and coffee, and our men have been so much in the mud and water that shoes and stockings are scarce. Send to Goldsboro', *via* Newbern, all the clothing you can spare.

I am truly your friend,

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General Commanding.

Major General FOSTER,

Commanding Department of the South, Charleston, S. C.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Fayetteville, N. C., Sunday, March 12, 1865.

GENTLEMEN: We need, very much, shoes, stockings, drawers, and pants; also flour, bread, sugar, and coffee; all else we have in abundance. I cannot afford to stay here longer than Wednesday. The river is now high, and if you, or either of you, are in Wilmington, send from there what you can of such articles as I have mentioned, to the capacity of the boats you have at disposal. Do not draw from Newbern, but collect there the great depot, especially, of forage and clothing. My command will need an entire equipment of clothing. We have been in water half the time since leaving Savannah, and consequently the clothing is worn out. We have not lost a wagon, and our animals are in

good condition; but I take it for granted we shall find little or no forage about Goldsboro'.

The moment you hear I am approaching Goldsboro' forward to meet me with clothing and bread, sugar and coffee, and empty wagons will meet them.

We have made a hard and extraordinary march, and achieved all I could expect. We are in good health and fighting condition.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Generals EASTON and BECKWITH, or either,
at Wilmington, North Carolina.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Fayetteville, N. C., Sunday, March 12, 1865.

GENERAL: We reached here yesterday, and will be delayed until Tuesday or Wednesday putting down pontoons. I will destroy utterly the arsenal and other public property, and I hope to get up some shoes and small stores from Wilmington before we leave. I will then march in compact order straight for the bridge across Neuse river, south of Goldsboro'. I expect to make junction with you thereabouts. If I don't find you there I will feel towards Kinston and Newbern. I will need clothing and provisions. We have gathered plenty of cattle and bacon, and a good deal of cornmeal and molasses. We have also found plenty of corn and fodder, and my animals are all in good order. I will have trains enough for you. I have plenty wagons and mules for one hundred thousand men, so you need not bring any from the north.

On making junction with you, I want you to make your command twenty-five thousand, and will call it the centre, thus restoring our old Atlanta organization. Go on repairing the railroad towards Goldsboro', and let Terry repair the Wilmington road northward as far as he can—if possible, to the Neuse. I will get the navy to patrol Cape Fear river, so as to make the Wilmington and Goldsboro' road safe. You must judge as to the mode and manner of covering the railroad from Goldsboro' to Newbern.

I have ordered General Foster to diminish his garrison of Savannah, Charleston, and Wilmington to the minimum, and re-enforce the movement from Newbern on Goldsboro'. I really do not know if any change has been made in the command on the seaboard; but whether you or Foster command, I want the foregoing policy to be adopted. If I find that holding Savannah, Charleston, and Wilmington cost us too many men, I would not hesitate to destroy them, and use the garrisons in the field. It will be time enough to build up the country when war is over.

Keep your command well concentrated, on the defensive, advancing as fast as the road is built; but reach Goldsboro', if possible, and fortify.

Hardee crossed here with a force represented at twenty thousand, but I don't see the signs of that many; he has six batteries of four guns each. I suppose Johnston may have up about Greensboro', now moving to Raleigh, ten thousand, and I estimate Hokes's command at eight thousand. All told, he may concentrate at Raleigh forty to forty-five thousand men. I can whip that number with my present force, and with yours and Terry's added we can go wherever we can live. We can live where the people do, and if anybody has to suffer let them suffer.

Collect all the forage you can at Newbern; also provisions and clothing. We will need an immense supply of clothing, for we have been working from knee to waist deep in water for four hundred miles, and our men will need reclothing throughout.

Organize your command into divisions of about five thousand men each, but don't embrace any men rightfully belonging to the organizations now with me, but order them at once to join their proper brigades and divisions on our arrival at your neighborhood.

We have had so much bad weather in February and March that I hope we may now count on a change for the better.

Hoping to meet you in person in ten days, I am your friend,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General SCHOFIELD,
Commanding at Newbern, North Carolina.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Fayetteville, N. C., Sunday, March 12, 1865.

DEAR SIR: I know you will be pleased to hear that my army has reached this point and have opened communication with Wilmington. A tug-boat came up this morning and will start back at 6 p. m.

I have written a letter to General Grant, the substance of which he will doubtless communicate, and it must suffice for me to tell you what I know will give you pleasure; that I have done all I proposed, and the fruits seem to me ample for the time employed. Charleston, Georgetown, and Wilmington are incidents, while the utter demolition of the railroad system of South Carolina, and the utter destruction of the enemy's arsenals of Columbia, Cheraw, and Fayetteville, are the principals of the movement. These points were regarded as inaccessible to us, and now no place in the confederacy is safe against the army of the west. Let Lee hold on to Richmond, and we will destroy his country; and then of what use is Richmond? He must come out and fight us on open ground, and for that we must ever be ready. Let him stick behind his parapets and he will perish.

I remember well what you asked me, and think I am on the right road, though a long one. My army is as united and cheerful as ever, and as full of confidence in themselves and their leaders as ever. It is utterly impossible for me to enumerate what we have done, but enclose a slip just handed me, which is but partial.* At Columbia and Cheraw we destroyed nearly all the gunpowder and cartridges the confederacy had in this part of the country.

This arsenal is in fine order and much enlarged. I cannot leave a detachment to hold it, and therefore shall burn it; blow it up with gunpowder, and then with rams knock down its walls. I take it for granted the United States will never again trust Carolina with an arsenal to appropriate at her pleasure.

Hoping that good fortune may still attend my army, I remain your servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

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

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Fayetteville, N. C., Sunday, March 12, 1865.

SIR: My army is here, the enemy having fled eastward across the river, burning his bridge, but I will have pontoons down to-day. I will be here probably till Wednesday, and would like some of your boats to come up for effect,

*43 guns at Columbia; 25 guns at Cheraw; 17 guns at Fayetteville; total 85, of which four-fifths are field guns, and all are serviceable, 50 field and siege gun carriages, 30 caissons, 5 battery wagons, 5 travelling forges.—(Memorandum of General Barry, chief of artillery.)

and, if agreeable, can give you a load of refugees or cotton, at pleasure. I would like to produce the effect of a design to establish a base, which, of course, I do not propose to do. Water will continue high some time.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General

The COMMANDING OFFICER GUNBOAT FLEET,
Cape Fear River.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Fayetteville, N. C., Sunday, March 12, 1865—5 p. m.

GENERAL: I have this moment received, at the hands of the two officers of the navy who came from Wilmington by canoes and land, your cipher despatch of March 4. I am marching for Goldsboro', and will start Wednesday. I wrote you fully to-day, and send by this same opportunity, viz: the tug-boat Davidson that came from Wilmington last night.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General SCHOFIELD,
Newbern, N. C.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Fayetteville, N. C., Monday, March 13, 1865.

GENERAL: Colonel Kerwin reports from Elizabeth, where he has halted his regiment, having despatched two officers and fifty men through with your cipher despatch, which is now being unravelled. I wish you would send a boat up to Elizabeth with forage and rations for Colonel Kerwin's command, and order him to ferry his command across, and to push to the railroad, and up it until he encounters me about Faison's. Your own command should also move at once up towards Goldsboro', leaving the railroad construction party to follow, as the whole country south of Goldsboro', between the Cape Fear river and the sea, will be covered by our armies. You may be short of wagons. If you can manage to reach me I can supply you with, say, two hundred (200.) I will have enough wagons for General Schofield also. I want to concentrate all my available force about Goldsboro' as soon as possible. The single road from Newbern to Goldsboro' may not have a capacity sufficient for mine, and yours, and General Schofield's armies, and I wish you to advise General Schofield that I expect him to get boats, as quick as possible, that will enable us to use the Neuse river as auxilliary, as high up as possible, when our wagons can haul forage and stores.

I have with me, say, three thousand (3,000) wagons and near forty thousand (40,000) animals, about sixty-five thousand (65,000) fighting men.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

General TERRY, *Commanding, Wilmington.*

P. S.—If General Schofield wants you at Newbern, I do not object to your re-enforcing him, but I want all the troops not absolutely necessary for garrisons to be at or near Goldsboro' in seven (7) days, viz: by Monday or Tuesday of next week.

SHERMAN, M. G.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, opposite Fayetteville, Tuesday, March 14, 1865.

DEAR GENERAL: I am now across Cape Fear river with nearly all my army save a division, with orders to cross at daylight to-morrow. I shall then draw out ten miles and begin my manœuvres for the possession of Goldsboro', which is all-important for our future purposes.

I was in hopes that I could get some shoes and stockings at Wilmington, but the tug Davidson has returned with Brigadier General Dodge, chief quartermaster, with word that there is no clothing there, but he brings us some forage, sugar, and coffee. I can get along for ten days, having forced the army to collect plenty of beef, and a good deal of corn-meal.

I shall to-night move my cavalry (5,000) straight towards Raleigh, and follow it with four divisions infantry, without trains, and keep the trains off toward the right rear. I will hold another four divisions in close support, and move toward Smithfield, or to strike the railroad half-way between Goldsboro' and Raleigh; then, when my trains are well across towards the Neuse, will move rapidly to Bentonville, and afterwards, at leisure, move opposite Goldsboro', and open direct communication with General Schofield, who is ordered to push against Kinston and Goldsboro'. I may cross Neuse about Cox's bridge, and move into Goldsboro', but will not attempt it till within close communication with General Schofield. I have sent full orders to Schofield. It will not do to build any determinate plan from there until I am in full possession of Goldsboro'. I have ordered Generals Schofield and Terry to push towards Goldsboro' as hard as possible from the east as I advance from the southwest. The enemy is superior to me in cavalry, but I can beat his infantry, man for man, and I don't think he can bring forty thousand (40,000) men for battle. I will force him to guard Raleigh until I have interposed between it and Goldsboro'.

Weather is now good, but threatens rain. We are all well; keep all parts busy, and I will give the enemy no rest.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

Lieut. General U. S. GRANT,
City Point.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, opposite Fayetteville, Tuesday, March 14, 1865.

GENERAL: Quartermaster General Dodge is now with me, and I have explained many things to him. I want your nine thousand (9,000) infantry up at Goldsboro' as soon as possible. I begin my movement to-morrow, and if the weather is at all favorable will be opposite Goldsboro' in five days. I think your best plan is to move up as light as possible by the best road. When you effect a junction I can supply you two hundred (200) wagons. Until we get Goldsboro' reduced to possession, and its railroads down, we will not have much marching. General Schofield should push his railroad from Newbern, and your branch should be kept moving as fast as possible. Colonel Wright has but a limited force, but I will write to General Schofield to send some of Colonel Wright's foremen, and also one or two regiments of negro troops, as laborers. As I approach the road the enemy will doubtless remove as much of the iron as he can.

I have asked Captain Young, of the navy, to keep up an active movement

along Cape Fear river, to make Joe Johnston believe I have re-supplied my wagons, and can stand a thirty days' campaign.

I shall feign strong on Raleigh, but actually approach Goldsboro', and will not attempt Goldsboro' until I have Kinston and the railroad bridge across the Neuse, so that I can draw supplies from Newbern, on the north bank of the Neuse; that once done, I think I can get Goldsboro' quick. I may do so, however, at once, according to appearances as I approach the place.

I am much obliged for the supplies, but would suggest that you estimate to keep on hand always a million of rations, independent of your own wants. I feel confident that Generals Easton and Beckwith have full supplies for me about Newbern.

I am truly yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General TERRY,
Commanding, &c., Wilmington.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, opposite Fayetteville, Tuesday, March 14, 1865.

GENERAL: I am now across Cape Fear river, and to-morrow shall draw out ten miles, and next day, if weather is favorable, will begin to manoeuvre on Goldsboro'. I shall feign strong on Raleigh by approaching, and it may be striking the railroad half way between Goldsboro' and Raleigh; then, as soon as the wagons are well towards Faison's, will swing rapidly in front of Goldsboro', but will not cross the Neuse till I hear from you. You must push vigorously towards Kinston and Goldsboro', with the absolute certainty that I will engage the attention of Joe Johnston's army to the west and southwest of Goldsboro'. Let the railroad construction party push their work at least as far Kinston. I want you to draw up Terry's force also, either by water or by a land march; the latter will be best: On making a junction I can spare Terry two hundred, and you three hundred wagons. I think we have transportation enough for a hundred thousand men. Be sure to accumulate food for my army, and especially clothing. Tell General Easton we will need at least one hundred thousand (100,000) suits of clothing. Our animals are in good condition, and have been accustomed to a full ration of fodder. They will wait piteously if put on a mere grain ration. If not delayed much at Goldsboro' we can soon gain a good fodder country.

You must now push as boldly as possible straight on Goldsboro', and I will do the same. Joe Johnston may try to interpose, in which case we must strike him as near at the same time as possible. If he crosses the Neuse to the south you must do the same, but I think he will await me at Goldsboro' and Raleigh, and I hope at both. Consolidate your command at once into an army, the centre of this. General Howard has the right wing, General Slocum the left. You can have Terry's troops, but I want the detachments that belong to this army to join their respective brigades as quick as possible. I understand that Meagher's division is composed wholly of detachments that belong to the corps now with me, viz: 15th, 17th, 14th, and 20th. I will want to give Kilpatrick as much cavalry as possible, as he has a heavy load to carry. He has to look out for Hampton, Wheeler, and Butler, all accounted as first-class men.

I take it for granted Joe Johnston now has S. D. Lee's corps, four thousand, (4,000;) Cheatham's, five thousand, (5,000;) Hoke's, eight thousand, (8,000;) Hardee's, ten thousand, (10,000;) and detachments, about ten thousand, (10,000;) making thirty-seven thousand (37,000,) with near eight thousand (8,000) cavalry.

Our duty is to effect a junction south of the Neuse; but if you can get Kinston whilst Joe Johnston is engaged with me, do so, and push on towards Goldsboro'. I will attack the Raleigh road.

Get your supplies as far forward as possible, that I may quickly replenish.

I am yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General SCHOFIELD,
Commanding at Newbern.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, opposite Fayetteville, March 14, 1865—7 p. m.

GENERAL: I think I have studied the problem of the next move, and will give you in confidence its analysis.

We must make a strong feint on Raleigh, and strike with cavalry, if possible, the railroad near Smithfield. I take it for granted the bridge will be too strongly guarded for General Kilpatrick to surprise, and therefore I will leave him to disable that road, of course only partially, between the Neuse and Eureka. To this end the cavalry will move to-night across the bridge, beginning at 3 a. m., and will push to-morrow up the plank road to about Averysboro'; General Slocum following up with four disencumbered divisions to near the forks of the road, moving his trains by a cross-road towards Bentonville. The next move will be the cavalry to "Elevation," and General Slocum will cross Black river. The next move will bring General Slocum to Bentonville, and Kilpatrick, supported by a division of infantry, will make a dash for the railroad. This is as far as I will now determine.

I want you to be as near in support as possible. I do think it is Johnston's only chance to meet this army before an easy junction can be effected with General Schofield.

I would like you to have four (4) divisions free to move rapidly to the sound of battle in the direction of Mingo creek and Elevation, and at any event to make a junction by head of column with General Slocum at Bentonville. The weather looks bad, and I fear we may have swamps about South river. I think it would be well for you to have four divisions to get ahead of General Slocum's trains on the direct road from Fayetteville to Bentonville, and keeping ahead of him about five or six miles, so as, in case of action, to come up on his "right." I will keep near General Slocum, and wish you to keep me thoroughly advised of the position of your troops and trains, and, instead of aiming towards Faison's, rather look towards Dead Field and Everettsville.

I think Colonel Garber can give you another boat, in which case you had better send down another load of prisoners of war. Do not fail to clear your columns of the dead-weights, by sending them, *via* Clinton, to Wilmington.

I do not expect your heads of columns to be more than ten miles distant from Fayetteville to-morrow night, but it would be well for a brigade to secure the bridge across South river if not already done.

Generals Schofield and Terry are now fully advised of our whereabouts, and have my orders. Their movements will directly co-operate with ours, and I propose to make an actual junction before crossing the Neuse, unless events and weather favor a different course.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General O. O. HOWARD,
Commanding Right Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, opposite Fayetteville, N. C., March 14, 1865.

GENERAL: I have notified General Howard that to-morrow night your head of column would be near the crossroads, above Kyle's landing; the next day across Black river, near Mingo; and third day near Bentonville, and have instructed him to have four (4) divisions in easy support, and a little in advance of you, say, five or six miles, so that on receiving orders or hearing battle he may come promptly up on your right.

I think Colonel Garber can promise you another boat, in which case it would be well to send to Wilmington your prisoners of war. You might leave them to-morrow where the gunboat lies, two (2) miles below General Howard's bridge, and the guard, if unable to overtake you the day after to-morrow, could follow direct to Bentonville. I want the three first marches to be made with prudence and deliberation. I am willing to accept battle with Johnston's concentrated force, but would not attack him in position until I make junction with General Schofield.

I am truly yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General SLOCUM,
Commanding Left Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

*In the field, 12 miles from Fayetteville, N. C.,
on Raleigh road, March 15, 1865.*

GENERAL: I got a file of northern papers yesterday from Wilmington, in which I observe you are in command of the Department of the South. I have had no official communication from the War Department or General Grant since my departure from Savannah, and am compelled to pick up information the best way I can. I wrote to General Foster from Fayetteville, supposing him to be in command of the department, and hope you got the letter, and it is a fear its contents may not reach you promptly which induces me to write this.

When at Columbia I had the railroad broken down to Kingsville and the Wateree bridge; subsequently from Cheraw I aimed to strike Florence, but sent too weak a party, but the enemy himself has destroyed the Pedee bridge, and has on the railroad at Sumterville and between it and Florence a vast amount of rolling stock, the destruction of which is all important, and it should be done before any repairs can be made whereby they can be removed. I want it done at once, and leave you to devise the way. I think twenty-five hundred (2,500) men lightly equipped, with pack mules only, could reach the road either from Georgetown or the Santee bridge. I think also that you can easily make up that force from Charleston and Savannah. As to the garrisons of those places I don't feel disposed to be over-generous, and should not hesitate to burn Savannah, Charleston and Wilmington, or either of them, if the garrisons were needed. Savannah and Wilmington are the only really useful ports, because of their inland rivers. Still, I suppose you can always get garrisons of sick, disabled, or indifferent troops. All real good soldiers must now be marching. Do not let your command rest on its oars, but keep them going all the time, even if for no other purpose than to exhaust the enemy's country or compel him to defend it. The simple fact that a man's home has been visited by an enemy makes a soldier in Lee's and Johnston's army very anxious to get home to look after his family and property. But the expedition I have indicated to Sumterville and Florence has even higher aims. Those cars and locomotives should be destroyed, if to do it cost you five hundred (500) men. I know you can get there

all the bacon, beef, meat, &c., your command may want, and a good deal of cornmeal. The men could march without knapsacks, with a single blanket, and carry eight (8) days' provisions, which, with what is in the country, will feed your command two weeks. Let it be done at once, and select your own point of departure. After destroying those cars and engines, (not merely damaging them, but an absolute destruction of boilers, steam chambers, connecting rods, flanges, &c., &c., powder can be used to good advantage in blowing up boilers and engines, but we use cold-chisels and crowbars,) you may reduce your garrisons to the minimum and send every man to Newbern and Goldsboro'. I want to collect an army that can whip Lee in open fight if he lets go Richmond, which I think he will soon be forced to do.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General Q. A. GILLMORE,
Commanding Department of the South, Charleston, S. C.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Kyle's Landing, N. C., March 16, 1865—2 a. m.

GENERAL: Yours is just received; your orders are all right. I fear the present rain will make the roads utterly impracticable. Hardee's whole force is in our front, near the forks of the road, and I have ordered General Slocum to go at him in the morning in good shape, but vigorously, and push him beyond Averysboro'. General Kilpatrick is ahead, across the branch marked Taylor's Hole creek, about two miles this side the forks.

Your courier brings me good news from Generals Schofield and Terry. General Schofield reports he whipped Bragg handsomely at Kinston, and undertakes to have supplies for us there, and probably further along. General Terry says he can reach Faison's with his 9,000 men by Sunday or Monday, and that the rest of General Schofield's troops that had left Wilmington had made junction with General Schofield at Kinston. Also that General Sheridan is coming to us by land with 8,000 cavalry. So all is working well around us, and we must not scatter, but aim to converge about Bentonville, and afterwards Goldsboro'. The rain is as bad for our opponents as for us, and I doubt if they have as good supplies or transportation as we.

General Terry has sent up 3,900 pairs of shoes, and 2,400 pairs of pants. Divide them with General Slocum.

We took Colonel Alfred Rhett, of Fort Sumter, prisoner yesterday. He was commanding a brigade in Hardee's troops ahead, and from drop expressions I think Hardee will try and fight us at the crossroads.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General HOWARD,
Commanding Right Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, 13 miles on the Raleigh Road, out of Fayetteville, March 16, 1865—2 a. m.

GENERAL: Thank you kindly for the shoes and pants, and still more for the certain knowledge that General Schofield is in possession of Kinston. That

is of great importance; for thence to Goldsboro' there are no bridges. I will, in consequence, move straight on Goldsboro'.

It is now raining hard, and the bottom has fallen out, and we will have to corduroy every foot of the way. Hardee is ahead of me and shows fight. I will go at him in the morning with four divisions, and push him as far as Averysboro' before turning towards Bentonville and Cox's bridge. My extreme right will aim for Everettville and Faison's. I am delighted that General Sheridan is slashing away with his column of cavalry. He will be a disturbing element in the grand and beautiful game of war, and if he reaches me I'll make all North Carolina howl. I will make him a deed of gift of every horse in the State, to be settled for at the day of judgment. I cannot, of course, reach General Sheridan with any suggestions, but he should march for Danville, Greensboro' and Raleigh, or rather near those points, making some detours to mislead.

Tell General Dodge to keep boats running up Cape Fear, until he knows I am at my new base. This rain, so damaging to my land transportation, is a good thing for the river, which had fallen very much. He can use the rebel captured boats, which if lost are of no account. Each of these boats should be supplied a good barge, that can hold all the crew, in case the boat is caught by a fall in the river. Captain Young agreed to keep his gunboats running busy, and as high up as possible. I want to keep up the impression that I am using the Cape Fear river for supplies, for our foolish northern journals have published the fact that I am aiming for Newbern, a fact that I had concealed from everybody not necessarily in my confidence. These fellows discovered it by the course taken by the supply boats from Port Royal.

Hoping to meet you soon, I am, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General TERRY, *Wilmington, N. C.*

P. S.—We took some prisoners to-day, among them Colonel Alfred Rhett, of Fort Sumter, who commands a brigade in Hardee's army.

SHERMAN.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

In the field, 18 miles N. E. Fayetteville, March 17, 1865—7 a. m.

GENERAL: General Slocum found the enemy covering the narrow neck from Taylor's Hole creek up to the Goldsboro' road. He drove them from two successive positions, taking three guns, some prisoners, wounded, but losing himself pretty severely—I think as many as 300 in all; but the enemy lost heavily also, from appearances. At night the enemy still held the forks, but it is just reported that he is gone—I suppose up to Averysboro', where the Raleigh and Smithfield roads fork. Your scout Duncan is just in, having escaped from McLaw's guard, he thinks about twelve miles out on the Smithfield road. So Hardee is retreating on Smithfield.

General Slocum will feel out towards Averysboro', but move his column on the Goldsboro' road, which is that which crosses Black and Mingo creeks, just ahead of where we are. Our true tactics would be to push all our columns to Smithfield, but I will only follow Hardee far enough to give him impulse, when we must resume our course.

I want you to-day to get to where the Goldsboro' road crosses Mingo, and have that bridge well repaired. You need not come on to General Slocum, unless you hear him engaged. We might cut his column at Elevation, but it will be time enough to think of that to-night.

General Blair is getting too far off; better draw him and all your trains to wards Troublefield's store.

Weather having cleared off, we may count on better roads.

Have a road for your column reconnoitred from Mingo bridge to that point north of Troublefield's where three roads meet.

I expect to be to-night somewhere between the Black river and Mingo bridge.

Yours, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General O. O. HOWARD,
Commanding Right Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, March 17, 1865.

GENERAL: The enemy is gone from our front, and I take it he is up at the forks of the Raleigh and Smithfield roads—Averysboro'.

General Slocum will feel up that road, but be prepared to use the Goldsboro' road which crosses Black and Mingo. I have ordered General Howard to be at Mingo to-night, but I want your cavalry on the road which leads from Black river bridge towards Elevation. Captain Duncan, of General Howard's scouts, is here, having escaped. He reports Hardee and Wheeler ahead of us, on the Smithfield road. Wade Hampton and Butler are off in front of General Howard.

You can forage from the Goldsboro' road northward, between Black and Mingo.

Yours truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General KILPATRICK,
Black River Mill.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Camp between N. river and Mingo creek, March 17, 1865.

GENERAL: North river had to be bridged and has delayed us to-day. General Davis is on the Mingo, and Williams on North river. General Kilpatrick is up the road in the direction of Elevation. We still threaten Smithfield, but to-morrow will move rapidly towards Cox's bridge and Goldsboro'. If the enemy fail to fight for Goldsboro', of course we go right in—General Slocum by Cox's bridge, and you by the south, as General Schofield comes from the east, (Kinston.) But if the enemy oppose, I propose to throw our empty wagons down to Kinston for forage and supplies, whilst we proceed to reduce Goldsboro'. To this end General Slocum will break the railroad west of Cox's bridge, and you will cross the Neuse in front, as General Schofield comes from the east, and swings against the railroad north of the town. I doubt if there be any fortifications at Goldsboro' capable of holding anything more than a railroad guard.

I have examined your order and it will do, only get on a right-hand road as soon as possible, that you may not delay General Slocum's troops, who will necessarily all be forced on the one road. Try and keep around the head of Falling Water creek, viz., to the south. I will push General Slocum to-morrow and next day, and think by day after to-morrow we will be in position, viz., you directly in front of Goldsboro', and General Slocum at Cox's bridge.

At the time I sent Colonel Ewing to you yesterday, the enemy had brought General Slocum up all standing, and it was on the theory that he would hold

General Slocum there that I wanted you at Mingo bridge. But the enemy retreated in the night on Smithfield, and we are again on the march, feigning to the left, but moving trains and troops as rapidly as the roads admit on Goldsboro'. You may do the same.

The enemy yesterday had a strong intrenched line in front of the cross-roads, and had posted the Charleston brigade about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in front, also intrenched. The 20th corps struck the first line, turned it handsomely, and used the Charleston brigade up completely, killing about 40, and gathering about 35 wounded and a hundred well prisoners, capturing three (3) guns, but on advancing further encountered the larger line, which they did not carry, but it was abandoned at night.

This morning a division of Williams's followed as far as Averysboro', whilst the rest turned to the right, as I have heretofore stated. General Slocum lost in killed and wounded about 300. He is somewhat heavily burdened by his wounded, which must be hauled. We left the confederate wounded in a house by the road-side.

The route of retreat of the enemy shows signs of considerable panic, and I have no doubt he got decidedly the worst of it.

Yours truly,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Major General HOWARD,

Commanding Right Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, 27 miles from Goldsboro', N. C., March 18, 1865.

GENERAL: The 14th corps is here, but the 20th is well back. It started from Averysboro' and North river, with General Kilpatrick to the north of the road. We heard some musketry and artillery in that direction, but Colonel Poe left Mingo creek, which he bridged, at 11 a. m., at which time the 20th corps was a half a mile behind.

We cannot get any further to-day. General Davis may go a couple of miles further to the forks of the road. I think this road, the Averysboro' and Goldsboro' road, will lead to Cox's bridge, though it is represented as passing three (3) miles south of Bentonville.

Get on to the right-hand road, so that General Geary and his trains may take that to Goldsboro', *via* Cox's bridge.

I think the enemy is concentrated about Smithfield, and I cannot make out whether Goldsboro' is held in force or not. I think it probable that Joe Johnston will try to prevent our getting Goldsboro'.

We find a good deal of forage to-day, but the roads still cut deep. I hope the sun will dry them up good.

Our map is evidently faulty. Can't you send me to-night a sketch of the country towards Dead Fields, Everettsville, and Faison's? I fear General Slocum will be jammed with all his trains in a narrow space, but at the same time I don't want to push you too far till this flank is better covered by the Neuse. General Slocum is back with the 20th corps, and as soon as I hear from him I will send over to you.

General Morgan's division found a couple of Hampton's regiments here, but they cleared out towards the north as soon as he deployed skirmishers.

I am, general, very respectfully, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General O. O. HOWARD,

Commanding Right Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, March 18, 1865.

GENERAL: General Slocum is up. The firing you heard was General Kilpatrick, who found parties picketing the roads to the north. He reports Hardee retreating on Smithfield and Joe Johnston collecting his old Georgia army this side of Raleigh. I know that he will call in all minor posts, which embraces Goldsboro'. You may, therefore, move straight for Goldsboro', leaving General Slocum the river road, and, if possible, the one from Lee's store toward Falling Waters. Make a break into Goldsboro' from the south, and let your scouts strike out for General Schofield, at Kinston, though I hope to meet him at Goldsboro'.

Our roads are very bad, but I think the 14th corps will be at Cox's bridge to-morrow night, and will aim to strike the railroad to the northwest of Goldsboro'. If any change occurs I will notify you to-night.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,

*Major General.*Major General HOWARD, *Present.*

[Cipher.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

*In the field, 10 miles southwest of Goldsboro',**Sunday, March 19, 1865—2 p. m.*Major General SCHOFIELD, *Kinston:*

To-night my left wing will be at Cox's bridge, and my right wing within 10, miles of Goldsboro'. To-morrow we will cross the Neuse river at Cox's bridge and be near Goldsboro', to prevent the enemy reoccupying Goldsboro' in force.

The scout Pike has arrived with your despatch of the 17th. Continue to extend the road as fast as possible, and I expect you to move towards Goldsboro', even if it be unnecessary, as I don't want to lose men in a direct attack, when it can be avoided.

Don't depend altogether on your depot, but collect forage and provisions of the people. Tell Generals Easton and Beckwith to estimate for one hundred thousand men. I must give my men and animals some rest.

We whipped Hardee easily about Averysboro'. All retreated on Smithfield and Raleigh.

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General.

[Cipher.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, March 19, 1865—5 p. m.

General SCHOFIELD:

Since making my despatch to-day, General Slocum reports the enemy in force between him and Cox's bridge; thinks it is the main army of the enemy. I can hardly suppose the enemy will attempt to fight us this side the Neuse, but will direct all my columns on Cox's bridge to-morrow. You must secure Goldsboro' and fortify.

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Falling Creek Church, March 19, 1865—2 p. m.

GENERAL: General Howard, with one division, is now at this point, which is just three miles south of Cox's bridge and ten from Goldsboro'. A scout is just in from General Schofield, who writes that he will leave Kinston for Goldsboro' to-day or to-morrow. I have sent him a courier with orders to march straight for Goldsboro'. General Howard's four (4) divisions are strung out, but he will push them through to-night. We occupy a position dangerous to the enemy, if he thinks he is in front of the whole army. You may strengthen your position, but feel the enemy all night. If he is there at daylight, we will move straight for Cox's bridge, and then turn towards you. I think you will find him gone in the morning. General Howard has sent a regiment to Cox's bridge. It has not reported yet. He has the bridge across Falling creek, two miles east of this, towards Goldsboro', and has also some mounted men opposite Goldsboro', where they find a tête de pont occupied by the enemy. General Blair is about five miles south of this with the trains.

I will order General Kilpatrick to remain with you. Get up your trains between Lee's store and your camp, and keep the enemy busy until we can get up the 4th division of the 15th corps.

If you hear firing to your front, not explained by your own acts, you must assault or turn the enemy, for it will not do to let him fight us separately.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General.

Major General SLOCUM,

Commanding Left Wing.

P. S.—Your note of 2 p. m. is just received. General Howard's regiment drove the picket from the crossroads, one mile this side of Cox's bridge; that will disturb the force to your front. General Howard can better help you from this quarter than by returning by Lee's store.

SHERMAN.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Falling Creek Church, March 19, 1865—5 p. m.

GENERAL: Your report of to-day is received. General Slocum thinks the whole rebel army is to his front. I cannot think Johnston would fight us with the Neuse to his rear. You may remain with General Slocum until further orders, or until the two wings come together.

If that force remain in General Slocum's front to-morrow, I will move straight on its rear.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

General KILPATRICK,

Commanding Cavalry.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, March 20, 1865—2 a. m.

GENERAL: Yours of 8 p. m., 19th, is just received, and I acknowledge receipt by direction of the general-in-chief, who instructed me also to say that the whole army is moving to your assistance as rapidly as possible. Upon its

approach he wishes you to be prepared to assume the offensive against the enemy.

Colonel Asmusen has directions for you. All ambulances will be given you that can.

I am, with respect,

L. M. DAYTON, A. A. G.

Major General SLOCUM,
Commanding Left Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Falling Creek Church, March 20, 1865—4 a. m.

GENERAL: I got a despatch from General Schofield yesterday, saying he would start from Kinston for Goldsboro' yesterday or to-day.

I have just received information that General Terry camped his troops five (5) miles south of Faison's yesterday, and that he, in person, reached Faison's on a train last night.

I have ordered him to feel into Goldsboro' for General Schofield, and up to Cox's bridge for me.

We all move at five (5) a. m. toward you; hold fast to your position, which I take for granted is now well fortified, but be ready to attack the enemy the moment you see signs of let go; follow him as far as Mill creek, and take position covering the movement of your trains on the direct Goldsboro' road.

If it be true that General Terry has reached Faison's on a train, we will be able to send your wounded down to Wilmington from Neuse river bridge. You shall have the use of every ambulance in the army not absolutely needed in the other corps and divisions.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Major General SLOCUM,
Commanding Left Wing.

[Cipher.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Falling Creek Church, March 20, 1865—4 a. m.

GENERAL: I have just learned through your cavalry of your arrival at Faison's.

Johnston, with his concentrated force, made an unsuccessful attack on my left wing yesterday, near Bentonville. I am just starting with my right wing to attack him.

Feel into Goldsboro' for General Schofield, and up the Falling creek and Cox's bridge, for me. We have cavalry pickets south of Goldsboro'. The Neuse bridges are burned.

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Major General A. H. TERRY, *Commanding, &c.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Falling Creek Church, March 20, 1865—6 a. m.

GENERAL: I have this moment received your despatch of yesterday. I had just sent off a cipher despatch to you, but as yours is plain, I infer you have no cipher clerk.

Yesterday Johnston, with his force concentrated, struck my left wing near Bentonville, and they had a severe battle, lasting until night. General Slocum beat them off, but was uneasy. I am now turning the right wing on Bentonville.

I want you to move to Mount Olive station and communicate with General Schofield, who ought to be at Goldsboro' to-night, and then feel up for me on the south of the Neuse towards Bentonville.

Get the railroad from Northeast branch to the Neuse in running order to the capacity of the captured stock.

The railroad and road bridges near Goldsboro' were burned yesterday, on being threatened by some of our cavalry parties. If General Schofield gets to Goldsboro', the road bridges should be rebuilt at once. If you need pontoons, I can send you some of canvas.

Half our trains are with General Slocum, near Bentonville, and the other half about eight miles south of this, on the road from Cox's bridge to Wilmington.

By to-night I will know if Joe Johnston intends to fight me in force, when I will communicate further. Until you know the result, you and General Schofield should work up to my support south of the Neuse.

Send that cavalry regiment through to me *via* the Bentonville road. We hold the bridge over Falling creek.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

Major General TERRY,
Faison's Depot.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, near Bentonville, March 20, 1865—2 p. m.

GENERAL SCHOFIELD: Your despatch of yesterday is received. You can march into Goldsboro' without opposition. General Terry is at Faison's, and I have ordered him to Cox's bridge till the present action is over. I am now within two miles of Slocum, but Johnston is between us. We are now skirmishing.

After occupying Goldsboro', if you hear nothing to the contrary, join a part of your force with General Terry's, and come to me, wherever I may be.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, March 20, 1865—8 p. m.

GENERAL: I find the topography of the country different from what I expected. The road from Falling creek church will be very bad in wet weather as far as Cox's bridge; thence for eight miles very good, with sandy ground and open fields hence about ten miles from Cox's bridge. We are on flat pine land, such as makes bad roads in wet weather.

We struck the enemy on his left rear about noon, and have pressed him very hard, and have dislodged him from all his barricades, except the line constructed as against you, which may be double, or enclosed; for our men find parapets from the road well down to Mill creek. Johnston hoped to overcome your wing before I could come to your relief; having failed in that, I cannot see why he remains, and still think he will avail himself of night to get back to Smithfield. I would rather avoid a general battle, if possible; but if he insists on it, we must accommodate him. In that event, if he be in position to-morrow, I

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want you to make a good road around his flank into this, and to-morrow night pass your trains and dispose your troops, so that we have our back towards Faison's and Goldsboro'. General Schofield was to leave Kinston for Goldsboro' to-day, and General Terry has arrived with 9,000 infantry at Faison's, and I have ordered him to Cox's bridge, to be drawn up here if we need him. I can also draw on General Schofield, in a few days, for 10,000 men; but I think we have enough.

First, in case of being forced to fight the enemy here, we must send our trains to Kinston for supplies, and therefore get a road at once around the flank of the enemy; the rest is in our possession—retain ordnance, and all wagons with food; all else should go down.

Make no orders as yet, till to-morrow reveals the purpose of our enemy; but think the problem over.

Post General Hazen to your right, so as to join his own corps—the 15th. Keep General Kilpatrick on your left rear; feel the enemy at several points to-night, and if he retreats, try and get some prisoners. Make me a report of to-day's operations with you, and describe more fully the topography.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Major General SLOCUM,
Commanding Left Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, near Bentonville, N. C., March 20, 1865—9 p. m.

GENERAL: We struck Johnston on his left rear to-day, and have been skirmishing pretty hard all day. We have opened communication with General Slocum, who had a hard fight yesterday. We are now ready for battle, if Johnston desires it, to-morrow; but as he has failed to overcome one wing, he will hardly invite battle with both. I don't want to fight now, or here, and therefore won't object to his drawing off to-night towards Smithfield, as he should. General Schofield moves to-day from Kinston for Goldsboro', and I wish you to go to Cox's, to which point I will send a pontoon train, if I conclude to lay a bridge there. The north side of the Neuse will afford us good foraging ground, and will be a direct threat to Smithfield, and the rear of Johnston's army, now to my front. I may have to send all my empty wagons to Kinston for clothing and supplies, but you would do well to have the railroad from Wilmington repaired up to the Neuse, and you can draw supplies up that road.

If Johnston insists on fighting us here, I may call you up; but if he goes I will drop down to Goldsboro', put you about Faison's or Mount Olive, and General Schofield at Kinston, until we are re-supplied and equipped for the next campaign. This will take us a couple of weeks.

I suppose you will be put to your wits to feed your men until the roads are equipped, but it is wonderful how necessity develops the searching qualities of soldiers. My men seem to keep fat and healthy on parched corn and bacon.

Have both bridges over Falling Water put in good order, and tell General Schofield to repair at once the road bridge across the Neuse at Goldsboro'. The railroad bridge will be built by Colonel Wright, with his railroad gang.

I do hope we shall have some fine weather, as rain makes these roads terrible.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

Major General TERRY, *Mount Olive.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI

In the field, near Bentonville, N. C., March 21, 1865.

GENERAL: Captain Twining is here, and I send by him an order that, you will perceive, looks to staying here some days.

I thought Johnston, having failed as he attempted to crush one of my wings, finding he had not succeeded, but that I was present with my whole force, would withdraw, but he has not, and I must fight him here. He is twenty (20) miles from Smithfield, with a bad road to his rear, but his position is in the swamps, difficult of approach, and I don't like to assail his parapets, which are of the old kind.

As soon as you get Goldsboro' leave a small garrison; break the bridge across Little river, above the railroad, but use the one near its mouth, at old Waynesboro', and advance to Millard, where you can effect a junction with Terry. He need leave a very small picket at Cox's bridge. Make up a force of about 25,000 men, leaving at Goldsboro' Carter's division, if, as I understand, it is composed of troops properly belonging to this army. Let me know the moment these combinations are made, when we can act.

I would like to have your pontoon bridge across Neuse, about Jericho, so that our trains to and from Kinston can use it. General Howard will bridge at or near Goldsboro', and General Slocum at Cox's. The roads are now comparatively good, and I want to make the most of the good weather, but the moment Johnston gives ground I propose to fall back on Goldsboro', and await the completion of our railroad and the re-equipment of my army. I will probably post you at Kinston, General Terry about Faison's, and this army at Goldsboro'.

You will probably find plenty of corn, bacon, and corn-meal in the country, from Waynesboro' to Millard. The road near the Neuse is also better than the one back, as it is better drained. All the heads of creeks in this region are swampy, and level pine lands that afford bad roads.

I expect you surely at Goldsboro' to-day, and that you have at once secured the bridge across Little river. I don't think you will find anything over there but cavalry. Hoke is to our front; we took prisoners from his command yesterday.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Major General SCHOFIELD,

Commanding Army of the Ohio.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, near Bentonville, N. C., March 21, 1865—6 p. m.

GENERAL: It is manifest that we are not to be favored with weather. After raining six weeks, it has, apparently, set in for another six weeks. I wish, while waiting for the pontoon train, you would keep strong details corduroying the roads at the low places, especially in the bottoms of Falling creek, at both bridges, or at the bridges on both roads, viz: the one from Cox's to Goldsboro', and the one from Falling Creek School House to Goldsboro'. Better keep a thousand men on detail for such work. We will corduroy back towards you and you towards Goldsboro'. Rails are pretty good, but pine saplings, ten inches through, the cut split in two, the flat side laid down, make a better road.

We have had some pretty hard skirmishing all round the line, but nothing material either way. If I could get the railroad done to Goldsboro' I would be better off than Johnston, as he has the same weather, and, I think, a worse road to his base at Smithfield, both distances twenty miles.

I am very anxious to hear of General Schofield, at Goldsboro', and especially that the railroad is done to that point. It should have been completed before I got here.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General TERRY, *Commanding Bridge.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, near Bentonville, N. C., March 22, 1865—6½ a. m.

GENERAL: I am directed by the general-in-chief to write you.

The effect of the operations of our skirmishers yesterday and last night has been that the enemy has left his position and retreated towards or beyond Mill creek. The general desires you to use all possible expedition in effecting a crossing at Cox's bridge, over the Neuse, getting the bridge down at the earliest practicable moment. If the bridge-train has not reached you, he wishes that you send couriers to it to hurry up.

Communicate these facts to Major General Schofield, and that General Sherman expects him to occupy Goldsboro' at once. Johnston may attempt sending a force there from Smithfield, and therefore it is important for General Schofield to occupy Goldsboro'.

Let your despatch bearer go at a gallop.

I am, with respect, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Major General A. H. TERRY, *Commanding, &c.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, near Bentonville, N. C., March 22, 1865.

I have just been at the front. Johnston retreated last night on Smithfield in some confusion, leaving dead and wounded. We have pursued two miles beyond Mill creek, but are not in a condition as to our supplies to follow up our advantage, which amounts to a substantial victory, and accordingly I have ordered the army to move towards Goldsboro'. I can't imagine why I don't hear from General Schofield. Until I know he has Goldsboro', I must direct my attention on that point.

I commend highly your promptness in securing the crossing at Cox's. If you observe any of the enemy's force on the north side, move across a whole division and intrench it, so as to command all the outlet roads, and so that if I choose I can cross General Slocum's wing there, and move out against the railroad between Goldsboro' and Smithfield.

I will probably come down to-day and stay with you.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General TERRY,
Commanding at Cox's Bridge.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, near Bentonville, N. C., March 22, 1865—10 a. m.

GENERAL: The enemy having retreated precipitately and in disorder from our front, and we not being in a condition as to supplies to follow up, will move

on Goldsboro', from which place I have nothing definite. General Terry reports that he has crossed the Neuse to the north bank, where he has a brigade intrenched. From that position I can take Goldsboro' without delay or trouble. I shall go there to-night. General Slocum's wing will also be at or near Cox's, but General Howard will remain till morning. To-morrow morning, unless nothing happens in the interval, move your cavalry slowly and in order by a circuit to the south, to Mount Olive Station, on the Wilmington and Goldsboro' road, and report to me from there by letter. General Terry, on his way up, secured two locomotives and a few old cars, and found the road in good order from Northeast Branch, near Wilmington, to Mount Olive, so that I hope to be able to supply you food and forage from that quarter, which will relieve the Newbern road, which, for some reason, was more damaged by the enemy.

Nevertheless, continue, as heretofore, to gather all the food and forage of the country you can. I claim, of course, the absolute right to all property lying south of our route of march, and care not how close you pinch the inhabitants, if it be done without pillage of the mere household goods and apparel of women.

General Schofield reports this morning from Goldsboro'. So our campaign is an *eminent success*.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General KILPATRICK,
Commanding Cavalry Forces.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, near Bentonville, N. C., March 22, 1865—10 a. m.

GENERAL: Your despatch of yesterday is just received. We whipped all of Joe Johnston's army yesterday, and he retreated in disorder in the night. We are in possession of the field, and our skirmishers are after his rear guard, two miles north of Mill creek. We are not in a condition as to supplies to follow up, but will gradually draw back to Goldsboro' and refit.

Push the repairs of the railroad back to Newbern. You need not advance to Millard, but secure all the bridges across Little river, and lay your pontoons across Neuse near the main road south, unless in the mean time you have used it on Little river.

We have many prisoners, and I think we can get along till our wagons get back from Kinston. General Slocum will move to-day to Cox's bridge, but General Howard will remain till morning and follow us to Goldsboro'. I will go to Cox's to-day, and if you have gone to Millard's, will communicate with you. If this finds you at Millard's, draw back to the Little river, on the Goldsboro' side.

I will not move against Raleigh till we are resupplied.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General SCHOFIELD, *Goldsboro'.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, near Bentonville, N. C., March 22, 1865.

GENERAL: General Schofield reports from Goldsboro', which he occupied with little opposition, so that our campaign is an *eminent success*. Let General Slocum have the roads to-day, and to-morrow move at your leisure to your new position on the right of Goldsboro', facing north, first south of the Neuse and

next north. I will promise that no pains or efforts on my part shall be spared to supply your command in the most thorough manner before calling on them for new efforts.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Major General HOWARD,

Commanding Right Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Cox's Bridge, Neuse River, N. C., March 22, 1865.

GENERAL: I wrote you from Fayetteville, North Carolina, on Tuesday, the 14th instant, that I was all ready to start for Goldsboro', to which point I had also ordered General Schofield from Newbern and General Terry from Wilmington. I knew that General Joe Johnston was supreme in command against me, and that he would have time to concentrate a respectable army to oppose the last stage of this march. Accordingly General Slocum was ordered to send his main supply train, under escort of two divisions, straight for Bentonville, while he, with his other four divisions, disencumbered of all unnecessary wagons, should march towards Raleigh, by way of threat, as far as Averysboro'. General Howard, in like manner, sent his trains with the 17th corps well to the right, and with the four divisions of the 15th corps took roads which would enable him to come promptly to the exposed left flank. We started on the 15th; but again the rains set in, and the roads, already bad enough, became horrible.

On Tuesday, the 15th, General Slocum found Hardee's army from Charleston, which had retreated before us from Cheraw, in position across the narrow swampy neck between Cape Fear and South river, where the road branches off to Goldsboro'. There a pretty severe fight occurred, in which General Slocum's troops carried handsomely the advanced line held by a South Carolina brigade, commanded by a Colonel Butler. Its commander, Colonel Rhett, of Fort Sumter notoriety, with one of his staff, had the night before been captured by Kilpatrick's scouts, from his very skirmish line. The next morning Hardee was found gone, and was pursued through and beyond Averysboro'. General Slocum buried one hundred and eight dead rebels, and captured and destroyed three guns. Some eighty wounded rebels were left in our hands, and, after dressing their wounds, we left them in a house attended by a confederate officer and four privates, detailed out of our prisoners and paroled for the purpose.

We resumed the march towards Goldsboro'. I was with the left wing until I supposed all danger was passed; but when General Slocum's head of column was within four miles of Bentonville, after skirmishing as usual with cavalry, he became aware that there was infantry at his front. He deployed a couple of brigades, which, on advancing, sustained a partial repulse, but soon rallied; and he formed a line of the two leading divisions, Morgan's and Carlin's, of Jeff. C. Davis's corps. The enemy attacked these with violence, but was repulsed. This was in the forenoon of Sunday, the 19th. General Slocum brought forward the two divisions of the 20th corps, and hastily disposed of them for defence, and General Kilpatrick massed his cavalry on the left.

General Joe Johnston had the night before marched his whole army, Bragg, Cheatham, S. D. Lee, Hardee, and all the troops he had drawn from every quarter, determined, as he told his men, to crush one of our corps, and then defeat us in detail. He attacked General Slocum in position from 3 p. m. on the 19th till dark, but was everywhere repulsed and lost fearfully. At the time, I was with the 15th corps, marching on a road more to the right, but on hearing of General Slocum's danger directed that corps towards Cox's bridge, and that night brought Blair's corps over and on the 20th marched rapidly on Johns-

ton's flank and rear. We struck him about noon, and forced him to assume the defensive and to fortify. Yesterday we pushed him hard, and came very near crushing him. The right division of the 17th corps, Mower's, having broken in to within a hundred yards of where Johnston himself was, at the bridge across Mill creek, last night he retreated, leaving us in possession of the field, dead, and wounded. We have over two thousand (2,000) prisoners from this affair and the one at Aveyrsboro', and I am satisfied that Johnston's army was so roughly handled yesterday that we could march right on to Raleigh; but we have now been out six weeks, living precariously upon the collections of our foragers, our men "dirty, ragged, and saucy," and we must rest and fix up a little. Our entire losses thus far, killed, wounded, and prisoners, will be covered by two thousand five hundred (2,500,) a great part of which are, as usual, slight wounds. The enemy has lost more than double as many, and we have in prisoners alone full two thousand (2,000.)

I limited the pursuit this morning to Mill creek, and will forthwith march the army to Goldsboro' to rest, re-clothe, and get some rations.

Our combinations were such that General Schofield entered Goldsboro' from Newbern; General Terry got Cox's bridge, with pontoons laid, and a brigade across intrenched; and we whipped Joe Johnston—all on the same day.

After riding over the field of battle to-day, near Bentonville, and making the necessary orders, I have ridden down to this place, Cox's bridge, to see General Terry, and to-morrow shall ride into Goldsboro'.

I propose to collect there my army proper; shall put General Terry about Faison's depot, and General Schofield about Kinston, partly to protect the road, but more to collect such food and forage as the country affords until the railroads are repaired leading into Goldsboro'.

I fear these have not been pushed with the vigor I expected, but I will soon have them both going. I shall proceed at once to organize three armies of twenty-five thousand (25,000) men each, and will try and be all ready to march to Raleigh or Weldon, as we may determine, by or before April 10.

I enclose you a copy of my orders of to-day. I would like to be more specific, but have not the data. We have lost no general officers or no organization. General Slocum took three guns at Averysboro', and lost three at the first dash on him at Bentonville. We have all our wagons and trains in good order.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Lieut. General U. S. GRANT,

Commander-in-Chief, City Point, Va.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Cox's Bridge, N. C., March 22, 1865.

GENERAL: We whipped Johnston yesterday at Bentonville. The army will march for Goldsboro'. Be prepared to feed this army, sixty-thousand (60,000,) at Goldsboro'; General Schofield's, twenty thousand (20,000,) at Kinston; General Terry's, ten thousand (10,000,) at Faison's depot; and General Kilpatrick's, five thousand (5,000), at Mount Olive station. The two former will draw up by the Newbern road; the two latter by the Wilmington road. Show this to General Easton. I will be at Goldsboro' to-morrow, and will advise you more fully.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General.

Brevet Brig. General BECKWITH, *Newbern.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Goldsboro', N. C., March 23, 1865.

GENERAL: On reaching Goldsboro' this morning, I found Lieutenant Dunn awaiting me with your letter of March 16 and despatch of 17th. I wrote you fully from Bentonville yesterday, and since reaching Goldsboro' have learned that my letter was sent punctually down to Newbern, where it will be despatched to you.

I am very glad to hear that General Sheridan did such good service between Richmond and Lynchburg, and hope he will keep the ball moving. I know these raids and dashes disconcert our enemy and discourage him.

General Slocum's two corps, 14th and 20th, are now coming in, and I will dispose of them north of Goldsboro', between the Weldon road and Little river. General Howard to-day is marching south of the Neuse, and to-morrow will come in and occupy ground north of Goldsboro', and extending from the Weldon railroad to that leading to Kinston.

I have ordered all the provisional divisions, made up of troops belonging to other corps, to be broken up, and the men to join their proper regiments and organizations; and have ordered General Schofield to guard the railroad back to Newbern and Wilmington, and to make up a movable column equal to twenty-five thousand (25,000) men, with which to take the field. He will be my centre, as on the Atlanta campaign. I don't think I want any more troops, other than absentees and recruits to fill up the present regiments; but that I can make up an army of eighty thousand (80,000) men by April 10. I will put General Kilpatrick out at Mount Olive station on the Wilmington road, and then allow the army some rest.

We have sent all our empty wagons under escort, with the proper staff officers, to bring up from Kingston clothing and provisions. As long as we move we can gather food and forage; but the moment we stop, trouble begins.

I feel sadly disappointed that our railroads are not done. I don't like to say there has been any neglect until I make inquiries; but it does seem to me the repairs should have been made and the road properly stocked. I can only hear of one locomotive, beside the four old ones, on the Newbern road, and two damaged locomotives found by Terry on the Wilmington road. I left Generals Easton and Beckwith purposely to make arrangements in anticipation of my arrival, and I have heard from neither, though I suppose them both to be at Morehead City.

At all events, we have now made a junction of all the armies, and if we can maintain them, will, in a short time, be in position to march against Raleigh, or Gaston, or Weldon, or even Richmond, as you may determine.

If I get the troops all well placed, and the supplies working well, I might run up to see you for a day or two before diving again into the bowels of the country.

I will make in a very short time accurate reports of our operations for the past two months.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Lieut. General U. S. GRANT,

Commanding the Armies of the United States, City Point, Va.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Goldsboro', March 23, 1865.

Colonel WRIGHT, *Morehead City:*

Report to me the condition of the railroad. Employ at any cost laborers to put both the Wilmington and Newbern branches in order. Hire three gangs

at each point to work each eight hours, calling it a day, so that you may do three days' work in twenty-four hours. My army is now coming in, and all will be here to-day and to-morrow. I was much disappointed that this was not already done. Cars must carry into Kinston at once supplies. I will put an engineer regiment at once to work from this end. You can have as many details as you want. Expedition is the thing.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Goldsboro', N. C., March 24, 1865.

GENERAL: I have kept Lieutenant Dunn over to-day that I might report further. All the army is now in save the cavalry, which I have posted at Mount Olive Station, south of the Neuse, and General Terry's command, which to-morrow will move from Cox's ferry to Faison's depot, also on the Wilmington road. I send you a copy of my orders of this morning, the operations of which will, I think, soon complete our roads. The telegraph is now done to Morehead City, and by it I learn that stores have been sent to Kinston in boats, and our wagons are there loading with rations and clothing. By using the Neuse as high up as Kinston, and hauling from there twenty-six (26) miles, and by equipping the two roads to Morehead City and Wilmington, I feel certain I can not only feed and equip the army, but in a short time fill our wagons for another start. I feel certain, from the character of the fighting, that we have got Johnston's army afraid of us. He himself acts with timidity and caution. His cavalry alone manifests spirit, but limits its operations to our stragglers and foraging parties. My marching columns of infantry don't pay the cavalry any attention, but walk right through it.

I think I see pretty clearly how, in one more move, we can checkmate Lee, forcing him to unite Johnston with him in the defence of Richmond or abandon the cause. I feel certain if he leaves Richmond, Virginia leaves the confederacy. I will study my maps a little more before giving my clear views. I want all possible information of the Roanoke as to navigability, how far up, and with what draught.

We find the country here sandy, dry, and with good roads, and more corn and forage than I expected. The families remain, but I will gradually push them all out to Raleigh or Wilmington. We will need every house in the town. Lieutenant Dunn can tell you of many things of which I need not write.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

Lieut. General U. S. GRANT, *City Point, Va.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Goldsboro', N. C., March 24, 1865.

GENERAL: Yours of this date to the general-in-chief is received, and he is much gratified that your command is in such good condition as to forage; secure all you can.

General Terry's command will be posted at Faison's, and must have the use of the railroad to supply it. All arrangements possible are being made to the end that all troops shall be well supplied. I enclose an order of this date which will give you a complete understanding of the matter.

At present there is a good supply of subsistence, clothing, &c., at Kinston,

and if you will send your spare wagons there with the proper staff officers, Colonel Garber, acting chief quartermaster, will give you loads and all supplies that can be furnished.

There is also a quantity of mail for the army there.

I am, with respect, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON,
Assistant Adjutant General.

General KILPATRICK,
Commanding Cavalry.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, March 24, 1865.

GENERAL: A despatch from Colonel Garber states that the trains of the 15th and 17th corps sent to Kinston are returning loaded with subsistence and some clothing, &c. He says if trains are kept moving with regularity from the command to that point he can keep the army supplied from the stores that are arriving there by water. The general-in-chief suggests that you keep your spare wagons moving accordingly. Colonel Garber will need some four hundred contrabands for loading trains and unloading vessels, and with the next train you send down you should send some to him.

Respectfully, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Major General HOWARD,
Commanding Right Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Goldsboro', N. C., March 24, 1865.

General EASTON, *Chief Quartermaster, Morehead City:*

Our field transportation is in excellent condition, and if you can place, by water, fifteen hundred tons of freight per week at Kinston, independent of the railroad, it can be brought from there by the wagons when the roads are good. The teams will be the better for being out of camp. The general suggests that you aim to accomplish this. It is desirable to relieve the railroad as much as possible.

L. M. DAYTON,
Assistant Adjutant General.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, March 24, 1865.

General DODGE, *Quartermaster, Morehead City:*

Your despatch received. Tell General Easton to unload and despatch vessels north as fast as possible, and you proceed with all speed to General Grant, and he will order the cars and locomotives we want from Norfolk and elsewhere. Lieutenant Dunn will be down to-night, before daylight, with despatches for General Grant. Wait and take him along with you. Remember how valuable time is. We can bring up daily supplies enough, but to move, I must have enough ahead to fill my wagons.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Goldsboro', March 25, 1865.

General EASTON, *Morehead City*:

I will come down with Colonel Wright. Have a steamer to take me to City Point; only four in the party. If the navy has a good gunboat doing nothing I would ask for it. I want to see General Grant and return at once; to be absent not to exceed five days.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, March 25, 1865.

Colonel GARBER, *Kinston*:

I think 2,000 tons a week should come by water to Kinston, and then be hauled in wagons to our camps. This will help the railroad till we get it stocked, and our mules can make one round trip a week and thrive; so keep that line moving while Colonel Wright pushes his railroad from Morehead City and Wilmington. We are doing finely now.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Newbern, N. C., March 30, 1865.

General SCHOFIELD, *Goldsboro'*:

Have just arrived from City Point—all well. Have completed arrangements for twenty-five additional barges and five tugs. General McCallum, of railroad department, is with me; we will be up to-night. Telegraph me any news, if there be any. General Grant with his whole army marched out of their lines towards Dinwiddie Court House, and Lee must attack him or the force left intrenched at City Point. General Sheridan is on General Grant's left. I saw him and the President, and have a full understanding. Everything seems most favorable. I want to be all ready by April 10. Please send this message to Generals Slocum and Howard. Tell General Slocum the orders were made he asked for; also, your two corps and commanders are as requested. We must hold on to Kinston till the last moment, and then throw everything round by water to Halifax, Winton, and Norfolk.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Newbern, N. C., March 30, 1865.

General EASTON, *Chief Quartermaster, Goldsboro'*:

General McCallum is with me, and will be here in an hour. We came from City Point in the naval steamer Bat, through Hatteras inlet, but she broke down ten miles below, and I came up in a small row-boat, and have sent a tug

down for the rest. I got at Norfolk twenty-five barges of 150 tons, and five (5) tugs. The best we can do will be to bring up to Kinston in barges three thousand (3,000) tons of supplies and load up our supply trains there, about the 6th of April. In the mean time the railroad can supply clothing, and immediate wants. Make your calculations to have all our men provided and equipped ready to start for our next objective by or before April 10. General Grant's army is in motion; it started yesterday, and I don't see how Lee can refuse to accept battle at once. We must be ready as soon as possible. Take a minute account of transportation, so as to divide it out according to effective strength. When we start I want you and General Beckwith to move by water to another point on the coast which I will designate.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Goldsboro', N. C., March 31, 1865.

GENERAL: I reached Goldsboro' last night, and find all things working well. The enemy has manifested no activity hereabouts, and has only some cavalry, seemingly, moving across our front from west to east. The railroad to the seacoast at Morehead City is working well, and is doing good work, but the Wilmington branch is not yet done. I have concluded arrangements for the barges to be loaded and brought to Kinston, where our wagons will meet them; afterwards, they can be reloaded and moved up to the Chowan to await our arrival north of the Roanoke.

I shall keep things moving, and be all ready by the date fixed, April 10. In the mean time I expect to hear the result of your moving by the left flank. I will keep you daily advised of our progress.

I must now set to work to make a report of our march from Savannah to Goldsboro' before it fades from memory, or gets lost in the rush of events. John Sherman came with me here, and will return with this to Old Point. I think Lee will unite his and Johnston's army. I cannot think he will coop himself in Richmond. If he do, he is not the general he is reputed to be; but we must go straight for him and fight him in open ground, or coop him up, when starvation will tame him.

If General Sheridan swings off and is likely to come down toward me, get me word that I may meet him. I doubt if he can cross the Roanoke for a month yet, unless he has pontoons with him; but he cannot be better employed than in raiding the road about Burkesville.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

Lieut. General U. S. GRANT, *City Point.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Goldsboro', N. C., March 31, 1865.

DEAR SIR: I had the honor and satisfaction to receive your letter and telegram of welcome when at City Point and Old Point Comfort.

I am back again at my post, possessed of the wishes and plans of the general-in-chief, and think in due time I can play my part in the coming campaign. All things are working well, and I have troops enough to accomplish the part assigned me, and only await the loading our wagons, patching up and mending made necessary by the wear and tear of the past winter.

Feeling as I do the responsibilities that rest on me, I shall spare no labor of body or mind to deserve the success and consequent blessings that you so heartily call down on me. Others must tell you of the continued harmony and confidence that pervade this army, to which qualities the country owes more than to any mere ability that I possess.

Your son is now here, and will return to Washington with John Sherman.

With great respect,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

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

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Goldsboro', N. C., March 31, 1865.

General TERRY, *Commanding at Faison's Station :*

Send orders to the depot commissary of subsistence at Wilmington to send forward coffee, sugar, and hard bread with all possible despatch. Let them come up the river to the bridge, and thence by rail to this place. We greatly need these stores. Two additional locomotives and about twenty cars are now at Wilmington, ready for your branch of the road, as soon as the bridge is done. Answer.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
Goldsboro', N. C., April 5, 1865.

General HAWLEY, *Wilmington :*

We will be all ready here on the 10th. The Newbern road has worked admirably, and brought us full supplies already. Your road can be used for sending up the troops destined for this army. See that General Dodge understands this, and uses the road up to Monday next to bring up men, as also such forage and stores as are still needed by Generals Terry and Schofield.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

Headquarters incumbrances can remain ; forward only good men for battle.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Goldsboro', N. C., April 5, 1865.

DEAR GENERAL : I can hardly help smiling when I contemplate my command. It is decidedly mixed. I believe, but am not certain, that you are in my jurisdiction, but I certainly cannot help you in the way of orders or men, nor do I think you need either. General Cruft has just arrived with his provisional division, which will at once be broken up and the men sent to their proper regiments, as that of Meagher was on my arrival. You may have some feeling about my asking that General Slocum should have command of the two corps that properly belonged to you, viz : 14th and 20th ; but you can recall that he was but a corps commander, and could not legally make orders of discharge, transfer, &c., which was imperatively necessary. I therefore asked that General Slocum be assigned to command "an army in the field," called the "Army of Georgia," composed of the 14th corps and 20th. The order is not yet made

by the President, though I have recognized it, because both General Grant and the President sanctioned it, and promised to have the order made.

My army is now here, pretty well clad and provided; divided into three parts of two corps each—much as our old Atlanta army. I expect to move on in a few days, and propose, if Lee remains in Richmond, to pass the Roanoke and open communication with the Chowan and Norfolk. This will bring me in direct communication with General Grant.

This is an admirable point—country open, and the two railroads in good order back to Wilmington and Beaufort. We have already brought up enough to fill our wagons, and only await some few articles and the arrival of some men marching up from the coast, to be off.

General Grant explained to me his orders to you, which, of course, are all right. You can make reports direct to Washington or to General Grant, but keep me advised occasionally of the general state of affairs, that I may know what is transpiring. I must give my undivided attention to matters here. You will hear from a thousand sources pretty fair accounts of our next march.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Major General GEORGE H. THOMAS,

Commanding Department of Cumberland.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Goldsboro', N. C., April 5, 1865.

GENERAL: I now enclose you a copy of my orders prescribing the movement hence for a position on the Roanoke. The movement begins on the 10th, as I promised, and by the 12th we will be fairly under way. Our railroads have worked double what I calculated, because the track is so level that a locomotive can haul twenty-five cars instead of ten or twelve, as in upper Georgia. We now have enough of bread and small stores for our wagons, and I am hurrying up Cruft's provisional division from Tennessee; also the men who belong to this army, who had been sent to Savannah and Charleston. We can use the railroad to bring up the last; the others are marching.

I get nothing from you—nothing since I left you, and am, of course, impatient to know what Lee proposes to do. I hear nothing satisfactory from Johnston. We find Wade Hampton's cavalry on the roads to Weldon and Raleigh, but evidently only watching us. They have made no efforts to strike our railroads anywhere.

I shall expect to hear the effect of your move on Dinwiddie before I get off, but shall not wait.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Lieut. General U. S. GRANT, *City Point.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Goldsboro', N. C., April 6, 1865.

GENERAL: I wrote you very fully from Fayetteville, since which time I have joined my own immediate army with those of Terry and Schofield, and now have at this point a splendid base, with roads finished back to Newbern and Wilmington. I have also been up to see General Grant, and am ready to march again.

It is all important that the work I did in South Carolina be kept unrepaired, and more especially that the locomotives and cars penned up about Sumterville and Florence be either destroyed or brought in. I believe that Johnston has brought up to Raleigh every man that can be brought out of South Carolina and Georgia. Therefore, now is your time to do the work. The enemy should not in any event be allowed to repair the roads about Columbia, but railroads are of less importance than locomotives and cars. It is not sufficient to burn cars. The driving wheels and trucks should *all* be broken, and axles bent, boilers punctured, cylinder heads broken and cast into deep water, and connecting rods bent and hid away. I don't know what force you have left, but I judge 2,500 men, lightly equipped, can reach Sumterville and Florence from Georgetown or the Santee bridge.

We have this minute received news that our troops are in possession of Richmond and Petersburg, with twenty-five thousand prisoners, five hundred guns, General A. P. Hill killed, Lee in full retreat on Danville, with Generals Grant and Sheridan in full pursuit. Joe Johnston is between me and Raleigh, and I will be after him as soon as I get my wagons loaded. Time is now the thing. Don't exaggerate the difficulty, but go right at it and the difficulties will disappear.

Truly, your friend,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General Q. A. GILLMORE,
Commanding Department of the South, Charleston.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Goldsboro', April 7, 1865.

GENERAL: The success of our armies about Richmond changes the whole plan of our campaign. We have now to watch the enemy, who is adroit, and may turn up suddenly at unexpected points. Therefore don't commit yourself to any system other than to perfect the details of our present base of supplies—Goldsboro', with its two railroads. The army is so much interested in mails and small parcels that we will need such a line as, connected with others already established, will connect our army with the mail and express system of the United States. Please send a quartermaster's inspector through to Old Point by Newbern, Roanoke island, the canal, Norfolk, &c., and on his return let him make or suggest any improvements that will increase the certainty and regularity of such a line. At present some confusion may exist, caused by the change in the lines of departments, but I think this army, which includes the department of North Carolina, has so much more interest in the line than the few about Norfolk, that you could establish a new connexion from the channel straight for Old Point. Coming this way, preference should be given to mails, couriers, and general officers travelling on duty; afterwards it could carry such quartermaster or ordnance stores as might be ordered. But in no event do I want a line of government vessels to be usurped or monopolized by a set of peddlers and traders.

The bulk of supplies should come, of course, as heretofore, by sea to Morehead City, and by schooners and light draught vessels to Newbern and Wilmington.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

General EASTON,
Chief Quartermaster—Present.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Goldsboro', N. C., April 7, 1865.

GENERAL: The capture of Richmond, and the retreat of Lee's army to the west, (Danville and Lynchburg,) necessitates a change in our plans. We will hold fast to Goldsboro' and its lines, and move rapidly on Raleigh. I want you to be all ready to move early on Monday straight on Smithfield and Raleigh by the most direct road. General Schofield will support you with the 23d corps, following you, and the 10th and cavalry will move from Mount Olive and Faison's by Bentonville and Turner's bridge; the right wing by Pikesville and Whiteley's mill, with a division around by Nahunta and Folk's bridge. If the enemy declines to fight this side of the Neuse, I will, of course, throw the right wing up to Hinton's bridge.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General SLOCUM,
Commanding Army of Georgia.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Goldsboro', April 6, 1865.

I have reports from Newbern, brought by General Carl Schurz, that General Grant took Petersburg last Monday; that General Weitzel then took Richmond, with 500 guns and 25,000 prisoners; that Generals Grant and Sheridan are pursuing Lee towards Danville. This will alter our plans. We must move on Raleigh. Be all ready. I think Johnston is still near Smithfield. We must hit him hard.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

General KILPATRICK, *Mount Olive.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Goldsboro', N. C., April 7, 1865.

GENERAL: The capture of Richmond makes a change in our plans necessary. We will move early on Monday rapidly on Raleigh, holding on to the roads from Goldsboro' back and repairing forward to Raleigh.

General Slocum will move straight on Smithfield and Raleigh; General Schofield in support, with the 10th corps and cavalry, keeping south and west of the Neuse, by Bentonville and Turner's bridge.

I want you to start early by Pikesville, Whiteley's, and Pine level, prepared to join to General Schofield's right in case the enemy fights about Smithfield; otherwise to swing up along the Neuse, to cross over at some point, to be determined, it may be, as high up as Hinton's bridge. Send one division light, with all the mounted men you can spare, up as high as Nahunta station, thence to join your wing *via* Folk's bridge.

I am, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General HOWARD,
Commanding Right Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Goldsboro', N. C., April 7, 1865.

GENERAL: The capture of Richmond makes unnecessary our move against the Roanoke. We will move, and that with rapidity, on Raleigh, repairing and holding the railroad to that point.

General Slocum will move Monday at daybreak straight for Smithfield and Raleigh; the right wing by Pikesville and Whiteley's mill, with a division swinging round by Nahunta and Beulah.

I want you to support General Slocum with the 23d corps, keeping a pontoon bridge here at Goldsboro' and laying another at Cox's, and let the 10th corps move straight from Faison's to Bentonville and Turner's bridge. The cavalry will also be on that flank, and will strike the enemy in flank, and break the railroad *partially* about Gulley's, provided the enemy awaits our attack this side of the Neuse. You may depend on General Slocum's bridges for the 23d corps to cross the Neuse about Smithfield. Dispose your troops detailed for the railroad guards to cover the roads from Goldsboro' back, giving most care to that from Goldsboro' to Morehead city. Winton and Murfreesboro' are now no longer needed, and you can recall any force sent there.

I am yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General SCHOFIELD,
Commanding Centre.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Goldsboro', N. C., April 7, 1865.

GENERAL: We will move straight on Raleigh on Monday next. General Terry's infantry will move from Faison's to Bentonville and Turner's bridge. I want you to move on his left front, and if possible reach the railroad between Smithfield and Raleigh, disable it slightly, enough to prevent its use for a day or so, and then act against the flanks of the enemy, should he retreat to Raleigh. I think the bulk of the enemy's cavalry is between us and Weldon. As soon as you cut the railroad you should keep up a communication with Terry's left, but you may act boldly and even rashly now, for this is the time to strike quick and strong. We must get possession of Raleigh before Lee and Johnston have time to confer and make new combinations, forced on them by the loss of their capital, and the defeat of their principal army about Petersburg. You can send your wagons to the nearest infantry column. I think you had better move by Troublefield's, Lees, and Elevation, crossing Middle creek as high up as the Gulley Station road.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

Major General KILPATRICK,
Commanding Cavalry, Mt. Olive.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Goldsboro', N. C., April 7, 1865.

GENERAL: I have the honor herewith to send you the report of Major General Kilpatrick and of Lieutenant Colonel T. G. Baylor, chief of ordnance, which I wish you to file with my report of the recent campaign. Events progress so rapidly that we have scarce time to report them fully, but I will endeavor to

get in the full reports of my army commanders before we start for Raleigh. I have not yet received General Grant's orders consequent on the capture of Richmond, and defeat of Lee's army before Petersburg, but I am so confident that I know his wishes, that my orders are all out for my entire army to move at daylight on Monday next, the 10th, for Raleigh. Before the capture of Richmond, of which I only heard yesterday, I was preparing to feign on Raleigh, and move across the Roanoke above Gaston, but now I shall move straight on Raleigh, repairing the railroad to that place. From Raleigh I can reach the Danville and Charlotte road, about Greensboro', but I expect definite orders before getting off. I want my mails to come to Old Point, Dismal Swamp Canal, Newbern, Goldsboro', &c., and have ordered General Easton to complete arrangements to that end.

It is now important that I should have more rapid communication with headquarters than heretofore.

General Meigs is now here and will start for Washington to-night.

I am, with respect, yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General H. W. HALLECK,
Chief of Staff, Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Wilson's Station, April 5, 1865.

Major General SHERMAN :

All indications now are that Lee will attempt to reach Danville with the remnant of his force. Sheridan, who was up with him last night, reports all that is left, horse, foot and dragoons, at twenty thousand (20,000,) much demoralized. We hope to reduce this number one-half. I shall push on to Burkesville, and if a stand is made at Danville, will in a very few days go there. If you can possibly do so, push on from where you are and let us see if we cannot finish the job with Lee's and Johnston's armies. Whether it will be better for you to strike for Greensboro' or nearer to Danville, you will be better able to judge when you receive this. Rebel armies now are the only strategic points to strike at.

U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant General.

Official :

T. S. BOWERS,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Goldsboro', N. C., April 8, 1865.

GENERAL : I have just received your letter of the 5th from Wilson's station, and although I have written you several letters lately, will repeat.

On Monday at daylight all my army will move straight on Joe Johnston, supposed to be between me and Raleigh, and I will follow him wherever he may go. If he retreats on Danville to make junction with Lee, I will do the same, though I may take a course round him, bending towards Greensboro', for the purpose of turning him North. I will bear in mind your plain and unmistakable point that "the rebel armies are now the strategic points to strike at." I will follow Johnston, presuming that you are after Lee, or all that you have left of him, and if they come together, we will also. I think I will be at Raleigh

on Thursday, the 13th, and shall pursue Johnston towards Greensboro', unless it be manifest that Lee has gone towards Danville. I shall encourage him to come to bay or to move towards Danville, as I don't want to race all the way back through South Carolina and Georgia. It is to our interest to let Lee and Johnston come together, just as a billiard-player would nurse the balls when he has them in a nice place. I am delighted and amazed at the result of your move to the south of Petersburg, and Lee has lost in one day the reputation of three years, and you have established a reputation for perseverance and pluck that would make Wellington jump out of his coffin. I wish you could have waited a few days, or that I could have been here a week sooner, but it is not too late yet, and you may rely, with absolute certainty, that I will be after Johnston with about 80,000 men, provided for twenty full days, which will last me forty, and I will leave a small force here at Goldsboro' and repair the railroad up to Raleigh. If you have a spare division you might send it to General Schofield to help him hold this line of railroad out from Morehead City to Goldsboro', but I will not hesitate to let go railroad and everything, if I can get at Joe Johnston in an open field. If General Sheridan don't run his horses off their legs, and you can spare him for a week or so, let him feel down for me, and I think he can make a big haul of horses. Tell him I make him a free gift of all the blooded stock of North Carolina, including Wade Hampton's, whose pedigree and stud are of high repute.

Don't fail to have Stoneman break through the mountains of west North Carolina. He will find plenty of Union men who will aid him to reach either your army or mine, and Canby should, if he takes Mobile, get up the Alabama river about Selma, from which place he can catch all fragments passing towards Texas. I have an idea that he can get up the Alabama river even if he do not take Mobile. I have a report from General Wilson, who will, I think, break up all railroad lines in Alabama.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Lieut. General U. S. GRANT,
City Point, Va.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Goldsboro', April 8, 1865—12 m.

General KILPATRICK, *Mt. Olive :*

I now have official intelligence from General Grant of the defeat of Lee's army, and occupation of Petersburg and Richmond. He is pursuing the fragments, represented at 20,000, towards Danville. We move on Monday rapidly on Johnston towards Raleigh. I sent you orders last night, and now repeat the substance. Move early on Monday by Troublefield's store, Lee's and Elevation, to strike the railroad between Smithfield and Raleigh. General Terry will move *via* Bentonville and Turner's bridge. The main army takes the main road, crossing the Neuse at Smithfield. Now is the time for your cavalry to work on the flanks and rear of Johnston. I think Wheeler is between this and Weldon. I think Butler's division has been sent back to South Carolina; I hear of them between Wilmington and Florence. Wade Hampton is about Smithfield, where I also suppose Johnston to be, though he may have moved back towards Raleigh. Answer.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, April 7, 1865.

General KILPATRICK :

Spencer can have his leave. You can communicate with me here till Monday. I will then keep with General Slocum's left corps near Cox's bridge, and be near Smithfield Tuesday. Afterwards, on the main road to Raleigh, not far from the head of column. General Sheridan has done great service against the retreating infantry, cutting off and capturing whole brigades of infantry, artillery and wagon trains. Of course I would like you to have new saddles, but time won't wait. I will have the telegraph and railroad keep up with me, and shall habitually camp near the wires to communicate back. We will keep a bridge here and at Cox's. Terry's command will be your support, until we are all across the Neuse at Smithfield, when General Slocum will be the left, General Schofield with General Terry the centre, and General Howard the right. I intend to push to Greensboro' as fast as I can do so, consistent with ordinary prudence.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Goldsboro', N. C., April 8, 1865.

Dear MACOMB: You have of course heard of the defeat by General Grant of Lee's army at Petersburg, and consequent occupation of Richmond and Petersburg. I have letters from General Grant of the 5th from Wilson's station, on the road towards Burkesville, stating that he is pushing the pursuit after the retreating army. This changes our whole plans, and I will move straight for Raleigh instead of marching for the Roanoke. We will not, in consequence, have any use for Winton or Murfreesboro', and if General Schofield has sent any troops up to Winton, he will recall them, and use them to cover our railroads. I expect to march on Monday, 10th, on Raleigh and maybe Greensboro', and I give you this notice that you may not be disappointed in the recall of troops from the Chowan. So far as my operations are concerned for the next month, all I ask is that the sounds and channels leading up to Newbern and Kinston be patrolled by the gunboats. Hoping to meet you again soon,

I am, with respect, yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

Captain W. N. MACOMB, U. S. N.,
Commanding Squadron, Albemarle Sound.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

*In the field, Goldsboro', April 8, 1865—7 p. m.*General MEIGS, *Morehead City:*

Am just in receipt of a cipher despatch from General Grant, at Burkesville, of 6th. He is pressing Lee hard, and expects to scatter his whole army. Davis and cabinet are at Danville. Tell Major Leet, who comes down to-day, to get to Old Point as quick as possible, and get a message to General Grant, at any cost, that I will push Joe Johnston to the death.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

[Cipher telegram.]

BURKESVILLE, Va., April 6, 1865.

Major General W. T. SHERMAN :

We have Lee's army pressed hard ; his men scattering and going to their homes by the thousand.

He is endeavoring to reach Danville, where Jeff. Davis and his cabinet have gone. I shall press the pursuit to the end. Push Johnston at the same time, and let us finish up this job at once.

U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Smithfield, N. C., April 11, 1865.

GENERAL : Your note is received. You need not have the Lowell factory destroyed. I will wait our reception at Raleigh to shape our general policy. You may instruct General Logan to exact bonds that the factory shall not be used for the confederacy. Of course, the bond is not worth a cent ; but if the factory owners do not abide by the conditions, they cannot expect any mercy the next time.

Until we get to Raleigh I propose to keep up connexion back with Goldsboro'. I shall await your coming to-morrow morning. I send you a Raleigh paper of the 10th.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Major General O. O. HOWARD,
Commanding Right Wing.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Smithfield, N. C., April 11, 1865.—10.30.

GENERAL : General Slocum has two bridges done, and will cross early and go to the point on the railroad, twelve miles out, known as Stalling's, (Gulley's on our map.) We have questioned the doctors and preachers, who all agree that our map is substantially correct, and that there is but one road between Swift creek and the Neuse, until abreast of Gulley's.

General Kilpatrick reported from Moore's house, on Middle creek, (not on our map,) which must be up near Leachburg ; he reports bridges burned. If in your progress you judge Johnston to be beyond Raleigh and no fight, you can go as far to the westward as you please, aiming towards Chapel Hill and Hillsboro'. You are safe in leaving your wagons under small escort to follow until we are sure of Raleigh.

General Howard's two corps are at Pine Level and Lowell factory, and will keep well up on this side the Neuse, unless wanted.

I would give you the middle or direct road, but judge time important, to save fortifying by the enemy, but will give you *the centre* as soon as you get Cox and Terry together. In reporting your position use names on my map, though incorrect.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Gen. SCHOFIELD, near Fennon's bridge.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Smithfield, N. C., April 11, 1865—10.30 p. m.

GENERAL: Please hereafter, in reporting your position, to use names on our map. "Moore's," on Middle creek, is not down. I suppose you to be about the mill without name. You may count on my being near Gully's store to-morrow night, and you may go as near Raleigh as you can. I have Raleigh papers of the 10th; Stoneman is raiding *strong* near Greensboro', and Wheeler is after him. A portion of Wade Hampton's cavalry is cut off over towards Weldon (Nahunta swamp.) I don't think Hampton has 2,000 cavalry with him, and this is your chance. I will push all the columns straight on Raleigh. I don't care about Raleigh now, but want to defeat and destroy the confederate army. Therefore you may run any risk. Of course don't break the railroad, except to the rear (west) of Johnston, as we want the railroad up to Raleigh.

General Wilson has taken Selma, and is threatening Montgomery. He had whipped Red Jackson, 27 miles from Selma, and at Selma knocked Forrest all to pieces. Rebel papers report Forrest wounded in three places. Abe Buford to defend Montgomery with citizens. Dick Taylor ran westward from Selma. Maury cooped up in Mobile. General Grant is between Johnston and Lee. They cannot communicate. Davis is at Danville.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*Gen. KILPATRICK, *Commanding Cavalry.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Smithfield, N. C., April 12, 1865—5 a. m.

GENERAL: I have this moment received your telegram announcing the surrender of Lee's army. I hardly know how to express my feelings, but you can imagine them. The terms you have given Lee are magnanimous and liberal. Should Johnston follow Lee's example, I shall, of course, grant the same. He is retreating before me on Raleigh, and I shall be there to-morrow. Roads are heavy, but under the inspiration of the news from you, we can march twenty-five miles a day. I am twenty-seven miles from Raleigh, but some of my army is eight miles behind. If Johnston retreat south, I will follow him to insure the scattering his force, and capture of the locomotives and cars at Charlotte. But I take it, he will surrender at Raleigh. General Kilpatrick's cavalry is ten miles to the south and west of me, viz: on Middle creek, and I have sent Major Audenreid with orders for him to make for the south and west of Raleigh by five different roads. The railroad is being repaired from Goldsboro' to Raleigh, but I will not aim to carry it further. I shall expect to hear of General Sheridan, in case Johnston does not surrender at Raleigh; with a little more cavalry, I would be sure to capture the whole army.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General Commanding.

Lieut. Gen. U. S. GRANT,

Commanding Armies of the United States, Virginia.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, near Gully's, 12, 1865—7 p. m.

General KILPATRICK:

Your note is received. Certainly you may go into Raleigh to-night and press Johnston's rear. I want him to go towards Greensboro', and I will cut across

to Charlotte via Ashboro'. Cut across the rear of his column, right and left. I will come to Raleigh early. Keep me advised of the direction of Johnston's retreat as often as possible.

Yours, in haste,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Raleigh, N. C., April 13, 1865.

Lieut. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
City Point, Virginia :

We entered Raleigh this morning. Johnston has retreated westward. I shall move to Ashville and Salisbury or Charlotte. I hope General Sheridan is coming this way with his cavalry. If I can bring Johnston to a stand, I shall soon fix him. The people here have not heard of the surrender of Lee and hardly credit it. All well.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Raleigh, April 13, 1865.

GENERAL: Yours of 11.50 a. m. is received and quite satisfactory, and the general wishes you to keep pushing the enemy. To-night the general will inform you of the coming move. The columns are closing up here now. Have you captured any railroad stock? No further news.

I am, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON,
Assistant Adjutant General.

General KILPATRICK, *Commanding.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Raleigh, N. C., April 13, 1865.

GENERAL: I have been out and am just back, and hasten to answer yours of to-day. I have two locomotives here, and will send one up the road to bring back the cars you have captured. Please have pickets along the road so as to advise the conductor where to stop.

It will take all day to-morrow to close up our trains and to draw out on the new lines of operations, of which I will fully advise you to-morrow. Rest your animals to-morrow, or confine your operations to mere feints, and be ready for work the next day. I think we may expect General Sheridan down soon. I think I can force Johnston to disperse his army or accept battle in a few days, and will proceed as fast as I can get troops into position. We will hold Raleigh, and repair roads and telegraph back to Goldsboro',

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

General KILPATRICK,
Commanding Cavalry.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

*In the field, Raleigh, N. C., April 14, 1865.*General EASTON, *Newbern* :

I want the road repaired up to Raleigh and put in order, but no stores sent up till you hear we need them. I suppose Johnston to be about Greensboro' and Salisbury, and I must go there, and will endeavor to capture his army and materials. Of course he cannot fight me now, and all I fear he may scatter his men and escape. We will take vast amounts of railroad stock and other property, because it cannot escape us, but it will take time to run it down to the sea-coast. Governor Vance sought an interview with me, but before I got his messenger back our cavalry approached Raleigh, and he went off for fear of arrest. I have sent out for him to come and see me, with a promise of safety. Keep General Grant advised of my whereabouts, by all chances. The troops are now moving, but I will not go till to-morrow. I will garrison Goldsboro' and Raleigh. Send me any news that may reach you. Trains all up and in good condition. I think I will find forage enough, but, in any event, the grass and wheat fields begin to give us pasturage.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Raleigh, N. C., April 14, 1865.

GENERAL: I sent you orders to-day, but now enclose you a copy. You see I am to put my army where, if Johnston tries to pass out by Charlotte, I can strike him in flank, but if he remains at Greensboro' I shall capture the whole. All I expect of you is to keep up a delusion, viz: that we are following him *via* the University and Hillsboro', until I get my infantry heads of column across the Haw river, when I want you to cross also, and feel out towards Greensboro', till I get to Ashboro', when, if he remains at Greensboro', I can approach him from the south and force him to battle, to surrender, or disperse. You will perceive that we save a couple of days by cutting across the bend in the direction of Salisbury. I am very anxious to prevent his escape towards Georgia. If he does go to Georgia we can capture all the rolling stock and vast amounts of property on the road from Salisbury back to Greensboro'. The governor asks me to suspend hostilities and to confer with him. I am willing to confer with him, but not to suspend hostilities. I will not suspend hostilities till Johnston's army is captured or scattered.

General Howard to-morrow will have one corps at Jones's station, and one at Morrison's station. Next day all move by separate roads for Ashboro'. My army is very large, and cannot move as fast as Johnston, who has the assistance of the railroads. I am in hopes that General Sheridan will come down, when he, with the aid of your cavalry, can get ahead of him, and hold him until we get up, when we can make short work of him.

The people here manifest more signs of subjugation than I have yet seen, but Jeff. Davis has more lives than a cat, and we must not trust him. If you reach the University do not disturb its libraries, buildings, or specific property.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding

General KILPATRICK, *Commanding Cavalry.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Raleigh, N. C., April 14, 1865.

GENERAL: The letter by flag of truce is from General Johnston, which is the beginning of the end. Send my answer at once, and to-morrow do not advance your cavalry beyond the University, or to a point abreast of it on the railroad. I will be up to Morrisville to-morrow to receive the answer, and it may be to confer with General Johnston. The infantry will come to Morrisville.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

General KILPATRICK,
Commanding Cavalry.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Raleigh, N. C., April 14, 1865—12 m.

GENERAL: The general-in-chief is just in receipt of a communication from General Johnston, C. S. A., which is the forerunner to events that may obviate our contemplated long march. You will, therefore, by his direction, to-morrow (15th) place one corps of your command at Holly Springs, and the other just outside of Raleigh, in the direction of the proposed march, and there await further directions from him.

I have the honor to be, general, yours, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Major General J. M. SCHOFIELD,
Commanding Army of Ohio.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Raleigh, N. C., April 14, 1865—12 m. d.

GENERAL: The general-in-chief is just in receipt of despatches from General Johnston, C. S. A., which are tending to the end of making unnecessary our contemplated long march. You will, therefore, by his direction, to-morrow place one corps of your command at Morrisville, and the other at Jones's station, and there await further directions from him before continuing the march. The general will go to Morrisville for further communication.

I have the honor to be, with respect, yours, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Major General O. O. HOWARD,
Commanding Army of the Tennessee.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Raleigh, N. C., April 14, 1865.

General EASTON, *Newbern:*

The capture of Selma is also announced in rebel papers. I expect every hour an answer from General Johnston, but shall start to-morrow towards Ashboro', unless he makes clear and satisfactory terms. You had better hold yourself prepared to give us forage here when the railroad is done, as we have enough provision on hand; but send nothing this side of Goldsboro' until ordered by myself or some army commander.

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Raleigh, April 14, 1865.

GENERAL: I have faith in General Johnston's personal sincerity, and do not believe he would use a subterfuge to cover his movements. He could not stop the movement of his troops till he got my letter, which I hear was delayed all day yesterday by your adjutant's not sending it forward. If he gains on us by the time lost, we will make it up at the expense of North Carolina. Major McCoy will be with you, and will receive Johnston's letter, and I will instruct him to open it and send me contents. My orders are for all to be ready to move. Yesterday the roads were impassable to trains, but if the weather be favorable they will be good to-morrow.

W. T. SHERMAN,

*Major General.*General KILPATRICK, *Durham's.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Raleigh, April 14, 1865.

GENERAL: The general-in-chief has arranged for a meeting with General J. E. Johnston, near Durham's station, North Carolina railroad, at 12 m., April 17, and to accomplish it will leave here at 8 a. m. to-morrow, by railroad. Until further orders he directs that all troops will remain as they are at this time. The movements as directed in Special Field Orders No. 55 being for the time suspended.

I am, general, with respect,

L. M. DAYTON,

Assistant Adjutant General.

General H. W. SLOCUM,

Commanding Army of Georgia.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

*In the field, April 18, 1865—9.30 p. m.*General EASTON, *Morehead:*

Major Hitchcock leaves here in an hour for Washington with despatches of great importance. Have the most fleet steamer you can obtain ready on his arrival to take him direct to Washington, and return subject to his orders. He will telegraph you from Goldsboro' and Newbern, and you can calculate the time you will have, but he must not be delayed a minute.

By order of Major General W. T. Sherman.

L. M. DAYTON,

Assistant Adjutant General.

[By telegraph to Morehead City, steamer to Old Point, and telegraph to Lieutenant General Grant, Washington.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Raleigh, N. C., April 22, 1865.

General Wilson held Macon on the 20th, with Howell Cobb, G. W. Smith, and others as prisoners; but they claim the benefit of my armistice, and he has telegraphed to me, through the rebel lines, for orders. I have answered him that he may draw out of Macon, and hold his command for further orders, unless he has reason to believe that rebels are changing the status to our prejudice.

A brigade of rebels offered to surrender to me yesterday, but I prefer to make one grand *finale*, which I believe to be perfectly practicable. There will be no trouble in adjusting matters in North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama, and I think South Carolina ought to be satisfied with Charleston and Columbia in ruins. All we await is an answer from you and the President. Weather fine and roads good. Troops ready for fight or home.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, April 24, 1865.

General KILPATRICK:

Send the enclosed notice to General Johnston immediately by an officer, who will obtain a receipt for it, and send the same to me. It is a notice that the truce will end forty-eight hours after the notice reaches the rebel lines.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Raleigh, N. C., April 24, 1865—6 a. m.

General JOHNSTON, *Commanding Confederate Army, Greensboro' :*

You will take notice that the truce or suspension of hostilities agreed to between us will cease in forty-eight hours after this is received at your lines, under first of the articles of our agreement.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Raleigh, April 24, 1865.

General JOHNSTON, *Commanding Confederate Armies :*

I have replies from Washington to my communications of April 18. I am instructed to limit my operations to your immediate command, and not to attempt civil negotiations. I therefore demand the surrender of your army on the same terms as were given General Lee, at Appomattox, of April 9th, instant, purely and simply.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Raleigh, N. C., April 24, 1865.

General GILLMORE, *Hilton Head, S. C. :*

Send several couriers by different routes by land from Savannah to General Wilson, at Macon, that the truce is at an end and hostilities are resumed, and that he will go on and act according to original orders. You will also do the same.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, N. C., April 25, 1865.

GENERAL: You may make your orders to start to-morrow towards the enemy wherever we may find him, and instead of following the route prescribed in Special Field Orders No. 55, you may cover the railroad and cover it substantially in the direction of Greensboro' and Salisbury. Colonel Wright will be ordered to repair it behind us as far as the company's shops in Alamance county.

I am, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General Commanding.

Major General SCHOFIELD,

Commanding Department of North Carolina.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Raleigh, April 26, 1865.

General KILPATRICK, *Durham's:*

No orders farther than to hold your command well in hand, ready to move on notice; but no movements will be made until after the interview between Generals Johnston and Sherman has terminated. Please have about 20 horses ready, as Generals Howard, Schofield, and probably Blair, will go up with the general.

The dismounted men will go up with your train in the morning, as the locomotives cannot haul sufficient number of cars to accommodate them.

L. M. DAYTON,

Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Raleigh, April 26, 1865.

GENERAL: The general-in-chief will again meet General J. E. Johnston, C. S. A., on same conditions of armistice as on the 18th instant. He directs that you hold your command at rest, but well in hand, ready for further move on notice from him.

I am, general, with respect,

L. M. DAYTON,

Major and Assistant Adjutant General.

Major General H. W. SLOCUM,

Commanding Army of Georgia.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Fort Monroe, May 8, 1865.

General SCHOFIELD, *Raleigh:*

Have arrived at Fortress Monroe, and will go to City Point to-morrow. Telegraph to General Wilson to act in all matters according to his own good sense, and in a day or so I will hear from General Grant whether I am to command my own subordinates or not. Generals Howard and Slocum have reached Petersburg.

W. T. SHERMAN,

Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Fortress Monroe, May 8, 1865—12 p. m.

General GRANT, *Washington*:

I have full despatches from General Wilson of the 6th. One boat has arrived at Augusta all right. He is after Davis, who cannot escape, save in disguise; but he is reported in Georgia, escorted by about 70 officers, as a special body-guard, and about 3,000 cavalry.

Does Mr. Stanton's newspaper order take General Wilson from my command, or shall I continue to order him? If I have proven incompetent to manage my own command, let me know it.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Manchester, Va., May 9, 1865.

General SCHOFIELD, *Raleigh*:

Your despatch is received. Notify General Wilson that he must get forage in Georgia for the present. I will notify General Grant of his wants, by telegraph, and await his instructions.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Manchester, Va., May 9, 1865.

GENERAL: I have joined my army at Manchester, opposite Richmond, and await your orders. General Wilson telegraphs through General Schofield for hay and forage for 20,000 animals, to be sent up the Savannah river to Augusta. Under Secretary Stanton's newspaper orders, taking Wilson substantially from my command, I wish you would give the orders necessary for the case.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Lieut. General U. S. GRANT,
Commander-in-Chief.

[Cipher.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, City Point, Va., May 9, 1865.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report my arrival at City Point, pursuant to your orders, and my army is reported by General Easton, quartermaster, to be at Manchester, opposite Richmond. I have, as yet, seen no orders for me to come to Alexandria, although that was contemplated by you at Raleigh. Will you please telegraph me orders at Manchester, where I will forthwith join the army. I have nothing from you since you left Raleigh.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

Lieut. General U. S. GRANT,
Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

*In the field, Manchester, Va., May 10, 1865.*Lieut. General GRANT, *Washington, D. C.:*

Your despatch, directing me to march my command to Alexandria, just received. I have ordered the army of Georgia to move to-morrow, and the army of the Tennessee to follow next day.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

*On the road, Concord Church, 25 miles from**Richmond, Va., May 12, 1865—4 p. m.*Lieutenant General GRANT, *Washington:*

The following despatch from General Wilson is just received and sent for your information.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

[By telegraph from Macon Ga., May 10, 1865—3 p. m.]

Major General SHERMAN, *through General Schofield:*

Captain Abraham, of General Upton's division, yesterday received surrender of two brigades rebel cavalry, two thousand strong, at Washington, Georgia, including Generals Vaughn, Dibbrell, Elzey, Williams, Loomis, Gilmer, and Lawton. General Croxton is now engaged in paroling Ferguson's brigade at Forsyth. Balance of the rebel cavalry, which started as Jeff. Davis's escort, has either been surrendered or gone home. General Vaughn told General Upton that he had received positive orders to escort Davis to Mississippi river, but on his arrival at Washington determined to go no further. The money Davis had with him (doubtless over-estimated) has been paid his troops, and scattered through the country around Washington. Lieutenant Youman, a very energetic and capable officer, reports Davis on night of the 7th tried to cross Chattahoochee at Warsaw, but lost his trail. Youman himself crossed Chattahoochee at Vining's late same night. Since then he has not been heard from. General Winslow seems to think his report probable, though he favors now the idea that he may have turned south. Alexander's brigade is in the neighborhood of Marietta. Will strike trail if there is one. My troops are all over North Georgia, at Warrenton, Athens, Madison, Warsaw, Lawrenceville, and other places, with scouts on every road. The country southward, eastward, and west is also thoroughly patrolled.

J. H. WILSON,
Brevet Major General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the field, Fredericksburg, Va., May 15, 1865.

GENERAL: I have to report my arrival here. I left General Slocum at noon at Chancellorsville, and he will cross the 14th at Raccoon ford, and 20th at U. S. Ford to-morrow. General Logan is not yet in, and I suspect he has found his roads badly cut up by the troops that preceded him.

W. T. SHERMAN, *Major General.*

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

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, Alexandria, Va., May 19, 1865.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report my arrival at camp near the Washington road, three miles north of Alexandria. All my army should be in camp near by to-day.

The 15th corps, the last to leave Richmond, camped last night at the Occoquan. I have seen the orders for the review in the papers, but Colonel Sawyer says it is not here in official form. I am old-fashioned, and prefer to see orders through some other channels, but if that be the new fashion, so be it. I will be all ready by Wednesday, though in the rough. Troops have not been paid for eight or ten months, and clothing may be bad, but a better set of legs and arms cannot be displayed on this continent.

Send me all orders and letters you may have for me, and let some one newspaper know that the vandal Sherman is encamped near the canal bridge, half-way between the Long bridge and Alexandria, to the west of the road, where his friends, if any, can find him.

As ever, your friend,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

General RAWLINS,
Chief of Staff, Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, camp near Washington, May 28, 1865.

GENERAL: I see no public business that calls for my further stay at Washington. I have made my full testimony before the "Committee on the Conduct of the War," as ordered; and the four corps, under my command here, are in good camps, and the company and field officers are busy upon the muster-rolls and papers needed for the payment of the troops, and for disbanding of such as are entitled to discharge under existing orders. You remember that the commanders of military divisions have nothing to do with such matters, so that my longer presence is unnecessary. I will therefore ask for an order, or for instructions to return to the west—say Louisville, Kentucky, or wherever the general thinks I should take post. If the territory north of the Ohio river is to be included in the military division of the Mississippi, I would prefer, for the sake of economy, to reside in Cincinnati. I would like to take New York and Chicago in my route west, to keep appointments made by my family before my arrival here. I will be ready to leave Washington on Wednesday.

I am, with great respect,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

Colonel T. S. BOWERS,
Assistant Adjutant General, Headquarters Armies United States.

LANCASTER, OHIO, June 30, 1865.

General E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.:

Despatcher received. Assignment to St. Louis perfectly satisfactory.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

LANCASTER, OHIO, *June 30, 1865.*

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

My assignment to St. Louis is perfectly satisfactory. I go to Cincinnati to-day, and will go to Louisville, and it may be to St. Louis, before I come back.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General.

All of which is respectfully submitted, by your obedient servant,
W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General United States Army.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
St. Louis, Missouri, November 21, 1865.