
THE HENKEL SQUARE HERALD

Articles transcribed by Vicki Betts at http://www.uttyler.edu/vbetts/newspaper_intro.htm unless otherwise noted

VOL. 5

Henkel Square, Round Top, Texas, April 1864

NO. 4

Ed. News:--Having suffered from vaccination with the impure vaccine matter so extensively circulated over the country, and experimented until I found a successful remedy, you will please publish it for the benefit of those suffering.

Take sage leaves, and vinegar, boil together, thicken with corn meal, and make poultices, apply to the wound for three days, and nights, changing morning and night for fresh one, and treat constitutionally as follows:

Take one tablespoonful sulphur, one table spoonful of cream tartar. When the poultice is changed, the sore should be washed with camphor. This course faithfully followed will cure the worst arms in the State in less than one week.

Your's [sic] &c.
O. A. McGinnis.

Moscow, Texas, Feb. 27, 1864.

STANDARD [CLARKSVILLE, TX], April 2, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Paper is getting so scarce that we do not know how soon we may be compelled to make a virtue of necessity and take a holiday. Some of our readers doubtless think our present price very high, but the prospect now is that we will not be able to give them a paper much longer at any price. We have sent money and orders in various directions long since, and we occasionally hear of paper on the way at a price that we never before heard or dreamed.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, April 6, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

We regret to learn, from the last number of the S. A. Herald, that its publication will be suspended for some time. The want of paper is the reason for its discontinuance.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, April 6, 1864, p. 1, c. 2

We have received the first number of the Trans-Mississippi Bulletin, published weekly at Jefferson, Texas, by A. M. Walker, who formerly edited the Herald and Gazette. We greet the new comer with our cordial well wishes for success and prosperity.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, April 6, 1864, p. 1, c. 5

Shreveport is full of refugees from the region about Alexandria. It is said some of the citizens of Rapides Parish welcomed the Yankees with demonstrations of joy—so much the worse for them.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, April 6, 1864, p. 1, c. 5

We omitted to inform our lady friends that some time ago Gen. Magruder issued an order, that any lady who will arrest or cause to be arrested a deserter, would be entitled to a furlough for twenty days for any one in the army--whether husband, brother or lover.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, April 6, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Rebel Torpedoes.

A Yankee Washington correspondent dating the 6th March, says:

Private letters, received here from off Charleston, give some interesting particulars of the sinking of the Housatonic by a rebel torpedo, which do not appear in the official account. It is not known on our side that the machine carried any crew; on the contrary, it is supposed the torpedo was of a new kind lately invented by the rebels, which are rendered self-moving by clock work, and was brought down the harbor, directed towards the fated vessel, and started by the internal machinery the concussion being relied upon for exploding it. When first seen, about one hundred yards from the Housatonic it looked like a broad plank upon the water, and there were no signs of its propulsion by steam or man power. It struck two minutes after first seen, and exploded in about one minute directly under the stern. The power of the explosion was terrific, tearing out the stern completely, breaking through the gun and spar decks and shattering the huge beams above them. The Housatonic sunk immediately, the officers and crew being pushed to save themselves by ascending the rigging as she went down.

If this torpedo was a self moving one, it is the first instance where such machines have accomplished practical results, though much time, labor and expense has been of late years devoted to attaining success on this peculiar branch of warfare by nearly all civilized nations. Under these circumstances, the event must be accepted as evidence of the energy, perseverance and inventive genius of the rebels, though the application of these attributes in such a manner is justly open to the charge of barbarousness.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, April 6, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

Gen. Magruder has assigned Surgeon G. R. Milen [?], of the army to the duty of attending the families of indigent soldiers in Houston.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, April 13, 1864, p. 1, c. 2

A short time ago our attention was called to an announcement is an exchange, of the marriage of Miss Mollie E. Moore, at Dallas, at the residence of the bride's father, to Mr. Stanley, of the Texas Spies. Perhaps Mr. Stanley can inform the Telegraph whether she is the Miss Moore which the Telegraph regards as the song bird of Texas—or not. We refer the Telegraph to him.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, April 13, 1864, p. 1, c. 4

Terrible Outrages of the Enemy on his Retreat.—

The Dalton correspondent of the Knoxville and Atlanta Register, under date of March 2d., says: "The Yankee abolition heathens, maddened by their disappointment at being foiled in their march on Dalton, under Thomas, (whose headquarters were at Ringgold,) took summary vengeance on the helpless old men, women and children, in their disgraceful retreat. Those white-livered vampires pillaged, burnt, destroyed and murdered, on their return, along both the Chattanooga and Cleveland roads. Mr. Ault's mill and dwelling house were burnt on Mill creek. Long's tannery was destroyed. Judge Davis' place on the Chattanooga road was completely ruined. Poor women with their children, were turned out from under their roofs at night, in the cold rain, and their dwellings fired. Old men were dragged from their homes and made to march with them at a hurried pace. At another house a poor woman died from the brutality committed by these demons. Indeed, I am credibly informed that every species of crime and wantonness was committed along both roads to Chattanooga and Cleveland. Let our people understand that these are the means taken by these hireling barbarians to subjugate us. This is the fate that awaits us all, if the whole Confederacy does not rise as one man, voluntarily, eagerly and willingly, to drive back from our soil a race whose infamy and deep damnation no words can express." [Gal. News. AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, April 6, 1864, p. 1, c. 3

Editorial Correspondence.

Houston, April 3d, 1864.

A week's sojourn in this great metropolis (for such it is now acknowledged to be) is worth a year's experience elsewhere in the State. Here railroads and telegraphs concentrate, steamboats arrive and depart daily, and the whole business of the State seems to be transacted, including the making and execution of the laws, the regulation of trade and commerce, and in fact the general disposition of everything pertaining to the interest and welfare of that section of country, now known as the "district of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona." While a general death like stillness pervades every town and city throughout the State, the streets of Houston daily present a very different scene. Gay cavaliers, in gaudy uniforms, mounted on splendidly caparisoned chargers, dash along the thoroughfares at a furious rate, which, in times of peace, would have subjected them to a penalty under the old city ordinances; handsome carriages, drawn by sleek, highly fed, prancing steeds, filled with lordly looking officers, roll along the streets, at all hours of the day, while elegantly dressed ladies promenade the side walks, and the attaches of innumerable departments, established for the convenience and accumulation of the various incumbents, stroll leisurely along, in front of their several offices, smoking their cigars, and discussing the latest news received by telegraph. Business men hurry to and fro, intent on the almighty dollar; the voices of several auctioneers may be heard at one time while the "News" boys cry through the streets, "Latest news by telegraph--Another victory by Lee," which has been published so often in that paper, without being contradicted by the "Telegraph," that nobody will believe it. Such is a brief but imperfect sketch of this modern Babylon, which is

shortly to be surrounded by fortifications, and walls nearly equal in extent to those of that ancient Jewish city, which was once submerged by the river Euphrates, provided Gen. Magruder's last order for a sufficient amount of slave labor can be compiled with. What Houston once was, we all know; what she is now, but few who have not been, like ourself, an unwilling sojourner for over a week, can know; and what she will be, ere long, if she keeps on at the same railroad speed, nobody knows. The main secret of her success has been the downfall of Galveston, and the transfer of nearly all her citizens, with such property as they could move from their comfortable homes in the Island City, to fill and ornament the inhospitable dwellings of their hard hearted neighbors, and load the shelves of their bare walls with merchandise. It made us feel sad to meet old friends and neighbors from Galveston, whom we once knew surrounded by all the comforts and conveniences of life, and see them now cooped up, with large families, in little shanties, for which they are paying from one to two hundred dollars per month, while the owners who formerly occupied them, are now living in stately mansions, built since the war commenced. Fortunes are sometimes made here in a day, and one or two good operations will give a man a competency for life. Fabulous prices are paid for goods of every kind, but they are as readily paid as asked, and we are informed it is customary with the merchants to raise their prices every Monday morning. Our first experience was in shaving--a luxury we had not indulged in for over a year. On our arrival, we were charged a dollar, the next time, two dollars, at the same shop, the price having risen, owing, as we were informed by the barber, to the Currency Bill. Newspapers sell for a dollar; oysters, five dollars a dozen; whiskey, five dollars a drink; common tallow candles, (for which we had to hunt all over town,) a dollar each; homemade cigars a dollar--in fact, there is nothing to be had for less than a dollar, and but very few things for that. The hotels charge thirty dollars a day for board, or rather did last week, but we suppose according to the prevailing rule, it will be fifty dollars this week. For the same prescription we paid ten dollars yesterday, we have had to pay \$15 to-day; and so it is with everything eatable, drinkable and wearable--things seen and things unseen or which have not been seen for years till they have been exhumed from some old cellar, and offered for sale at fifty times the price they would have brought when new. Such is the upward tendency of the Houston market at present, and such it is likely to continue, till the tax gatherer has got the last Confederate dollar. Small Confederate notes are cut of circulation, up to tens, and shinplasters are again currency for small change, notwithstanding the illegality of their issue, and the denunciation of all such trash by the two leading journals of the State. Nearly every manufactory and workshop is in the employ of the government, consequently if a stranger needs work done, he is either positively refused, or has to pay top prices. Money is rolled up, and put in the coat pocket behind, to be abstracted by any pick-pocket, if he thought it worth the trouble, just like so much waste paper.

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Editorial Correspondence.

Continued from page 2

We cannot help pausing for a moment, to reflect upon what all this reckless extravagance must lead to. There are but two consequences to such a state of things--Bankruptcy and ruin, or entire Repudiation. Who would have dreamt two years ago, that the money issued by our Government, which we had pledged ourselves to sustain, would have been hawked about the streets at twenty and thirty for one? Who would even dared to talk of two for one? It would have been denounced as treason. And if treason then, why not now? Had all given liberally of their means at first to sustain the war, and demanded from the Government that none but responsible, disbursing agents should be employed to handle the public funds, there would have been no need for such enormous issues to purchase supplies for our armies and keep them in the field. A Confederate dollar might still have been as good as any other dollar, had our people been true to each other, and to the cause in which we were embarked, but a wild spirit of speculation seized upon those left at home, who were more intent on their own gains than in husbanding their means and providing for the necessities of those who were fighting our battles, until the whole country has become demoralised [sic], and our financial condition reduced to a most deplorable state. Even the efforts of the late Congress to withdraw the old issue and substitute a new one, on a sound healthy basis, limited to the actual wants of the people, met with no favor either at the hands of the press or the people. The currency Bill and Tax Law have both been denounced by the press, and the consequence is that Confederate money has declined from twenty to twenty-five, and even thirty for one, in the face of its being exchangeable, after the 1st July, in the new issue, at three for two, thereby promising that if the present currency is worth thirty for one, the new issue will only be worth 20 for one. It may be urged that gold or silver is not now the standard of value, but take any article of merchandize, or even home produce, and the rates are about the same, therefore we can acknowledge no other standard; and notwithstanding the ingenious arguments that have been used to the contrary. it is the standard we will all have to come back to eventually. If the whole State has to be governed by the Houston market, as it has heretofore, to a great extent, been, we might as well have dispensed with the new issue, and let the Tax Collector first got in all the old, when we would come back again to the first principles of barter; and to remedy the inconvenient of an exchange of commodities, gold and silver would soon come forth from their hiding places. If things keep on as they are now tending, there will soon be none left in the State, as it is a well known fact that large amounts have, from time to time, been taken abroad, and that of all the cotton that leaves the country, either through the blockade or by way of Mexico, not one half the proceeds ever returns in goods. What becomes of the balance of the cargo, quien sabe. We presume those "enterprising citizens," engaged in the trade, could tell if they would.

D.R.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, April 6, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

The habeas corpus case of Peebles, Baldwin, and others, arrested for treason and treasonable practices, which has for the last week or ten days occupied the attention of the Supreme Court and excited good deal of interest, was finally disposed of on yesterday. On Friday, Messrs. Cone, Robards and Ford, the counsel for the respondents, (the military authorities) made a motion to remand the prisoners to the custody of those authorities, by whom they had been arrested. This was based upon the affidavit of Maj. Sparks that he had been ordered by Lieut. Gen. Smith to arrest and detain them, in pursuance of the late act of Congress suspending the writ of habeas corpus. The Court held that Congress had the constitutional right to suspend the writ, and though the evidence was strongly persuasive, it was not legally sufficient, as the act required such facts to be sworn certificate of the officer holding them in custody, and overruled the motion. The case was then submitted upon the petition only without going into the merits of the case, and without the introduction of testimony.

The Court discharged the prisoners from custody, as no evidence was introduced to support the charges set forth in the returns, but refused to grant a writ to prevent their being again arrested, as the party who might arrest them was amenable to the law, if he did any act to violate it; and clearly intimated that the military had the right to re-arrest them. They were subsequently arrested by Maj. Sparks, by order of Lt. Gen. Smith commanding the Trans-Mississippi Department, who is the person authorized by the recent act of Congress to order such arrest. Everything passed off quietly and the prisoners were placed under guard and sent to Houston.

Throughout the investigation the Court showed a disposition to extend every courtesy and aid to the military authorities in the discharge of their duties, and a disposition was shown by the military authorities to submit to the court in its decision. An apparent collision arose at one time through a misapprehension of facts, which were remedied [remedied?] as soon as practicable, and we presume to the satisfaction of the Court. We will endeavor in our next to give a more detailed account of this interesting case, the first which has occurred since the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus by Congress.—Gazette, March 30th.

BELLVILLE [TX] COUNTRYMAN, April 11, 1864, p. 1, c. 3

From Below.

On the 8th inst. the great battle of Mansfield was fought. On the 9th the pursuit was active, and equally successful—prisoners, wagons, and thousands of small arms attest our victory. Gen. Mouton, Capt. Alex Chalmers, Capt. C. Sheppard, Maj. Canfield, Col. Beard, Col. Nobles, Col. Armond, and Lt. Col. Walker were among the killed. On the 12th inst. Gen. Thom Green was killed in the front line of battle. Our loss was severe, but the result is glorious. From Washington, we have not received reliable news, but confidently anticipate a splendid victory in that quarter.

STANDARD [CLARKSVILLE, TX], April 16, 1864, p. 1, c. 2

Our Provost Marshal received by Wednesday's train from Houston, quite an accession to his company, known as Co. Q. Twenty-five prisoners were turned over to his charge, from Col. Griffin's Battalion, having been tried by court martial at Sabine Pass, and ordered to this place to undergo their sentences. The Captain informs us that fifteen of the number are sentenced to carry on their backs, six hours each day, (three hours in the morning and three in the evening,) for ninety days, knapsacks filled with sand, varying in weight from forty to twenty pounds. Two of the prisoners are sentenced to carry, during the war, a ball and chain, each ball weighing one hundred and twenty-eight pounds—others ranging from thirty-two to eighteen pounds, for the space of ninety days. Several of the prisoners are to be placed in solitary confinement on bread and water diet, seven days in each month, and, at the expiration of the ninety days, to be confined fourteen days on bread and water. This may seem to be rather a hard punishment, but if the regulations were strictly enforced in most of these cases, they would pay the penalty with their lives. They are all sentenced on the charge of desertion.—Flake's Bulletin.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, April 13, 1864, p. 1, c. 5

Editorial Correspondence.

Galveston, April 9th, 1864.

Our once beautiful Island City presents now a sorry spectacle to one who has known her in her palmy days. What the enemy has failed to accomplish in her destruction seems likely to be soon completed by our own people, consisting mostly of that class of her citizens, who were either unable or unwilling to leave, and are now regarded as camp followers, and the soldiers that have been stationed here since Galveston has been proclaimed a military garrison. A few respectable families still remain, and others are, we learn, returning, which we think highly advisable, otherwise, they will have but little left to return to, should the war last much longer. Property, that has been left unoccupied, is going to wreck and ruin. Fences have been pulled down, doors and windows smashed in, or removed altogether, walls defaced, and every conceivable damage done that a wanton spirit of destruction could suggest. Yet, notwithstanding all this devastation, Galveston is still beautiful; and in traversing her lonely streets, gardens of roses and other beautiful flowers, laden with sweet perfumes, greet the eye at every turn.

During our short stay, we have made a general tour of the whole city, and find there depredations mostly confined to the thickly settled portion of the town, so that they must have been committed under the very eyes of the civil as well as the military authorities. From the accounts we had read we were led to believe this work of destruction was entirely attributable to the soldiers, which have been quartered here, but we have been assured by an old citizen such is not the fact—at least, that they had comparatively but little to do with it. There has been a great scarcity of food during the winter, and many families have suffered severely on this account, which has, in all probability, compelled them to resort to the destruction of property to keep them from starvation; added to which, they have been reduced to the very last extremity to procure clothing, having had to cut up blankets and bed clothes as a substitute for cloth,

which they should have received from the Penitentiary. We understand there are many soldiers' families here entitled to cloth, for which the money has been remitted months ago, and repeated applications made since by letter, but no notice has been taken of these applications, consequently, these families, numbering between 2 to 3 hundred members, have been reduced to a state of extreme destitution. We think this matter should be looked into, as, from all we learn, Galveston is not the only place that has been served in this way.

Among the buildings that have suffered most, are the Tremont House and Island City House, both of which have been entirely dismantled, and reduced to a condition unfit to be occupied even by negroes. Fires have been lighted in the middle of the rooms, and doors and window frames torn down to supply the place of fuel, while the walls have been defaced with dirt and obscene scribbling. Such is also the case with some of those fine handsome stores on the strand, where the doors have been broken open. Had the city been sacked by the enemy, it could not have presented a more desolate and wretched appearance, in some of the streets. Notwithstanding all this suffering and desolation, speculation is rife here as in Houston, and the almighty dollar wields its potent spell, among all classes, from the uniformed grandee down to the humblest pedlar [sic] of small wares. Even wood, for the want of which the poor have been starving, has been made a source of speculation, and cords upon cords of it have been bought for \$10 and resold for \$40. This, however, we learn, has been wisely put a stop to, though not until many of our fences and out houses have been entirely destroyed. Everything here, in the way of provisions, is enormously high, with the exception of board which is just half the price of the charges in Houston, while the fare is very good, considering the scarcity of supplies. The Washington Hotel and the Palmetto House are still kept open, and also the same drug stores as formerly; but, with these exceptions, and a few little huxters' [sic] shops, every place of business is closed up. The market is but poorly supplied with meat, and fish and oysters are very scarce and very dear, while vegetables are scarcely to be had at any price. Blockade runners are doing a good business, but they are bringing back little in value, compared with what they carry out. This morning, the steamer Alice came in from the mouth of the Brazos, which is considered somewhat of a daring feat, having to pass within range of the blockaders; but such things are getting quite common, and no more regard seems to be paid to the Yankee fleet, outside the bar, then if they were so many of our own vessels taking in their cargoes for foreign ports. When they chance to pick up a schooner, little or no attention is paid to it, as the owners make these calculations, and soon send out another to make up for the loss. When firing is heard outside, no one stops to even ask what it is, and the idea of the city being shelled (though it is well known it can be done at any time from the southside of the Island,) is only laughed at, while the citizens believe Galveston to be more secure from an attack from the enemy than any other place in Texas. The fortifications are superior to anything on this side of Charleston, and should the Yankees eager make another attempt to set foot on the little sand bank, they will meet with a reception they do not dream of.

D. R.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, April 13, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

The next army mail will leave Houston on the 27th, and will be taken by Mr. A. S. Rose, Carrier's charge, \$5 for each letter. Parties wishing to communicate with their friends in the army, can send their letters to us up to the 3d, accompanied by the money, and we will see that they are forwarded in time.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, April 20, 1864, p. 1, c. 3

The San Antonio news says "the same amount of paper that formerly cost us \$3 50 in specie, now costs us \$360 in Confederate money." That is exactly what we have to pay, and yet we are only charging five times the price for subscription we formerly did, while for everything we have to buy, which costs less in proportion, from twenty to thirty times former prices is charged to us.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, April 20, 1864, p. 1, c. 3

The Telegraph's special correspondent, writing from Bonham, gives the particulars of the hanging of seven robbers in the neighborhood of Kentucky town, Grayson county, after the perpetration of a horrible outrage on the night of the 31st of March, in which three of them were engaged. It appears that three men, disguised, entered the house of Mr. Stephenson, near Kentucky town, and after stealing a large amount of money, hung Mr. S., in the presence of the family, and left him for dead. While hanging, and in the agonies of death, the villains proposed to his wife, as the price of his life, her prostitution to each of them, and treated her in a most shameful manner. Next day two of them were arrested, and through their confessions, five others, all of whom were committed by the Justice to take their trial at the District Court, and were sent in charge of the Sheriff to Bonham. On the way there, they were met by 150 well armed men, who demanded the prisoners in the name of the citizens of Collin and Grayson counties, and took them to a neighboring grove and hung the whole of them. Additional confessions were made by several of the guilty men beneath the gallows, and two of them had been identified by Stephenson and his wife previously on their trial. Their names were J. T. Sherrill, N. C. Vivion, Wm. Hester, Dr. Jno. W. Walker and his three sons, Francis, Thos. and Jacob Walker. All of them had come from Southwestern Missouri, about 14 or 15 months ago, and were a band of horse thieves and robbers.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, April 20, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Flake's Bulletin of yesterday says the Provost Marshal of Galveston has succeeded in arresting nine negroes while in the act of going over to the blockaders. A guard was placed at the place of their intended embarkation, some five miles below the city. They are now undergoing examination. Some of them were captured Yankee negroes, and others belonged to our citizens. About eight or ten more were to have started with them, but were not able to meet at the time and place appointed.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, April 20, 1864, 1, c. 1

The railroad fare has been increased between Houston and Galveston to \$20. No person is allowed to go on Galveston Island, without a permit signed by the Maj. General Commanding, or by his authority, except those arriving by the trains; who can get permits in Houston.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, April 27, 1864, p. 1, c. 1

Shreveport, April 13th, 1864.

. . . A distressing affair occurred on Sunday night about 2 o'clock. The large Baptist Church in Mansfield, used for a hospital, caught fire by accident, and in a short time was totally consumed, together with one of the gallant wounded. The fire occurred in the following manner: A nurse in the hospital let a lighted candle fall on the cotton scattered over the floor, which immediately caught and spread over the building almost as quick as a flash of gunpowder. The whole building was almost instantly enveloped in flames, and the wounded were secured with the utmost difficulty. Some poor fellows, no doubt, in being dragged out, suffered intense agony, but I did not hear a groan from but a single man, and he had been dragged at least 100 yards.

Many of the prisoners that I saw were raw Germans and Irish, some of them but a few months from the "ould country." Many of them were zouaves, with flowing red pants, that looked, at a distance like a short petticoat. One of the German regiments was captured en masse. Our men were about to fire upon them, when one of the leaders cried out in the "sweet silvery accents" of his native land: "Shentleman, don't shoot we does give right up." . . .

M.E.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, April 20, 1864, p. 1, c. 3

Burning of the Hospital at Mansfield, La.

On the night of the 11th inst., a church, occupied as a Hospital in Mansfield, La., accidentally caught fire from a candle, placed near the cotton on which a wounded man was lying, and rapidly extended to the other beds and to the entire building.

About seventy men, seven of whom were Federals, were in the building at the time. But few nurses were present at the time and many of the wounded were forced to save themselves by flight or perish in the flames. Some even jumped from the windows. Others were dragged forth, causing the most excruciating torture. One, who could not be found in the smoke and confusion, and unable to save himself, perished in the flames.

Orion.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, April 20, 1864, p. 1, c. 4

The Memphis Bulletin of the 30th says: "We have further interesting news from La. Banks is pursuing a victorious course, and the gunboats cause the rebels to run whenever they appear." The following from the correspondent of the Bulletin, under date Fort DeRussey, March 15th, should not be lost:

"I should not be a faithful historian if I omitted to mention that the conduct of the troops since the late raid of Gen. Sherman, is becoming very prejudicial to our good name and to our efficiency. A spirit of destruction and wanton ferocity seems to have seized upon many of them, which is quite incredible. At Red River landing they robbed a house of several thousand dollars in specie, and then fired the house to conceal their crime. At Simmsport a party of them stole out and robbed and insulted a family only two miles distant.

M. E.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, April 20, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

[From the Montgomery Advertiser]

Vandalism of the Enemy at Brandon, Miss.

[Extract of a Private Letter.]

Gen. McPherson's corps entered our little town on Sunday last, about noon, went into camp and remained until about sunrise next morning. They had scarcely got out of hearing distance before General Harlburt, with his troops entered, and were very destructive throughout the whole country where they have passed; not a family but has suffered most severely, as they left Vicksburg with orders to depend on the country for sustenance. Papa has been one of the heaviest sufferers so far as heard from in this part of the country. The thieving rascals reached our premises whilst we were at the dinner table on Sunday, and kept up their plundering and stealing until dark, when their pickets were stationed and they were ordered inside their lines. Had it not been for that, I suppose every earthly thing we possess would have been destroyed. Some of their brigades were camped opposite our house, and some of their pickets were stationed at the corner of my room. All through the night a crowd of the scamps were sitting around the fireside. Oh! how I trembled with fear. Such a time I never before spent, and never imagined I ever would.

Every horse and mule Papa had, was taken away, hogs killed, and all the poultry taken. In the smokehouse nothing was left, except some meal which they emptied on the floor. Not a single pound of meat or sugar were we able to save, and none had been sent off. In the house there was not a trunk, drawer, wardrobe, desk or anything they did not plunder, and plunder well; and the contents scattered over the floor, and every thing stolen they wished. Not a garment of yours did they leave, excepting a few pairs of socks and some collars. A great deal of S's and my clothing was stolen; silk dresses, embroidered handkerchiefs, silk stockings and B's beautiful little hat and cloak, and something of everything; it is impossible to mention all. My money and jewelry I managed to save by having them buried. Sister L. lost nearly everything in the way of clothing. What was left of hers was torn into pieces or abused in some way. Papa had nothing left but what he was wearing. Every bed was stripped of clothing. We managed to beg a few pieces from some of the thieves, but only enough for one bed; this one bed was the only one used for three nights, some of us sleeping one portion of the night, and the others the balance.

For three meals we had nothing but roasted potatoes to eat, and since that time what we have eaten has been done with our fingers—not a knife or fork was left, and but little earthenware. Mama has not even a coffee-pot left. All this stealing was done before our eyes, and neither words or tears would prevent it. Isn't it dreadful? Isn't it too much to be endured? The roughish [sic] vagabonds how I do hate them! I hate them more now than I did the evening I saw them sneaking off with all we cared for—and so it will be every day that I live. I was questioned a great deal in regard to my rebel husband, and advised, when I saw him next, to send him down to Vicksburg and let him become a good Unionist. I told them you would die first.

A. G. Margue's residence was burned; the Methodist Church, Post office and Government stables around town, and some other small buildings were burned. Many others were fired, but the citizens succeeded in putting them out. In fact, every house on the square was fired. Martin's store was robbed of everything.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, April 20, 1864, p. 1, c. 6

We publish the letter of Dr. Labadie, as an act of justice to those poor families in Galveston who have been driven to the last extremity, for the want of clothing to protect them from the cold. Dr. Labadie is one of the oldest and most respected citizens of that place--has never left the Island during all the scenes that have taken place there, but has devoted nearly his whole time and attention in ministering to the wants of the sick, and alleviating the distresses of the poor. We hope his appeal at this time will not go unnoticed.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, April 20, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Galveston, April 18, 1864.

Mr. D. Richardson--Dear sir: As you have seen fit to notice the way the poor of Galveston have been treated by the Agent of the Penitentiary, in your editorial correspondence from this place, under date of April 8th, I wish to ask if you can give an explanation why it is that the cloth promised last year by Mr. Besser, the late Agent of the Penitentiary, and also by Mr. Hendricks the present Agent, will not be sent to us. Last year, plain osnaburg was promised to soldiers' families at fifty cents a yard, 90 days after their application should be put on file; those who have slaves pay 80 cents, and those who could not wait three months could be served out of turn by paying 80 cents a yard. Now, from the 27th September to December last, I sent sixty-three certificates, made out by Judge Cole, stating each application to be for a soldier's family, and its first application, for cloth. Three certificates, paying 80c a yard, were filed last December and the cloth sent me by Mr. Besser, leaving sixty certificates for sixty families, containing two hundred and sixty seven members. I remitted to Mr. J. S. Besser \$747 40, and to Mr. Hendricks \$178 60, making a total sum of \$926. Mr. Hendricks has written but one letter to me dated 16th Dec. last, in which he says, "we are now working on your orders of 25th September." Up to this day, the cloth promised and paid for has not come, although I have written some four letters to Mr. Hendricks, urging him to push the cloth forward, as the destitution of those soldiers' wives and children was great and urgent; yet to none of these business letters, written in behalf of those 60 families containing 267 members, have I received any reply. The heads of some of these families have been in the army for two years past. What little funds they left has been exhausted, and yet the managers of the Penitentiary seem to have no legal excuses whatever to detain those goods. I claim some 1,852 yards of plain osnaburg, paid for in '63; and you who live at the capitol of the State are expected to be familiar with polite men and public property. The Agent of that Institution ought to be a man of business capacity. If he is unfit to discharge the duties of that office, and to give satisfaction, I presume it is in the Governor's power to remove him. All my letters to Mr. Besser were promptly answered, and had he been detained a few weeks longer in the office, no doubt all the cloth applied for and paid for would have been sent forward, and these soldiers' families would not have suffered from cold and nakedness. They have a just cause to be dissatisfied, and they do complain of a great injustice done them by that agent. We claim

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the cloth under the laws existing last year, and I do not conceive how the managers can be so dishonest or ignorant as to suppose the new arrangement made among themselves can in any way repudiate a previous contract, which I have fulfilled by depositing with the Agent the Judge's certificates with the money, all of which have been filed in that agency and receipted for. What are we to do? Mr. Hendricks is mute; he will not answer business letters, written in the name of 60 soldiers' families and 267 children. Can you suggest the course to pursue in such a case? Will the Governor take the matter in hand? If so, I can have over 300 names to a petition to him and in support of any claims. Very truly yours,

N. D. Labadie.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, April 20, 1864, p. 1, c. 2

Capt. John Hollander, who has gone extensively into the manufacture of several useful articles in this city, has presented us with some fine syrup which he has for sale by the barrel at a low figure; also some marking fluid, writing ink, blacking in bottles and in paste, all of which he makes on his own premises, and has for sale at very reasonable rates. We hope his example will be followed by others, and we shall soon be independent of foreign importations for many articles in daily use which can just as well be made at home. We had nearly forgot to add that he also presented us with a home made taper, 42 feet long, which comes most opportunely, as were just out of candles, and casting about to see where we could procure a supply.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, April 20, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

The Shreveport News of the 19th says: We understand that the Hotel in Jefferson, Texas, has been converted into a Hospital, by the military authorities.

The following was found posted up at Marmaduke's headquarters, after he left:

Notice.

Gen. Frederick Steel comes stealing along,
Stealing our hogs and stealing our corn,
Stealing our sheep, and stealing our cows,
And stealing the steel from off our plows.
Steal on Gen. Steel, ere long you may feel
The blighting effects of very cold steel.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, April 27, 1864, p. 2, c. 6

Cure for Sore Throat.—Take the whites of two eggs and beat them with two teaspoonfulls of white sugar; grate a little nutmeg, and then add a pint of lukewarm water. Stir well and drink often. Repeat the prescription if necessary and it will cure the most obstinate cases of hoarseness in a few days. We have tried this remedy many times with complete success.

STANDARD [CLARKSVILLE, TX], April 30, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

The following extract of a letter from a highly respectable acquaintance at Monroe, to a prominent gentleman here, will give you an insight into the Yankee doings at Monroe. The writer says:

"As this is the first opportunity I have had of writing to you per mail or otherwise, since the late raid of the Yankees to this place, I embrace it to say to you that they did no damage to the Land office here. Neither the Register's nor my office were entered, or in any way disturbed. They carried off some three or four thousand bales of cotton and almost two thousand negroes. All of mine were taken, leaving me without a domestic assistant. Many other families were left in a similar situation. I have learned that none of the negroes of our mutual friend Mr. _____ were taken. His son lost about sixty. Had they remained a few days longer, it is probable that all the negroes of the place and vicinity would have left.

The burned the Court House, Jail, Rail Road Depot and office, and destroyed the rail road bridge across the Ouachita. The river is falling very rapidly and very little apprehension is felt of their making another thieving excursion to this place, by water, this season."

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, April 27, 1864, p. 2, c. 4

It is now amusing to note the difference in the charges now made at hotels and taverns throughout the country. These charges do not appear to be regulated by the fare, but by the consciences of the proprietors. In Houston, the charge was \$30 per day, which is now reduced to \$20. In Galveston, they charge \$15 per day, while everything there, in the way of provisions, is dearer than in Houston. Along the route from Houston to this place, the charge is \$5 per meal, except at Bastrop, where the charge is \$10. In San Antonio, where they have no hotels, we were informed the charge at the boarding houses was \$50 per day, while the livery stables charged \$45 for horse keep. Here, we believe, the charge is \$30 per day for board, at the hotels. At New Braunfels it is \$10 per meal. In Mobile, the hotels charge \$15 a day; in Montgomery, \$25; in Wilmington, \$40; and in Richmond, \$30. In the last named city, corn meal was selling at \$48 a bushel, sugar \$9 a pound, oysters \$5 a dozen, eggs \$1 a piece, and beef \$6@8 a pound. When Mr. Vallandigham was at Wilmington in July last, he paid for his board at the hotel, in silver, at the rate of thirty-five cents a day; he said the South could not be in a starving condition, for he had never lived cheaper or better in Ohio. We cannot understand upon what basis these different charges are made, except they are regulated by the scale of conscience.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, April 27, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Picquet Station, near Camden, Ark.
April 21st 1864

Dear Standard:

Early on the morning of the 18th, Maxey's Division was ordered to saddle up, and move instantly. Rumor as usual was busy as to our object, and destination, but the one that gained most credit, was that we were en route to attack a foraging train of the enemy, estimated at 200 wagons, and said to be guarded by a force, variously estimated from one to three thousand.

A rapid march of ten miles brought us to Lee's farm on the Camden road, where we found Cabell's Ark. Brigade, and Green's Missouri Brigade, Gen. Marmaduke commanding, and the enemy in position, awaiting our approach. Gen. Maxey upon arriving assumed chief command, and quickly disposed of his forces for attacking.

To the Texas brigade, commanded by Col. Charles DeMorse, supported by our Choctaw allies, under command of Col. Tandy Walker, the duty of attacking and turning the enemy's flank was assigned. For the purpose we were dismounted on the road in front of the enemy, about one thousand yards distant, and moved under cover of the timber, to our left, and into the enemy's right. Moving in line of battle, a greater portion of the way, we were somewhat retarded by the dense thickets, and undergrowth on our route, and frequent halts had to be made to reform our necessarily broken line. After moving some two miles, our skirmishers came upon, and in rear of a small body of the enemy's cavalry in an open field. Having moved entirely through the timber and without any foreknowledge of the ground, this body of cavalry gave to us the first intimation of the whereabouts of the enemy. The skirmishers, and the right wing (DeMorse's Reg.) of the brigade opened upon these, causing them to retreat rapidly, sending several horses off without riders. Moving in a direct line northward, we quickly crossed the field, some two hundred yards in width, passing into a thick bottom, through which ran a branch of clear water. Immediately after crossing the branch, the skirmishers again opened, closed in upon the brigade, and we found ourselves confronting the enemy, not more than a hundred yards distant, and almost upon their extreme flank.

Raising the well known Texas yell, we dashed at them, and met with a warm reception.—The whole force of the enemy outnumbered us by four to one, aided by four pieces of artillery was brought to bear against us. The enemy had burnt the woods in their front and the thick smoke between us, prevented us from getting a fair view, but the command to "shoot low" was well obeyed, and afterwards showed with what deadly effect. Their artillery rained showers of canister shot but luckily most all passed too high. Under the terrible fire which was poured into them, the left and centre of the brigade were compelled to retire to the branch, immediately in our rear, whilst the right which had the advantage of an excellent position with few exceptions maintained its own. Soon as the left gave way, Capt. Khrumbaar commanding a battery

of light artillery, who had taken position in the open field, in our rear, opened his pieces with such concise range that the shells bursted amid the ranks of the enemy, producing an effect immediately discernible to all. With the opening of the battery, the Choctaws came gallantly into line on our left, and Green's Missouri brigade upon our right. A victorious shout ascended from the right, the left, and center to a man, rallied to their former position, opened one more fire, and the enemy beat a retreat, with the three brigades hotly in pursuit. This engagement lasted some 45 minutes, and during this time, the musketry was exceedingly heavy, and upon our part effective. The enemy made no stand of any importance afterwards.

To the troops of the Indian District, it was a proud day. We were fighting with the same enemy with whom we had contended last year in a series of unsuccessful engagements, with numbers always against us, and with arms that were almost useless. This time we were better armed more equally matched, and I am glad to say done their whole duty, fighting through the whole engagement, with a valor unsurpassed by any troops, and gave to the enemy such a severe whipping at the start, that he never recovered from it during the day.

Individual acts of heroism by men in the ranks of the Texas brigade were numerous—Our Choctaw allies stood nobly by us to a man and burning with wrongs, and insults heaped upon their defenceless women, and children, by the enemy in his invasion of their country last fall, wreaked tenfold their vengeance.

General Maxey fully sustained his reputation as a prudent General, and successful fighter, both by his gallantry upon the field, and his ingenuity in attacking, gaining the entire confidence of all engaged, and the confidence of the Indians to a greater extent than any man who has heretofore commanded them. We are proud of him, and henceforth I bespeak for the troops of the Indian District, constant success instead of defeat. I have spoken of the movement of none of the troops in detail except the Texas and Choctaw brigades because I am not sufficiently acquainted with their movements. All however did their whole duty.

The fight from first to last was of some four hours duration, and the result, the capture of the entire train, numbering some 210 wagons, 1200 mules, and the capture of 153 prisoners. The force of the enemy was evenly divided between negroes, and white men. The prisoners consist of white men entirely, with some half dozen exceptions. The enemy's loss were some where near 400 negroes, and 25 white men killed, and 75 white men wounded. The loss on our side trifling.

I know of no engagement, during the war, terminating with such happy result to our arms, and with so small a loss on our part.

Yours truly,

Private.

STANDARD [CLARKSVILLE, TX], April 30, 1864, p. 1, c. 2-3