

D I A R Y

of

PETER W. HAIRSTON

Dated November and December 1863

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The original document is a fragment and parts of it are illegible. It is located in the Southern Historical Collection in the Library of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

.... glasses I had on to look and I was in the act of handing them to him when my horse was killed by a shell passing through him, having entered his right flank and coming out at his tail, cutting it off entirely. It passed through my saddle blanket and coat tail and did not injure me. I cannot be too thankful for my almost miraculous escape. Gen'l Lee said, "I congratulate you, sir, upon your fortunate escape, but regret to hear of the loss of your horse." Gen'l Pogram said it was the only instance in the War of a cannon shot having gone through a man clothes without having killed him. The shot was evidently aimed at the party and showed great accuracy in shooting. I took my saddle and bridle off my dead horse and told Gen'l Early I would go back and get another horse. Gen'l Lee was by his side. The enemy, just at that time, had slackened his fire, and he remarked he thought it was only a reconnaissance in force and he did not think they would do anything more than evening. It was so late, I left and went to the rear camp two miles beyond Brandy Station. Upon returning, I found Gen'l Hays by the river side who told me the enemy had stormed the works and captured nearly all his and Hoke's Brigades four pieces of artillery. He said he never saw men behave better than his did in his life. They covered the ground literally from one hundred and fifty yards up to the entrenchments with the Yankee dead, and in some places piled them one upon another. He thinks he killed over one thousand of them dead upon the field. The first line which came said I surrender and threw down their arms and came inside the entrenchments, but on came the other columns, firing but little and steadily, advancing and their ranks there thinned by our men. They closed them up again and came on until they finally reached the entrenchments..... But their force was so large they completely overpowered us and took them prisoners. Gen'l Hays says he had no idea of making his escape, but he had his sword drawn and could not sheathe it; his horse continued to plunge so much and the enemy were constantly firing; so he gave his horse the reins and he plunged across the bridge and through a storm of bullets fired at him. He fortunately escaped uninjured. Col. Peck followed him. Col. Barringer (?) swam the river. Numbers of our men were killed in attempting to swim the river. Some escaped over the bridge, but that was commanded by the enemy's fire and thus rendered very hazardous. This rendered us unable to send any reinforcements to our men to retire. Our artillery was all too far in the rear to render us any assistance or even to get up in time. Col. Godwin of Hoke's Brigade acted with distinguished gallantry. The last heard of him someone cried out "Col. Godwin says surrender." He told them it was a D---D lie and if he repeated it he would kill him yet before the Yankees get you." Lieut. Col. ~~S~~ Ham Jones, Jr. also acted very gallantly when the enemy had captured Hayes Brigade and Godwin was forming his line to meet them. Ham Jones snatched his colors from the color sergeant and went himself forward and planted it and asked how many of his men would form upon it. After in this manner getting as many as he could he gave it to the color sergeant and walked up and down the lines exposing

himself very much. The last heard of him he came to the river and plunged in to come across but the water was so cold he could not stand it and gave up. When Gen'l Early was sending Hoke's Brigade across General Lee remarked he was sending too many men across but as they had begun to go over, he might let them go. If our artillery had been up in time the position might have been held. Gen'l Early wanted a piece sent into the pits before the ford. Gen'l Lee consented and requested me to present his compliments to the Captain and ask him to carry it there. Then the enemies' sharp shooters commencing he said it was too late, they would pick off the horses and had the order countermanded. The enemy had their batteries on the range of the hills to the left and finally carried one round to the right.

November 8. I was up all night last night not sleeping a wink. About three o'clock in the morning we withdrew our forces from the battery on this side of the river and retired our forces to two miles this side of Brandy Station, where we formed a line of battle and waited until night for the enemy to advance. We then withdrew and marched until twelve o'clock at night, leaving Culpeper County in the night. There was a Cavalry skirmish with Lane's Brigade and that of the enemy. We encamped for the balance of the night on the North side of the Rappidan near Summerville's Ford. We were all very sleepy and tired. Major Hale, inspector of this division sat down by the roadside, went to sleep and waked up found his horse gone and the division left. He did not find his horse until the next morning.

Nov. 9. We crossed Summerville Ford this morning and took up our Headquarters upon Mr. Stearn's farm, not far from (?) Capt. Halsey's where we had them before. Capt. Halsey gave us a good breakfast which was refreshing after our business of the night before and the fatigues we had undergone. It is just one month since we left here and have gone through a great deal, but the results have not been decidedly advantageous to us.

I met with Major (?) Fairfax whom I have not seen before since the army left the country around Manassas, the first time and fell back to Gordonsville. The enemy is reported to be massing troops around Brandy Station. Gen'l Early seems very much distressed at the loss of his brigades and frequently wishes some others had been on pickett. He has been unwell for a day or two.

Our losses in killed, wounded and missing amount to about 1500, mostly taken prisoners. I suppose we had some 150 killed.

Gen'l Hayes has been put in command of the remnant of his own and Hoke's Brigade.

We had our first snow of the season today.

Nov. 10. Gen'l Early had his Hd Qutr at house belonging to Stevens of Richmond. The celebrated distiller there. Gen'l Swell has his at the former residence of Hon. Dan Morton, which has been in the family for nearly a century, called Morton Mill. We rode across the river at Summerville Ford and found some -----, which had formerly served as shelters to the Yankee pickets. We then rode to where Gen'l Pogram's pickets were. Gen'l Early had put the remnant of Gen'l Hoke's Brigade under Gen'l Hayes temporarily but Col. Adams ----- . He went to Gen'l Swell's headquarters. He was not in but came in after a while. Then some difficulty about an order which was given to the Quartermaster to march off the trains from Brandy Station. Gen'l Early gave Maj. Snodgrass an order not to move until he came up as he would be there before daylight. Capt. Carver preferred charges against Gen'l Early for not permitting him to move the trains as he had been ordered. Gen'l Swell sent down word asking an explanation of Gen'l Early. Col. Pendleton said the order to move the trains came directly from Gen'l Lee and moreover the matter had been once before decided against Gen'l Early by Gen'l Jackson about the right to move his trains without his order.

Dr. Haywood came in, he was a member of the Legislature- "Well Dr." said Gen'l Early "I see the Legislature has passed an act to sell the Cooper Springs and one to whip gamblers." The Dr. replied he could not get the man up his way to pass the militia bill. Some were for confining the men to the counties and some for confining them to the congressional districts and all were afraid of giving the power to the governor to call them out and there the whole thing fell through. He was criticizing the course of James Barbour in trying to be elected Senator.

Nov. 11. A very cold night. Gen'l Gordon says there is a report some skirmishing is going on at Raccoon Ford. Gen'l Chilton, A. A. G. to Gen'l Lee rode by and dined with us. Speaking of Gen'l Lee having lost everything by the war. He said a great many others were in the same condition. He himself had lost everything. He had a house and a lot in New Orleans for which he was offered \$5,000.00. He telegraphed to his agent to close the trade. Before the telegram reached there Ft. Jackson had fallen and he lost it. Thinks that Brigadier General Laws was owing him \$14,000, which he never expected to get. Speaking of the position at Rappahannock Bridge said he never liked it. "You Gen'l Early thought it a strong one- those works were yours". "No, sir, I objected to the engineering and pointed out where I thought it was bad." Gen'l Chilton does not think the enemy will cross up here but will go down somewhere below. Gen'l Early while arranging the ^{logs} to a table said "John, I have a great mind to curse. Do you think it would do any good?" "No, sir, said John, I do not curse myself and do not like to hear anyone else do so."

The enemy have established a line of pickets along the Rapidan.

*John Golsby was a slave, the coachman at Codrington, who was
Mantelton is a body servant to the two -
Pub.*

12. Rode out to look for a horse. Went to the Ford of the Rapidan River at Rapidan Station to see Mr. Holiday Miller whom I had heard had one for sale but he had disposed of him the day before.

Col. Pack (Peck?) came to Hdqs. just after I returned. He seemed to be very sore under the articles in the Richmond Inquirer and wanted to know if he wrote a very insulting letter to the editor would he challenge him. Gen'l Hays came in afterwards and Gen'l Early read this report in which he freed from all blame the officers and men on the other side of the river.

Gen'l Hays the day after the fight when we were drawn up in line of battle near Culpepper, Gen'l Lee rode up to him and said, "Gen'l this is a sad affair. How do you feel today". "I feel, sir, as well as a man can feel who has lost so many men." "That is all over now and can not be helped the only thing is to try to get even with them today." Gen'l Hays also says he met one of Gen'l Lee's staff officers today who stated the matter had been discussed at Gen'l Lee's Head Quarters and Gen'l Lee said no blame was to be attached to the officers or men who were in the fight and rather intimated whatever blame there was must attach to himself. Col Tate wanted Col. Godwin to try to cut his way out. Col. Godwin refused to do that. Said he would stay there until he was ordered to retire; but he would try to retake the position and hold it until he was ordered back.

Charlie Stewart- Gen'l Hays's cousin, was on-----horse back when he was struck on the back and ordered to dismount. He did so. The Yankee finding his horse had been shot left him. He remounted him and made his escape, across the bridge. Capt. Adams, Gen'l Hoke's adjutant, swam the river almost naked. The impression in the army seems to be that Gen'l Lee is responsible as he was there and saw what was going on. Gen'l Hays, who was on a Court Martial when he heard of the affair and hastened down as fast as he could, says at no time after he arrived there could the command have been brought off in safety as the enemy's fire raked the bridge. Three horses were tied to one stake. A shell bursted beside one of them and killed all three. The Gen'l says he thought what a predicament his family would be in if he were taken prisoner and concluded if he were captured to make his escape that night. The enemy captured three of our men today belonging to Capt. Covington's battery. They had gone across the river with bags to get corn.

13. Went over to Captain McKealey's Quarters to get a horse from him until I could supply myself with one. He was complaining very much of Major Snodgrass, said he had done him a great many favors, yet when he fell back from Culpepper Captain McKealey's wagons ran out of forage; by order of Colonel Godwin the baggage of the officers of the brigade had to be left for want of transportation, he begged for Major Snodgrass to have it brought off in his wagon and he would not do it. Let his wagoners pick it up and brought it off for themselves. We dined with the Captain and Captain Murchison had a fine dinner for these war times in the army. Turkey, eggs, coffee, cabbage. Col. Peck called in today on business, He spoke of an officer of the enemy who was

very conspicuous in the affair of the Rappahannock, who made himself very conspicuous in riding up and down the lines upon a white horse all over the field. He with three others rode directly up to our lines at the breast-works. Our men took deliberate (sic) aim at them and all three tumbled from their horses at the report of the guns. Dr. Morrison returned from a professional visit to Gen'l Ewell just received a note from Gen'l Lee in which Gen'l Lee advised him he was unwell and he said Gen'l Ewell could not perform duty he had better retire to the rear and turn over the corps to General Early. Dr. Morrison wanted to write a certificate for Gen'l Ewell that he would be fit for duty in ten days and Gen'l Ewell insisted upon his inserting a few days although the doctor told him it was proper to have it for some definite number of days. Major Pitzer returned to the very day his furlough was out, although he left a sick child at home. He never in his life was so torn between two duties, that of returning to his duties here and the other remaining with his sick child. When Gen'l Early left him he exclaimed "Well Major Pitzer, you have played Hell." "How so, Gen'l". "Why you went away and let us get into a difficulty". "I do not suppose I could have avoided had I been here". "You might have given us information."

14. Gen'l Early said Gen'l Lee in speaking of the fight at Rappahannock Bridge said he was very much surprised. He thought our men would have repulsed the enemy. Gen'l Early received a letter from his sister in Lynchburg. She had heard from her sister in the Kanawha. All of his father's negroes had left. His sister married a Yankee named West, who professed warm Southern sympathies but still, like all Yankees, could not be trusted and went with the North. They kept watching over his sister on account of her Southern sympathies. She had some little boys who would holler for Jefferson Davis. He had another brother-in-law, a Northern man, who belonged to the Methodist Church from Petersburg, who was very warm in the Southern cause and left the organization of the North Church and joined the Southern congregation in West Virginia. His brother in Missouri had gotten to the Southern part of the State with his negroes. Gen'l Pogram says a citizen reports that Meade with his army is between the two rivers, Rapidan and Rappahannock, with his army in the direction of Madison County. Meade was anxious to get possession of Culpepper before the winter sets in on account of the wood. Major Pitzer called to see Gen'l Lee and the Gen'l told him he did not know where the enemy was. He always felt safe when he knew where they were. Major Sam, Mr. Tinsley, who had just returned from Fort McHenry, he said he had been in a good many places he liked. There was a good deal of Southern sympathy in Baltimore if it were allowed to show itself. Mr. Tinsley was chaplain to a Virginia regiment and upon the battle field of Gettysburg to take care of our wounded. He had just been exchanged.

15. This morning the enemy were reported advancing and although it was raining hard when we breakfasted, we heard the report of their guns. Before we had finished, Gen'l Early received information from Gen'l Lee that Gen'l Ewell had been relieved from the command of the corps and he put in command.

Our horses were immediately saddled and we pushed off to the scene of action. It proved however to have been merely some cavalry trying this field. Gen'l Lee said Gen'l Ewell was doing no good for himself or the country.

I had another narrow escape today. Gen'l Early having requested me to carry an order to Lt. Mattox, commanding a battery, I rode up to him and was fired upon by the enemy sharpshooters posted in some houses, but none hit me. In the ensuing we took up our headquarters at Mr. Morton's (?), I met there Mr. Lacy who had formerly been chaplain for Gen'l Jackson, whom I had met before. He told me of his recent visit to Salisbury and a characteristic anecdote of Mrs. Shober, with some about Mrs. Robertson, Miss Watts that was, she married Judge Robertson with seven children. He told her he could do better for her than that as he had formed an orphan asylum with fifteen in it and told her she could take charge of it. Gen'l Early said he had sent her word that if she could await until the war was over she might have a chance at a Major General.

16. Gen'l Ewell left with his family this morning. The Gen'l thought there had been a conspiracy to get rid of him. Mrs. Ewell when she left said she knew everyone here was glad to get rid of her and no one had politeness enough to say no. Gen'l Early says Gen'l Ewell is a misplaced commander if he had a blooming young wife. Rode around with Gen'l Early to pick out a line of battle. His division and some of his brigade commanders were with him. The line runs down the river below Morton's Ford, and crosses mountain round and Walnut Run to the right of it. Gen'l Lee is said to be in fine spirits. The high price of everything is becoming alarming. It is certainly the duty of production to sustain the government.

17. We rode around the lines again with General Early. Gen'l Johnston gave us an account of Gen'l Disher, who was killed at the battle of Chickamauga. He said he was one of the most contented men and high soldiers he had ever seen. He never saw him out of humor in his life. At the commencement of the war he was General Johnson's adjutant general when everything was new and everybody green about their duties. He has told twenty men the same thing over day after day and never get out of humor about their not remembering it. On one occasion he had his headquarters in a room which was shot all to pieces with shell and the windows blown out. Someone asked him why he did not cover them. "Oh, I am quite comfortable here". At the fight at Alleghany he was shot through. Gen'l Johnson saw him lying under a tree and asked him if he did not wish to be moved and have his wound dressed. "Oh, no, he said "I am quite comfortable here. Do not attend to me until the fight is over." And there he continued to lie without having his wounds dressed for eight hours, Capt. Fitzhugh of the Engineer Corps says he was taken prisoner with him at Arkansas Port and as he went up the river they were uncomfortable as it was possible for them to be. He took his blanket and went about leaving the most comfortable part of the boat. When he was in prison some man of the same name called to see him and asked if he could not be of

service to him. "Oh, no, he said, "I am quite comfortable." At the same time Capt. Fitzhugh said he had one shirt in the world and that not new. He did his own washing and would take it off and wash it himself occasionally.

Colonel Pendleton, Gen'l Ewell's Chief of Staff, asked permission last evening for 24 hours leave of absence as he had heard some very distressing news. Capt. Turner, one of the aides, says at the dining today, given by Major Ballard, there were bets made the distressing news was he had been discarded by his sweetheart, Miss Corbin. She is the daughter of a gentleman who has been quite wealthy, traveled in Europe and imported his furniture from France and kept race horses and had lost most of his fortune. His daughter is represented as being quite a flirt. Gen'l Early says the first time he was discarded it went very hard with him. He thought the world was coming to an end. The last time he did not mind. He left the room laughing and went to the fare bank and won \$200.00. He said not to worry until the war was over. He thought that was infringing upon his patent, giving that advice. He thought the camp no place for a woman. He thinks Gen'l Ewell caught a tartar in getting married- he did not mean the word in the ordinary acceptance of the word but thought Mrs. Ewell ruled the Gen'l. Mr. Lacy thought the Gen'l was eccentric and took things by fits and starts. He told an anecdote of a Methodist preacher, Mr. Rodgers, who was preaching a funeral sermon, and just as he was in one of his highest flights someone let the bucket down in the well, which he mistook for cheering him and stopped in the midst of his discourse and told his audience to remember it was a funeral occasion and not a political one, and whatever good things he might say he begged them not to cheer him. Whereupon someone informed him he was only letting the bucket down in the well.

A chaplain wished to resign on account of domestic affliction. Gen'l Early would not grant the permission on that account but approved it upon the grounds that when he wished to resign his heart was so little in the cause he would no longer be useful. McGill, chaplain of one of the regiments, was taken prisoner. He was carried before Gen'l Shoaf. Told him Gen'l Hill was killed, Gen'l Lee's army was routed and had taken to the mountains, was about crushed out. What information had he on the subject? My information, sir, is pretty much the same as yours and in addition I hear Gen'l Ewell is bleeding to death from a wound in his wooden leg. He said he did not fare so well for his witticism.

18. During the night Gen'l Hayes reported he heard artillery move down the river that night. Early this morning Gen'l Loug came down to see Gen'l Early about posting some artillery in front to have it in readiness should it be needed. The only difficulty was with the distance forage had to be hauled but this was neither here nor there if they were needed in the front. He was only getting two pounds of corn per day for his animals and had to send clear back to get it. The artillery reported moving down the river proved to be only some of the ~~easy~~ foraging wagons. Gen'l Ewell rode up to the

court of inquiry to give in his testimony in the case of Col. Skinner. Major Pfitzer's little daughter, about ten years old, knit two pairs of socks and sent them to General Lee. He wrote her back thanking her for them and hoping she would continue to make herself useful by knitting for the soldiers. Col. Pendleton returned this morning and reports he met at twelve o'clock last night a portion of Hampton's command, Gordon's Brigade, going down the river to surprise a Yankee camp of cavalry. Mr. Lacy described an interview with General Jackson after he was wounded. He says General Jackson never expressed a wish that General Ewell might have command of his corps. When General Jackson fell from the litter or as he was borne from the field of battle. He felt so faint and weak he thought he would die and referred afterwards to the satisfaction it afforded him of his feeling of resignation at the time Mr. Lacy reported from time to time his condition to Gen'l Lee. The General told Mr. Lacy he did not think Gen'l Jackson would die, he couldn't believe God would take him away from his country. The Sunday he died, the physicians told Mr. Lacy they did not think he would die that day, so he rode off to his old headquarters at Hamilton Crossings, some seven miles distant, and preached to a large congregation of officers and men. After the services over, General Lee sent for him and told him to tell Gen'l Jackson when he was able to hear the message he prayed for him last night as he had never prayed for his soul. His eyes were filled with tears and his voice choked with emotion. His head was turned away. When he returned, however, Gen'l Jackson was dead, having died at three o'clock that day. Ever since then, Gen'l Lee has not only treated him with kindness but tenderness in his manner and seemed to associate him with the last moments of Jackson. Mr. Lacy addressed several large audiences in North Carolina on the subject and in Salisbury. When he described the touching scene Gen'l Jackson was disposed to talk before the pneumonia attacked him but his physician Dr. McGuire restrained him. Mr. Lacy regrets he had not talked more with him as he could have done without injury to his wounds.

Rode up to Clark's Mountain with Gen'l Early. We met Gen'l Lee there, who said it was a satisfaction to know the enemy were still in Brandy Station. They had not left. He always felt safer when he knew where they were. Some of the Cavalrymen had reported a train of cars having run to Culpepper. His scouts, however, brought him information they had not crossed the Rappahannock. The cavalry had very good eyes but they saw a little too far that time. He told the Signal men they must have better weather upon the mountain, it was so foggy he would not see well when they had reported to him the weather was good. His adjutant, Major Taylor, was with him, who is remarkably handsome and is as pleasant as he is handsome.

Col. Pendleton returned today in very good humor. Speaking of Gen. Jackson said he was remarkably sensitive to cold and generally had a great many bed clothes yet always complained about being cold. When he bathed it was in a warm room and with warm water. The Gen'l told several anecdotes of Count Wallich, a foreigner, who came to this country during the administration of

of Washington and offered his services to the government. During Mr. Jefferson's Administration he was dropped. He said Mr. Jefferson did not like him because he was a friend of Gen'l Washington, he was a federal. During the war with Mexico he requested Gen'l Scott to give him a command of the advanced guard.. He was then over 60 years of age. He told Gen'l Scott he would not say he would never be defeated but he should never be surprised. He said it would do very well to have an army in a Republic but it would not do to have a republic in the army.

19. Had a long ride with Gen'l Early examining the topography of the country. We rode across Mountain Run and Walnut Run to MineRun, passing Bartlett Mill, Mrs. Bastaille to Zoah Church. Here met with Gen'l Lee and his party, consisting of Major Marshall, Gen'l Chilton and his son, Brigadier Custis Lee, who is very modest and quiet. He told me his brother H. F. Lee had never been held in very close confinement, owing, he thought, to General Foster. When his father was in Baltimore, General Foster was his aide and knew his brother when he was quite young and had fondled him upon his knee and he supposed formed some kind of feeling for the family. He had been as well treated as any of our men who had fallen into their hands. He had recovered from his wounds and rheumatism. General Lee told an old Mr. Rodes he saw he had some ? left. Yes, sir, I had had worked keeping them. Remember, sir, then on hard times. We came back by Verdiersville. Custis Lee has great confidence in our final success. Gen'l Chilton, Major Marshall and himself all concurred in the opinion that indisposition of the farmers to sell their grain ~~was~~ owing in a great measure to the manner in which the quarter masters and commissaries had used their authority to impress grain, going up to a man's house, who was perfectly willing to let them have it and demanding it in such a manner as to offend him.

We were very much amused at an old man, with a crutch, telling us he supposed we were looking for heights and pointing out a ridge to us he thought would make a good line- "But, says the gentleman, I am no military man." The old man would beg us not to fight there, saying it would kill them, as if they thought we could select the ground to fight upon. We met Capt. Henry's Company of cavalry on its way to Strafford. Gen'l Lee wished to know of the men who were straggling along the road how far it extended. Heard that Gordon's brigade captured on yesterday, about forty prisoners and the wagons belonging to a regiment.

The last Gen'l Early saw Gen'l Wallach he had been to Washington to see about his claim against the government and came back very much disheartened. He said Gen'l Dix, whose father he had known and been his friend and Dix himself whom he had dandled upon his knee, who he thought was his friend, had turned a shoulder upon him and he would not trouble the gov't any more with his claims.

General Mays gave a dinner and invited us to it but we returned too late from our ride to partake. Major Pfitzer and Lt. Calloway attended. Major Marshall said Gen'l Mahone gave the arms of his men his personal attention and he was the only Brigadier in the service who did and the consequence was all his men had bayonets and their arms were in good order. He thinks in the fight at Rappahannock bridge our men were crushed by the first line of the enemy surrendering themselves and permitted the others to get in before they were aware of it. He thought the firing very desultory.

At Zoar Church Gen'l Early and Lee had quite a conference to themselves.

20. Spent the day in headquarters. Gen'l Johnson came in to complain that this ordinance had gotten permission to go to Richmond as he said upon very urgent business and while there had gotten a transfer to some other place. Gen'l Early told him of several instances when it had occurred at his expense but thought he would do well on this instance to get rid of the officer as he was very disagreeable. Mr. Lacy said he had met with Dr. Mays since his return from England and the doctor told him the aristocracy of the higher classes and some of the commercial classes affected by particular interest were favorable to the South but the majority were against us though there was strong feeling against slavery. In France the feeling of the people was still more hostile but the Government there was more favorable than the English government. When the Bible Society presented him with some Bibles through the influence of some Quakers upon the board ~~the~~ annexed the condition that he should give them to the slaves as well as the whites. He refused to receive them on this condition and stating that the nature of all gifts should be free and untrammelled by conditions and that all of the blacks who could read had Bibles and when they did not have them they had their masters to read and explain to them. They then rescinded the resolution and let him have them without conditions. Read a good piece in the newspaper about officers bringing their wives in camp and stating they ought to be at home spinning and weaving and it would be an injurious effect upon the private soldiers. Gen'l Early had so often expressed these views, the piece was attributed to him but he did not write it.

Dr. McGuire returned from Charlottesville where he had been to accompany Gen'l Swell. He stated that Gen'l Swell was better and he expected to return next week. He sent word to Gen'l Early not to speak his staff by letting them have too much baggage. The weather is very mild and pleasant.

21. A rainy day. We remained indoors. President Davis came up and Gen'l Lee advised Gen'l Early he would review the corps the first fair day. Mr. Lacy spent some time with us and gave us some interesting sketches of the characters which Roanoke County had produced. Among them he placed old Mr. Burrell, a gentleman of the Old Virginia Style, who was remarkable for his truthfulness and honesty. These, however, he considered his chief virtues. He wore a white linen suit all summer and never pulls it off until he cuts

his tobacco. Major Pfitzer has been to say it is very cold. Why he had not put on some warmer clothes. "I can stand as much as my tobacco plants", he would reply. He tells Maj. Pfitzer he knows he would do certain things for him if he can but he won't let anybody else do it. Major Pfitzer tells him on his part he would do a certain thing for him if he would make it to his interest and not without. His daughter married against his wishes and he will not have anything to do with them. One of them married Mr. Logan. She taught a little school and walked through her grandfather's plantation several miles every day in order that she might buy a piano. The old man knew it but would not assist her. He was in the habit of going to the springs every summer and returning there on the same day of the month and same hour of the day for a number of years. He thought it unbecoming of a gentleman to ride in a carriage so he always went on horseback and had his servant behind him 30 steps with a long portmanteau of English manufacture which just came up to the shoulders of the servant.

Another remarkable man, famous for his practical jokes, a Mr. Lewis, uncle to Major Pfitzer. He would run a man on horseback for miles around the country, whipping his horse at the most furious rate. He was a great friend to a Mr. Langhorne and they had a farm high on the Cash Mountain. He was a he told Mr. Langhorne he could tie him. After exhausting Mr. L's strength he finally succeeded in tying him. He then got him some switches, pulled down his clothes and started switching him. Mr. L. at first was furious and told him he would certainly kill him if he ever got loose. Mr. Lewis merely remarked he had not enough yet and talked to him like he would a negro he was correcting. Finally Mr. Langhorne was impressed with the extreme ludicrousness of this and burst out into an uncontrollable fit of laughter. Whereupon Mr. Lewis said now he was a good boy and would turn him loose.

On another occasion they were coming down the mountain where the road was very steep. Mr. Langhorne was riding mare. Mr. Lewis jumped up and put spurs to the mare and put his fingers in Langhorne's mouth and thus held on while the animal dashed down the mountain at a furious rate but fortunately guided by Mr. Langhorne as best he could, she did not fall. When he could, upon hard ground, he took out his knife and cut Mr. Lewis' fingers before he could make him let go his hold. They lived and died friends.

Read Napoleon's Ideas by Louis Napoleon. It is a book of great thought and profound meditation and gave me a very exhalted idea of the author as a writer.

General Farly busy mending his spurs and trunk lock, he is quite a mechanical genius. Gen'l Smith, Chief of Engineers, called in. He says he was

not responsible for the works at Rappahannock Bridge. Gen'l Lee did not so consider him. He was going to put up entirely different works when Gen'l Lee gave instructions these could be put up and he said nothing more. He thought Gen'l Lee had no idea the enemy would attack him there. The Major Generals pitched into the Engineers and the Engineers into the Major Generals. He did not like the line selected below as it butted up square against creeks and rivers and thus enable the enemy to get as good position as we had. He was at West Point with Col. Peter Hairston and was stationed at the North 4 years after he graduated. He speaks with pleasure of a visit which he had paid to Henry County.

. A few of our men were killed and we fully expected

22. Sunday. A bright clear day. In the morning Major McDaniel and Br. Morrison came by to see us. Gen'l Hays also rode with Gen'l Early to look for a place to have the review which is ordered to come off tomorrow morning. We rode down by Gen'l Rodes Hdqts. Here we heard a report that Gen'l Pendleton was to take command of the 2nd Corps. That President Davis had wished to give him the command of D. H. Hill's corps in the West but there was so much opposition to it he could not do it. He then promised him the first vacancy which might occur in the army. Gen'l Rodes asked Gen'l Early if he would serve under him in the army to which he replied "Yes but said he must not surrender us." He then rode down by the river by the widow Jones' house and came back into the Fredericksburg road reconnoitering. We came by Gen's Johnsons Hdqts. to give him some directions about picketing. Gen'l Early tells an anecdote of a preacher who was a captain & in the fight at Blackburn's Ford. Gen'l Longstreet saw him going to the rear and asked him what was the matter. "Oh, he said, I am nothing but a poor preacher." "You are nothing but a poor D--d Coward" said Longstreet. McKae hearing of the circumstances remarked upon this inconsistency of the man saying he "had been trying to get to heaven for 15 years and then the door was open to him for 15 minutes and he would not go in." After getting back home I felt very much fatigued. Gen'l Early, however, sat up until one o'clock writing.

The examiner remarks Mr. Davis and Mr. DeLeon have gotten up a mutual admiration society.

23. I rode down to widow Jones and purchased two turkeys at \$12.00 each and ducks at \$4.00 a piece. Beauford came by this house with his cavalry and stole all her horses worth anything. None of her negroes have left her yet.

Gen'l Hoke returned from North Carolina. He reports everything making progress in the State and thinks the presence of troops in it have a fine effect. He thinks Governor Vance all right and true to the South but has no confi-

ence in Mr. Pearson and thinks Holden is a reconstructionist. He sent back through them conscripts and was the cause of many more returning voluntarily. He was in Salisbury when he heard of the fate of his brigade. He said he has put several companies in operation to have it engaged again and could soon fill it up if he had it in the State. He says there were good men whom he lost. He stated that D. H. Hill considered himself as dropped by the President. He had no command himself and all his staff had been ordered out west. Gen'l Early had been busy all day making preparation for his review tomorrow having the ground cleared off and everything in order. Mr. Lacy has a horse which belonged to General Jackson and which he lent him while he was alive. His family have also let him retain him while he remains in the army. He is a large sorrel and paces fine but was broken down by Gen'l Jackson. He rode him in the battle of Cold Harbor and several other of his most important fights. Everything which belonged to him is covered with interest. Gen'l Early had a handkerchief with his crown on it for which he said the ladies would have given him a finely embroidered one, although it was quite a common one. A deserter from North Carolina named Dunn went home and his wife refused to receive him or have anything to do with him. Gen'l Lee recommended him to be pardoned on account of the noble heroic and patriotic conduct of his wife. Hoke says Judge Pearson and the general principles which he professes seem to be right but when it came to the protracted and particular implication of them he was entirely wrong and seemed to want the law to screen men for services. Pearson said of them if there was anything wrong it was in the law, not in him. Hoke said deserters would surrender themselves to Pearson and he would in expert statement, without any appearance in the part of the event, set them at liberty under writ of habeas corpus. In one case a man pretended to be a shoemaker and Pearson had released him. He had to be retaken and told Pearson he must grant a new trial as they had been friends. Pearson told him he could not go behind the record. Hoke told him he had more and could carry him off unless he did. He granted a new trial and Hoke proved the man had not been a regular shoemaker and got his man. He thinks the sight of the soldiers had a good effect on Pearson. He was afraid. Mr. Lacy told us some anecdotes of Mr. Fitzer of Salem

24. A dark rainy day, the review postponed on account of the inclemency of the weather.

Hoke says he had some mob scenes in North Carolina. He caught a conscript dressed up in woman's clothes. He says Wilkes is now the truest and most loyal county in the State. He has cleared it of deserters and disloyal men. When he could not get hold of the men, he would take their property and tell them when they would return he would give it up to them. This had a fine effect upon them. They could do nothing with him for it as the men were disloyal. The disloyal proceedings were progressing when he went out there. Men were banding together and would go about getting provisions and driving off stock. They were extending even down into Davie County. But it was now

entirely stopped. He worked very hard and had sent off 3,000 deserters and conscripts and was the cause of a great many more coming back voluntarily. There is a good deal of work to do yet to clean the State and the keeping of some troops in it would have a fine effect. His men wanted to get at Holden but Vance wrote him a letter requesting him to restrain them and as he had come there by the request of Vance he thought it his duty to do so.

He says there is a party in North Carolina in favor of calling a convention. A member of this party came to his room, he had formerly been Quarter Master in Vance's Regiment who said that Vance had disappointed his party very much and that in six weeks a convention would be called in North Carolina and appealing to Cowles who was in the room and a member of the Legislature and said "You, sir, will vote for it? Cowles replied "Yes he would". They both had been drinking. He denounced the scheme in very severe terms and they discontinued their conversation.

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President returned to Richmond today to prepare for the meeting of Congress.

25. This is my birthday, completing my 44th year. A report came brought to General Lee by one of his scouts, by him sent to Gen'l Early last night that Gregg's division of cavalry had crossed the Rappahannock at Ellis Ford and was enquiring the way to Fagy's Ford on the Rappidan. Hampton's cavalry was sent to prevent them from doing any mischief. Nothing has been heard from them today. Capt. Harvey paid us a visit today. He was very much excited against the cavalry, saying they had become a pack of thieves. They had stolen from him the night before a horse, bridle and saddle for which he had just paid \$1,000.00. He was telling an anecdote on Stuart who went to dine with a friend and asked him if he could not have had a horse put in a safe place as the 6th Cavalry were camping nearby. He had lost two horses not long before and had found them in this cavalry. We had a dinner present: General Hoke and the members of his staff consisting of Col. Pendleton, Major Green, Capt. Smith and Turner, Dr. McGuire, Lieut. Calloway, Pfitzer, the General and myself. The dinner did not look much like starvation among the rebels as we had fine veal, mutton and turkey, etc.

Gen'l Lee thinks reports which he received from citizens of the movement of Gregg's Division and the change of the direction, they are making a movement in the direction of Raccoon Ford. Gen'l Hoke said D. H. Hill told him Gen'l Long had told President Davis he did not think Bragg competent to command the army. Longstreet was aware of the motion of the victory of Chicaumauga and wanted Bragg to send Wheeler into Chattanooga in pursuit of the enemy but Bragg put him to picking up stragglers and arms; D. H. Hill

thought Bragg deficient in personal courage but says Pendleton says President Davis will keep him in spite of the whole Confederacy. Gen'l Early does not concur with Gen'l Hill. He thinks Bragg a man of talents as well as courage. He stood up and fought his battery in Mexico well. Capt. Lerner said Gen'l Lee's sister married Judge Marshall of Baltimore who was a great Unionist as the Southerners were very foolish people but regretted very much Robert should be a rebel. Gen'l Doles, Officer for the Day for Gen'l Rodes, reports fighting in the direction of Stephensburg and receding and according to him thinks our cavalry have gone across the river and are driving the enemy.

26. Today the enemy has been making a demonstration on our front with some cavalry. . . a general attack but were disappointed after getting my horse shod. I went to look for Gen'l Early. I fell in with a young man who wanted to find Gen'l Rodes division. I told him I would show him where it was. As we were going along the enemy threw some shells near us when he said he had no particular business with General Rodes and left at a full gallop.

Our headquarters were in a wild desolate spot with a small cabin upon it which Gen'l Fwell said would do for the Rocky Mountains.

Dec. 1. The enemy still in line in our front and we expected an attack every moment, but the enemy were unusually quiet; Gen'l Johnson reports the enemy to have left his front. In the evening, Gen'l Lee removed his right wing so as to attack the enemy in their flank.

Dec. 2. This morning to our surprise we found the enemy had left, altho it had been reported that they were massing in front by one of Gen'l Hampton's scouts. An Alabama negro who had been in the employ of a Yankee Major was the first to give us notice, having left the enemy and come over to us. We immediately followed them to Germana Ford and picked up several hundred stragglers. Gen'l Lee said the rascals had come down here, burned the houses and property of these poor people and then escaped without his being able to inflict any injury upon them. He was rather mortified by the result. Gen'l Early, Stuart & Hampton all meet at Germana. It being doubtful whether the enemy were making their way down the river or back to Culpeper, he waited some time and sent out scouts to ascertain. It was finally ascertained that they had returned to Culpeper. The prisoners captured stated they had no rations in two days. Letters were found from some of Meade's officers stating they could not carry on works on Mine Run without massing their troops in large numbers upon some particular point, and this they could not do without being observed as our sharpshooters were too near them. They burned and sacked houses, barnyards & blacksmith shops, broke open smoke houses, carried off Mr. Horace Lacy's library and committed havoc generally. In the evening we returned to our quarters beyond Mine Run.

Dec. 3. We returned to our quarters at Gen. Morton's; the different divisions of the corps took up the same positions they had occupied previous to the late move. I found Gen'l Fitz Lee there with his cavalry. Gen'l Robert E. Lee, speaking of him says that little fellow Fitz Lee is very reliable. He does not fail me. He has great resources. Gen'l Ewell says he is more like his grandfather, Lighthorse Harry Lee than any of the family. Gen'l Robert E. Lee said if it had been Fitz Lee he sent after Stoneman instead of his son, Rooney, he would have caught him. His staff are all gay young men, full of life and spirits. He has 2500 men fit for duty in his command and says they cannot be excelled.

I met here also Gen'l Lomax and Wally Carter. Carter had just heard from Tierman at my house who was improving but still unfit for duty.

Gen'l Early proposed to Gen'l Ewell to take command of the corps again this morning. Gen'l Ewell declined doing so until he was put in command by Gen'l Lee. Col. Pendleton, Adj. Gen'l said a large party had been collected for him on the Fappahannock but he did not make his appearance. His lady had heard from him but not in time to countermand her invitation.

Judge Wilson of the Corps Court returned today. Speaking of Gen'l Early's father he said he told him he was a nullifier. Gen'l Early said it was a hard case, and that he and other original Union men were now out fighting the battles of the country, while many of the original secessionist were at home making money. His father had lost everything- one brother had been killed and another driven from his home in Missouri escaping to Arkansas with a few of his wagons. Judge Wilson told him when the Confederate authorities impressed some of Judge Daniel's wheat he had then asked if his wheat was to be taken at those prices he preferred being under Lincoln. These remarks Judge Daniel said he made under excitement. General Early regretted to hear of it very much as he always regarded Judge Daniel as being a very fine man and his standing would cause his example to have a bad effect as others would take cloak under his example. He had no necessity for being penurious as he was wealthy and their grandfather was wealthy. He said the South can never be subjugated if her people will only remain true.

Gen'l Ewell asked me if I ever wished myself dead. He said he sometimes thought it would save him a great deal of trouble. He wrote to Gen'l Lee today. When his carrier returned he asked him any reply.. He said no. Major Taylor was absent and Gen'l Lee said he would answer it in time. He wished to know what I would take to be in Ewagg's place.

Dec. 4. The army being quiet and all active operations having ceased for the present, I took leave of my companions in arms and set out for North Carolina.

The first day, I came near Gordonsville and not being able to get accommodations at a house, I built a fire by the roadside and camped out.

Dec. 5. I remained in Gordonsville until one o'clock when I took the cars and came to Richmond where I met Fanny, Sammy & Col. Brien, who had arrived in the morning train. Capt. Fraenor (?) who had been spending sometime in North Carolina for his health came also much improved. I met him. William Martin and his family from Henry Co. with Dr. Hairston's daughter after.

Dec. 6. Went to St. Paul's Church in Richmond and heard Bishop Johns preach. He is quite nervous and his hands trembled before he finished the services. He ordained a priest.

7. We spent in shopping and were amazed at the high prices. Calicoes at \$6 per yard, and everything else in proportion. The Markets well stocked with provisions of every kind but everything very dear. There were plenty of deer, wild turkey, partridges, fish, oysters and meats of every kind. Board at the Bullard House \$15 per day.

8. Sammy went up to the army with his Aunt Flora, Mr. and Mrs. Wynne called upon us. Got acquainted with Senator Hill & his daughter & Miss Sparrow (?), who was in company with them. Took a trip to Drury's Bluff with Dr. Magill, Miss Alice Magill and Mrs. Swann. The day was fair and the trip very pleasant as we were fortunate enough to fall in with Capt. Lee, who is in command at the Bluff, brother to Gen'l Lee tho' very different from Gen'l Lee in personal appearance. We formed the acquaintance of Capt. Chatford(?) who is uncle to Col. Brien by marriage and a very nice and pleasant gentleman. He took pleasure in showing us the objects of interest at the Bluff. Capt. Lee said the obstructions in the river was their principal reliance in preventing boats from ascending the river.

Dr. Boyd of Maryland called upon us. He has a family of 7 children. One in our service and the other in Maryland. He seems to grieve over their separating and he can only hear from them by letters through the flag of truce boat which is very unsatisfactory. He spent a summer in the mountains of North Carolina and says they are not fully appreciated by us. The waters of the Catawba white sulphur springs he considers superior to that of White Sulphur Springs in Greenbrier Co. Va. in its combination with iodine.

Dec. 9. Visited the Confederate Congress in session and heard a long speech from Senator Foot on the message of President Davis attacking him severely.

At night I attended the meeting of the Richmond & Danville Rail Road Company and had a resolution carried instructing the President and Directors not to throw any freight out of the Depots unless it was absolutely necessary. This

was done in opposition to the wishes of Lewis Harrod, the President of the Company. Maj'r Von Borck, the Prussian Officer, who came to this country to serve in our cause called upon us. He is very courtly in his manners. His father was page to the King of Prussia's sister and the Col. Von Borck mentioned in the life of Frederick the Great was his cousin.

10. We came over to Petersburg & spent the day with Mr. Robert Hamilton who married Miss Alexander. Col. Manning, Ordinance Officer to Gen'l Longstreet, dined with us and amused us very much by his accounts of Mrs. Davis quarrelling with Mrs. Joe Johnston & the ladies. He said her mother behind in Montgomery, Ala. and was on bad terms with her other daughter residing there. His expression was they quarrelled like cats and dogs.

Dec. 11. We left Petersburg this morning & travelled all day in the cars arriving at Raleigh at 12 o'clock at night.

12. We came to Lexington and stopped at Dr. Holt's, Mrs. Holt was kind enough to send us home in her carriage. We found Mr. Eoke in the cars and he came to Holtsburg (?) and met us at Coolesee. We met here Mrs. Julius Alexander, a lady of dignified manners, commanding appearance and most exalted character.

13. Adkison had services in the Chapel, and we met there many of the servants who were truly glad to see us. The pleasure of once more being at home with wife and children and friends & comforts after the dangers and hardships ^{tho'} which we have passed is truly delightful. Betty quite well & Frank & Agnes recovering from the whooping cough.

14. It rained last night and this morning the Yaddin River is quite full. Messrs Adkinson, Giles & Orrender went to Mocksville to have Waggoner indicted for trading with one of my negroes. Mr. Fry from Fulton called to see me in the evening, had music and a game of whist caused it to pass off very pleasantly.