

reach the front by to-morrow morning. The colonel tells me that he has just come back from a raid down the river on that side to within 20 miles of Natchez; that he has taken 100 prisoners, mainly of Harrison's cavalry, and brought back large numbers of mules and horses. General Grant intends to lose no time in pushing his army toward the Big Black Bridge and Jackson, threatening both and striking at either, as is most convenient. As soon as Sherman comes up and the rations on the way arrive, he will disregard his base and depend on the country for meat and even for bread. Beef-cattle and corn are both abundant everywhere.

The enemy is not suffering for want in the least; the prisoners captured are also well clothed and provided with blankets. Their arms and their stores are both good. General Grant is of the opinion that Pemberton will endeavor to bring on the decisive battle within the next ten days.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT, May 5, 1863.

C. A. DANA,

Smith's Plantation, or Grant's Headquarters, via Memphis :

General Grant has full and absolute authority to enforce his own commands, and to remove any person who, by ignorance, inaction, or any cause, interferes with or delays his operations. He has the full confidence of the Government, is expected to enforce his authority, and will be firmly and heartily supported; but he will be responsible for any failure to exert his powers. You may communicate this to him.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

HANKINSON'S FERRY, May 5, 1863—10 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., May 18—11 a. m.

Enemy had built a bridge of flat-boats across the Big Black at this point. Logan pressed upon them so hard in his pursuit that they were not able to destroy it. It is reported by our pickets that they have two brigades in our front on the other shore, and McPherson is going over this morning with a competent force to stir them up. But for the exceeding incompetency of General McClelland, and the delay thence arising, the movement from Bruinsburg in this direction must have resulted in the capture of 5,000 instead of about 700 rebels. A tug with barges ran the Vicksburg batteries on Sunday night, the 3d instant. The hay with which the loading of the barges was covered was set on fire, and the hard bread beneath was considerably damaged by water in putting it out, but yesterday 200 wagons loaded with rations arrived from Milliken's Bend at Perkins' plantation. As soon as these supplies reach here and Sherman's troops arrive, the general advance up this peninsula will be resumed. Sherman himself was at Grand Gulf yesterday, and two of his divisions will debark there to-day. The army here is distributed across the peninsula, guarding every point. General McClelland is on the right center; McPherson here on the left. A reconnaissance pushed as far as Rocky Springs and in the vicinity of the ferry on the Vicksburg road discovers no enemy. Please notice that in my dispatch

NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *June 18, 1863,*
VIA CAIRO, ILL., *June 23.*

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

Everything progresses well here. Johnston's forces are at Yazoo City, Benton, Brownsville, and Clinton. I am fortifying Haynes' Bluff to make my position certain, but believe I could go out with force enough to drive the rebels from between the two rivers. Deserters come out daily. All report rations short. We scarcely ever lose a man now. Health and condition of troops most excellent.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General, Commanding.

NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *June 19, 1863,*
VIA CAIRO, ILL., *June 23.*

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

I have found it necessary to relieve Major-General McClelland, particularly at this time, for his publication of a congratulatory address calculated to create dissension and ill-feeling in the army.* I should have relieved him long since for general unfitness for his position. Major-General Ord is appointed to his place, subject to the approval of the President.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General, Commanding.

NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *June 26, 1863.*

H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

Yesterday a mine was sprung under the enemy's most commanding fort, producing a crater sufficient to hold two regiments of infantry. Our men took immediate possession, and still hold it. The fight for it has been incessant, and thus far we have not been able to establish batteries in the breach. Expect to succeed. Joe Johnston has removed east of the Big Black. His movements are mysterious, and may be intended to cover a movement from his rear into East or West Tennessee, or upon Banks. I have General Sherman out near his front on the Big Black with a large force watching him. I will use every effort to learn any move Johnston may make, and send troops from here to counteract any change he may make, if I can.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *June 27, 1863.*

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

Joe Johnston has postponed his attack until he can receive 10,000 re-enforcements, now on their way from Bragg's army. They are expected early next week. I feel strong enough against this increase,

* See Dana to Stanton, June 19, p. 102; McClelland to Halleck and Stanton, June 27, pp. 165, 166.

ion is 9,000 strong, has advanced with it to Benton, this side the Big Black, but has had to fall back toward that river to find water for his troops; Walker is at Yazoo City, and W. H. Jackson's cavalry, strengthened by some re-enforcements, are between Yazoo City and Mechanicsburg. General Grant is ruminating the idea of an offensive movement suddenly and without impediments from Haynes' Bluff. Will threaten all the enemy's detachments in detail and take them separately, if possible.

Deserters from within the city yesterday vary somewhat in their reports concerning rations, but all agree that pea bread is no longer issued. On Herron's front yesterday the rebels kept up a fire of large artillery, and on McPherson's the fire of an 11-inch mortar was maintained during the day at intervals of thirty minutes. No damage was done by it. The siege works of Sherman and McPherson are slackened in order to give time for McClernand, Lauman, and Herron to bring theirs up. Ord takes command of Lauman's and Herron's divisions this afternoon. Herron has with him eight regiments only.

I send you to-day by special messenger the topographical map of the siege.

Richmond, La., was destroyed by Mower on the 15th, after a skirmish there with the forces who lately attacked us at Milliken's Bend. Mower had his own brigade and Ellet's Marine Brigade, with ten cannon. After a few shots the rebels fled, and Mower burned every building which had sheltered them, bringing the few women and children who had been left in the place back with him to Milliken's Bend. Col. Kilby Smith, of the Fifteenth Army Corps, who witnessed the late battle at Milliken's Bend, certified in an official statement that the rebels carried a black flag bearing a death's head and cross-bones.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

BEHIND VICKSBURG, MISS., *June 19, 1863—10 a. m.,*
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *June 22—9 a. m.*
(Received June 24—3.35 a. m.)

McClernand last night was relieved of his command and ordered to report to Washington for orders. As the matter may be of some importance, I telegraph the correspondence connected with it. The congratulatory address spoken of in General Grant's first letter is one that first reached here in the Missouri Democrat of June 11. In it he claims for himself most of the glory of the campaign; reaffirms that on May 22 he held two rebel forts for several hours, and imputes to other commanders a failure to aid him to keep them and take the city. The letters are as follows:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
In Camp near Vicksburg, Miss., June 17, 1863.

Major-General MCCLERNAND,
Commanding Thirteenth Army Corps:

GENERAL: Inclosed I send you what purports to be your congratulatory address to the Thirteenth Army Corps. I would respectfully ask if it is a true copy. If it is not a correct copy, furnish me one by bearer, as required both by regulations and existing orders of the Department.

Respectfully,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
June 18, 1863.

Major-General GRANT:

I have just returned. The newspaper slip is a correct copy of my congratulatory order No. 72. I am prepared to maintain its statements. I regret that my adjutant did not send you a copy promptly as he ought, and I thought he had.

JOHN A. MCCLERNAND,
Major-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS, } HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
No. 164. } *Near Vicksburg, Miss., June 18, 1863.*

IV. Major-General McClermand is hereby relieved from the command of the Thirteenth Army Corps. He will proceed to any point he may select in the State of Illinois, and report by letter to Headquarters of the Army for orders. Maj. Gen. E. O. C. Ord is hereby appointed to the command of the Thirteenth Army Corps, subject to the approval of the President, and will immediately assume charge of the same.

By order of Major-General Grant:

JNO. A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

BATTLE-FIELD NEAR VICKSBURG, June 18, 1863.

Major-General GRANT,
Commanding Department of the Tennessee:

Your order relieving me and assigning Major-General Ord to the command of the Thirteenth Army Corps is received. Having been appointed by the President to the command of the corps under a definite act of Congress, I might justly challenge your authority in the premises, but forbear to do so at present. I am quite willing that any statement of facts in my congratulatory order to the Thirteenth Army Corps to which you think just exception may be taken should be made the subject of investigation, not doubting the result.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN A. MCCLERNAND,
Major-General.

Though the congratulatory address in question is the occasion of McClermand's removal, it is not its cause, as McClermand intimates when he says incorrectly that General Grant has taken exceptions to this address. That cause, as I understand it, is his repeated disobedience of important orders, his general insubordinate disposition, and his palpable incompetence for the duties of the position. As I learned by private conversation, it was, in General Grant's judgment, also necessary that he should be removed, for the reason, above all, that his relations with other corps commanders rendered it impossible that the chief command of this army should devolve upon him, as it would have done were General Grant disabled, without most pernicious consequences to the cause.

Lauman's division, having for some days past been temporarily attached to the Thirteenth Corps, will remain under Ord's command. Herron will continue to report directly to department headquarters. Captain Comstock takes general charge of the siege works on the lines of both Lauman and Herron. The siege works here are steadily progressing on the right and center, rather in the way of enlargement of covered ways and strengthening of the lines than of direct advances. On the front of the Thirteenth Corps and the extreme left, our works constantly approach those of the enemy. On the right of our center, however, an important advantage was this morning gained by General Ransom, who during the night pushed his trenches so that at daylight his sharpshooters were able to take in reverse the whole right flank of the main rebel fort in his front, called Fort Hill. He soon drove out the enemy, killing and wounding many, and will be able to crown the rebel parapet with his artillery whenever the order is given. The rebels

are constructing an interior battery to cover the works they have thus virtually lost. Trustworthy advices from Jackson to the 16th show that Joe Johnston had withdrawn his troops thence. A few guards were all the troops there. As I have before reported, Breckinridge was at Clinton. The rebels are endeavoring to establish at Demopolis, on the Tombigbee, the gun-carriage factory we burned at Jackson. Ten thousand troops from Bragg had passed through that place—re-enforcements to Joe Johnston. No cavalry was among them nor any heavy artillery.

Weather is hot; thermometer at 95 degrees. The springs from which we get water are becoming bad. They are full of lime from decayed shells.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

BEHIND VICKSBURG, MISS., *June 20, 1863—7 a. m.,*
VIA MEMPHIS, *June 23—9 a. m.*
(Received June 26—9.20 a. m.)

A spy of Admiral Porter, who got into Vicksburg some months ago and has served in an engineer company, came out to us last night. He reports that enemy have mines in front of Sherman, of Ransom, and of Logan. He has worked on that before Sherman. It is made from the ditch of the principal fortifications, so that its explosion will leave the work unharmed, and extends toward the sap, which is now almost in contact with the ditch, there being but about 12 feet between them in front of Logan's position. Of McPherson's lines he does not know the precise position of the mine, but as they talked of exploding it last night, he supposes it must be, like the others, outside of the work, which, as I have before reported, is on the most commanding height of this whole system of defense. On Ransom's front he is also ignorant of the exact position, and cannot say whether the mine covers the position gained by Ransom yesterday morning. Ord reports that at noon yesterday A. J. Smith had also gained the ditch and would mine. The same spy tells us that the garrison, though weak from deficient food and excessive work, generally determined to hold out to the last. Their corn is nearly exhausted, and the ration includes a portion of wheaten flour. They say they can be starved out, but that the place can never be taken otherwise.

A private letter captured at Lake Providence contains the information, which the writer had from an agent of the Confederate Government, that Vicksburg has food enough to hold out to August 1. General Grant opened at 4 o'clock this morning a general cannonade, which is to continue till 10 a. m. We have in position one and a half hundred and eighteen guns. There will be no attack unless a special opportunity should offer. From Joe Johnston we learn that the troops at Yazoo City and the other division this side of Big Black have been moved back across toward Clinton, leaving only detachments and a body of cavalry on this side. Joe Johnston has also notified C. C. Washburn, at Haynes' Bluff, who lately sent a flag of truce by steamboat up Yazoo River to Satartia, that no more flags will be received by the river, but that they must come by the front. General Grant is doubtful whether these movements of Joe Johnston indicate an attempt to avoid Haynes' Bluff by crossing Big Black near Bridgeport or elsewhere lower down, or whether he is about to attack General Banks at