

CHAPTER VI

THE SECESSION OF LOUISIANA

(War of the Rebellion official Records of the Union And Confederate Armies)
(Series I Vol. 1, Chapter VI., page 489-501)

January 10—February 19, 1861.

SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS

January 10, 1861.—United States Arsenal and Barracks at Baton Rouge seized.
11, 1861.—Forts Jackson and Saint Philip seized.
14, 1861.—Fort Pike seized.
26, 1861.—Ordinance of secession adopted.
28, 1861.—Fort Macomb seized.
United States property in the hands of Army officers seized at New Orleans.

February 19, 1861.—United States paymaster's office at New Orleans seized.

REPORTS, ETC.

No. 1.—Bvt. Maj. Joseph A. Haskin, First U. S. Artillery, of the seizure of the U. S. Arsenal and Barracks at Baton Rouge.
No. 2.—Lieut. John W. Tod, U. S. Ordnance Department, of the seizure of the arsenal at Baton Rouge.
No. 3.—Ordnance Sergeant H. Smith, U. S. Army, of the seizure of Forts Jackson and Saint Philip.
No. 4.—Ordnance Sergeant D. Wilber, U. S. Army, of the seizure of Fort Macomb.
No. 5.—Bvt. Lieut. Col. Abraham C. Myers, assistant quartermaster, U. S. Army, of the Seizure of public property in the hands of Army officers at New Orleans.
No. 6.—Maj. Albert J. Smith, paymaster, U. S. Army, of the seizure of his office at New Orleans.
No. 7.—Extracts from the message of the governor of Louisiana to the State Legislature, January 22, 1861.

Reports of Bvt. Maj. Joseph A. Haskin, First U. S. Artillery, of the seizure of the U. S. Arsenal and Barracks at Baton Rouge.

Baton Rouge, *January 10, 1861.*

The barracks and arsenal at this place were surrendered this afternoon at 5 p.m., upon demand of the governor of the State, backed by a very superior force. Instructions asked where to proceed.

J. A. HASKIN

Brevet Major, U. S. Army.

Col. S. Cooper, *Adjutant-General U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.*

489

BATON ROUGE BARRACKS, LA

January 11, 1861.

COLONEL: It is my painful duty to announce to you the surrender of the arsenal and barracks at this place to the governor of this State.

The governor collected a large force in the city here yesterday, and about 5 p.m. sent me a copy of which I herewith inclose.

Having no assurance of re-enforcement or support, I deemed it proper, after consulting with the officers here, to yield to the demand. I also inclose a copy of the paper signed this morning.

I am, Colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. HASKIN

Brevet Major, and Captain, First Artillery.

Col. S. Cooper, *Adjutant-General U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.*

P. S.—I telegraphed to you yesterday for orders, and shall take the first boat I can for Cairo without I receive contrary orders.

J. A. HASKIN

Brevet Major, and Captain, First Artillery

[Inclosures]

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,

Baton Rouge, LA, January 10, 1861

SIR: The safety of the State of Louisiana demands that I take possession of all Government property within her limits. You are, there fore, summoned hereby to deliver up the barracks, arsenal, and public property now under your command.

With the large force at my disposal this demand will be enforced. Any attempt at defense on your part will be a rash sacrifice of life. The highest consideration will be extended to yourself and command.

THOMAS O. MOORE,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief Militia of Louisiana.

THE COMMANDING OFFICER,

Baton Rouge Barracks, Baton Rouge, LA

Articles of agreement between Thos. O. Moore, governor of the State of Louisiana, and Bvt. Maj. Joseph A. Haskin, U. S. Army, commanding the barracks at Baton Rouge, LA.

I. Upon the demand of Governor Moore, supported by six hundred men, Major Haskin, from necessity, surrenders the barracks, arsenal, and all public property therein, to the State of Louisiana, receipts to be given by Governor Moore for the same.

II. The officers and enlisted men of the United States are to leave by river transport for some point above and beyond the State of Louisiana, taking their personal effects, infantry armament, camp and garrison equipage, and twenty days' rations, and to move within thirty-six hours. One or more officers may remain on parole for the settlement of property accounts.

III. The enlisted men of ordnance will vacate the arsenal immediately, which will be occupied by the State troops.

Signed in duplicate at Baton Rouge this the 11th day of January, A. D. 1861.

THOS. O. MOORE,

Governor of the State of Louisiana

J. A. HASKIN,

Brevet Major, and Captain, First Artillery.

490

No. 2.

Report of Lieut. John W. Todd, U. S. Ordnance Department, of the seizure of the arsenal at Baton Rouge.

BATON ROUGE, *January 10, 1861.*

The arsenal was surrendered this evening to the governor of Louisiana. Please give me instructions where to proceed with the detachment under my command.

J. W. TODD,

Lieutenant, Ordnance Corps.

Col. H. K. CRAIG, *Chief of Ordnance Department, U. S. Army.*

No. 3.

Report of Ordnance Sergeant H. Smith, U. S. Army, of the seizure of Forts Jackson and Saint Philip.

FORT JACKSON, LA, *January 11, 1861.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that this post and Fort Saint Philip were taken possession of by a detachment of Louisiana militia, under the command of Maj. Paul E. Theard, on the 10th instant, by order of the governor of the State of Louisiana, which order I protested against.

Having no force to defend the public property, I was forced to surrender it to superior numbers. Inclosed you will find a copy of the above order.

I will remain here and wait for instructions from you. I have taken receipts for all the Government property, except a small quantity of commissary stores, which I kept for my own use.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. SMITH

Ordnance Sergeant, U. S. Army

Col. SAMUEL COOPER, *Adjutant-General, U. S. Army*

[Inclosures]

HEADQUARTERS LOUISIANA MILITIA,
Adjutant-General's Office, New Orleans, January 10, 1861.

SIR: You will proceed with your detachment on board the steamboat Yankee, and go down to Forts Saint Philip and Jackson, where you will demand of the person in charge of the forts to surrender, and you will take possession of the same in the name of the State of Louisiana. Haul down the United States flags, if floating on the fort, and hoist the pelican flag on Fort Jackson. Place Captain St. Paul, with his company of foot rifles, in possession of Fort Saint Philip. You will take possession of Fort Jackson with the balance of the detachment. You will hold the forts and defend them against any and all attacks to the last. Strict discipline and order must be exacted by you.

T. O. MOORE,
Governor, Commander-in-Chief.
M. GRIVOT
Adjutant-General

491

No. 4.

Report of Ordnance Sergeant D. Wilber, U. S. Army, of the seizure of Fort Macomb.

FORT MACOMB, LA, *January 31, 1861.*

SIR: I have the honor to report myself at this post. I will also report that Lieut. R. C. Capers, with a detachment of the First Regiment Louisiana Infantry, took charge of this post on the 28th instant. I turned over all the property under protest, closed my public accounts, transmitted them to the departments to which they belong, and, as there is no use at present for an ordnance sergeant at this post, I will request leave of absence for three months to visit my family in Portland, Me.

Respectfully, I am, sir, your most obedient servant,
D. WILBER

Ordnance Sergeant, U. S. Army
Col. S. COOPER, *Adjutant-General, U. S. Army, Washington D. C.*

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No. 5.

Reports of Bvt. Lieut. Col. Abraham C. Myers, assistant quartermaster, U. S. Army, of the seizure of public property in the hands of Army officers at New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, *January 28, 1861.*

The State of Louisiana has this day taken possession of the public property in the custody of the U. S. Army officers stationed in New Orleans.

A. C. MYERS
THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL U. S. ARMY

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NEW ORLEANS, LA *January 28, 1861.*

COLONEL: I herewith inclose you, for the information of the Secretary of War, a copy of an order addressed to me as an officer of the United States Army by the governor of the sovereign State of Louisiana.

I will forward receipts to the proper staff departments of the U. S. Army at Washington for all public property in my custody for which I am accountable, and the public funds in my hands I will turn over to the assistant treasurer of the United States in New Orleans, furnishing his receipts for the same.

South Carolina, the State where I was born, and Louisiana, the State of my adoption, having in convention passed ordinance of secession from the United States, I am absolved from my allegiance to the Federal Government. My resignation as an officer of the U. S. Army is accepted for my by the States above named. I beg that the settlement of my accounts will be made up as soon as possible. I shall make it a point of honor scrupulously to discharge every item of accountability arising from any difference in the official statements and my own in connection

492

with my duties while I was in the Army of the United States that I do not explain to the satisfaction of the proper officers of the United States Government.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. C. MYERS

Col. S. COOPER, *Adjutant-General U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.*

[Inclosures]

HEADQUARTERS LOUISIANA MILITIA,
Adjutant-General's Office, New Orleans, January 28, 1861

SIR: In the name of the sovereign State of Louisiana, I now demand of you possession of all the quartermaster's and commissary stores, and of all property under your control and in your possession belonging to the United States of America, for which the State of Louisiana is and will be accountable, and receipts for the same will be given you.

By order of Thos. O. Moore, governor and commander-in-chief:

M. GRIVOT,

Adjutant and Inspector General, Louisiana

Lieut. Col. A. C. MYERS, *Quartermaster, U. S. Army, New Orleans.*

No. 6.

Report of Maj. Albert J. Smith, paymaster, U. S. Army, of the seizure of his office at New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, *February* 19, 1861.

SIR: My office, furniture, blanks, &c., have been taken by the State, and now occupied by State officers. My clerk also goes with his State. The small amount of funds to my credit with the assistant treasurer is fully respected, but what will be done by the Southern Congress it is impossible to say. My duties are little or nothing, and could be as well attended to in Washington. Shall I return to that place. I am at my hotel waiting your instructions. Please inform me if the office messenger shall be discharged, or shall I bring him on to Washington with me. He would be serviceable at my next station.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALBERT J. SMITH

Paymaster, U. S. Army

Col. BENJAMIN F. LARNED, *Paymaster-General U. S. Army, Washington City.*

No. 7.

Extracts from the message of the governor of Louisiana to the State legislature, January 22, 1861.

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My opinions on the momentous questions which have convulsed and are destroying the Federal Union, were fully expressed in my message at the recent extra session of the legislature. Your prompt action

493

showed how deeply you were moved by the portents of the times—the threatened destruction of essential rights and most vital interests of the slaveholding States under the forms of a perverted

Constitution—and by the absolute duty of seeking at once for the means of self-protection. The vote of the people of this State has since confirmed the faith of their representatives in legislative and executive station that the undivided sentiment of the State is for immediate and effective resistance, and that there is not found within her limits any difference of sentiment, except as to minor points of expediency in regard to the manner and time of making such resistance, so as to give it the most imposing for for dignity and success. Our enemies who have driven on their conflict with the slaveholding States to this extremity will have found that through out the borders of Louisiana we are one people—a people with one heart and one mind, who will not be cajoled into an abandonment of their rights, and who cannot be subdued.

Whatever lingering hopes might have been felt by confiding men of the South that these dissensions would be healed by the voluntary act of the people of the North within the Union, have disappeared under the accumulating proofs that the Northern majority is implacable. No proffer of peace, on any terms, has emanated from them. The propositions tendered by the most moderate-minded and Union-loving statesmen of the South—not as expressing the whole measure of rights to which the Southern people are entitled, but as a project for conciliation to which they might be brought to consent for the old love of Union which was the passion of Southern hearts—have been contumeliously rejected.

The common cry throughout the North is for coercion into submission by force of arms, if need be, of every State, and of all the States in the South, which claim the right of separation, for causes, from a Government which they deem fatal to their safety. There can no longer be doubt of the wisdom of that policy which demands that the conflict shall come, and shall be settled now.

The sovereign people of this State have so decreed; and within a few hours their delegates will meet in convention to put this judgment into a form from which there will be no right and no disposition within the State to appeal. Being executed by a unanimous and willing people, it will be entitled to the respect of the world, and the acquiescence of all powers and authorities whatsoever.

But it has been made apparent by the course of events elsewhere, by the intentions of those having authority in the Federal Government, as developed in their treatment of other States which occupy the same relation towards these questions as Louisiana, that this right of independent action will be obstructed by force. The hostile occupation of Fort Sumter, in the harbor of Charleston, for the purpose of overawing the State of South Carolina, subduing her to the will of the Federal authorities, and collecting taxes from her people by force, is one glaring example of the modes by which a Southern State may be subjected to duress. The baffled attempts to re-enforce that fort are of the same character of aggressive purpose as the subsequent occupation of Fort Pickens, in the harbor of Pensacola, in order to keep the State of Florida in forced connection with a repudiated Government. At the same time that these acts of extraordinary rigor in aggression are practiced toward the South, the Northern populace of Pennsylvania are permitted to defeat the action of the Federal authorities at Pittsburgh, by forbidding the transmission of the public property to its designated points in the South, on the grounds of hostility to the South, to which dictation the intimidated authorities succumbed.

Warned by these acts, and the uniform tenor of hostile language employed in congress against free action in the South, and the uniform assertion of the doctrine of passive obedience in

the manifestoes of the executives of Northern States, and the open menaces that the incoming administration would carry out the same tyrannical purposes with even more rigor, I determined that the State of Louisiana should not be left unprepared for the emergency. She has a long and exposed frontier, on which the Federal Government possesses forts capable of being used for the subjugation of the country and to annul the declared will of the people. Near this capital, where the delegates of the sovereign people are about to assemble, was a military depot, capable, in unscrupulous hands, of being employed for the purpose of overawing and restraining the deliberation of a free people. On these grounds, respecting the manifest will of the people, and to the end that their deliberations shall be free, and their action supported by the full possession of the whole territory of the State, I decided to take possession of the military posts and munitions of war within the State, as soon as the necessity of such action should be developed to my mind. Upon information which did not leave me in doubt as to my public duty, and which convinced me, moreover, that prompt action was the more necessary in order to prevent a collision between the Federal troops and the people of the State, I authorized these steps to be taken, and they were accomplished without opposition or difficulty. In so doing I was careful to confine myself to such acts as were necessary to effect the object with the greatest certainty and the least risk of violence. In accordance with an arrangement entered into with the commanding officer, in the presence of a force too large to be resisted, Baton Rouge Barracks and Arsenal, with all the Federal property therein, were turned over to me on the 11th and 12th instant, and on the 13th the Federal troops departed. About the same time State troops occupied Fort Pike, on the Rigolets, and Forts Jackson and Saint Philip, on the Mississippi River, and such other dispositions were made as seemed necessary for the public safety. Receipts were given in all instances for the property found, in order to protect the officers who were dispossessed; and to facilitate future settlement for the necessary expenses, I have drawn on the appropriation made by the last legislature for military purposes. A detailed report of these proceedings and of the expenditures incurred will be laid before you in a few days.

With a full sense of the responsibility I have assumed, the whole subject is respectfully submitted to the legislature. Soon after taking possession of the arsenal at Baton Rouge I received an application from the governor of Mississippi for aid in arms and munitions of war, in support of the sovereignty of that State against an apprehended attack of a similar character to that against which Louisiana had protected herself. The interests of the two States are so intimately associated in the common cause of the South, that I deemed it my duty, not only from considerations of courtesy to a sister State, but in further execution of my duty to Louisiana regarding the approaches of Federal troops from above, to comply with his request, upon the assumption on the part of the State of Mississippi of the same terms of responsibility taken by me for the State of Louisiana. I accordingly directed to be forwarded to the order of Governor Pettus the following munitions of war: 5,000 flint lock muskets; 3,000 percussion muskets; 1,000 Hall's rifles, flint locks; 200,000 cartridges, buck and ball; 1,000 pounds of rifle powder; 6 24-pounder guns and carriages; 500 24-pounder shot; 1,000 pounds cannon powder.

495

The supply of material of these descriptions remaining on hand is ample for the wants of the State. In this action I trust to meet with the approval of the legislature. In all these movements for the defense and protection of the State, I am proud to say that I have been supported with patriotic cheerfulness and alacrity by the volunteer soldiery of the State.

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It is not within the province of the legislature or the executive to forestall the action of the State convention by advising any particular form for the assertion of the rights of the State in the reclaiming of her independence, or in executing her sovereign will, as announced by that tribunal. The future of our Louisiana rests in the counsels which shall be adopted by her freely chosen representatives; and we have reason to trust that they will decide calmly, wisely, and well. But we may be permitted to invoke the merciful care of Divine Providence so to guide them in the path which leads to safety, to honor, and to prosperity, that they may be sustained by the hearts and hands of a confiding people in building up a separate nationality, or finding an honorable place in a new and more perfect union of equal confederate States

THOS. O. MOORE, *Governor*

CORRESPONDENCE AND ORDERS RELATING TO AFFAIRS IN LOUISIANA FROM
JANUARY 10 TO FEBRUARY 19, 1861.

JANUARY 10, 1861.

DANIEL W. ADAMS, *Military Board, New Orleans:*

Secret attempts continue to be made to garrison Southern ports. We think there is special reason to fear surprise from Gulf squadron.

J. P. BENJAMIN.

JNO. SLIDELL

[January 10, 1861.]

Gov. T. O. MOORE, *Baton Rouge:*

The danger is not from Saint Louis but from sea.

JOHN SLIDELL

NEW ORLEANS, *January 12, 1861.*

General Jos. G. Totten,

Chief Engineer, Washington, D. C.:

SIR: I have the honor to report that I this morning received a telegram from the overseer at Fort Saint Philip, stating that the forts as well as Fort Jackson had been taken possession of by the State troops, and asking for instructions. My instructions to him were to stop operations at once, and to close all accounts with the Government, at the same time transmitting to you by telegraph a statement of the occurrence. The hands discharged will be up here in a day or two, and three is nothing to pay them with. What the actual amount due them is I cannot tell until I hear again from Mr. Dart, the overseer; but \$300 would cover it, and I respectfully suggest that if the convenience of the Treasury does not admit of the remittance of the remainder of the

appropriation for this work, nor of the amount allowed by the Department from the contingent fund for its use, yet it may be, perhaps, in a position to furnish without delay this smaller amount of \$300 for the payment of the white hands, who are really in need of it. Hoping that my action in the matter may meet the approval of the Department,
I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
Brevet Second Lieutenant, Engineers

HEADQUARTERS LOUISIANA MILITIA
Adjutant-General's Office, New Orleans, January 28, 1861.

Dr. S. P. MOORE, *Surgeon, U. S. Army:*

SIR: In the name of the sovereign State of Louisiana, I now demand of you possession of the medical department, and of all the property, &c., now under your control and in your possession, belonging to the United States of America, for which the State of Louisiana is and will be accountable, and receipt for the same will be given to you.

By order of Thomas O. Moore, governor and commander-in-chief:

M. GRIVOT,

Adjutant and Inspector General Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS, LA *January 28, 1861.*

Adjutant-General GRIVOT, *State of Louisiana:*

SIR: I have this morning (28th instant) received your communication demanding, in the name of the State of Louisiana, the possession of all the public property in this city belonging to the General Government in my charge. I have not the means of resisting this authority. The only course remaining for me is that the exchange of the proper papers will be made under protest.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. P. MOORE,

Surgeon, U. S. Army

NEW ORLEANS, LA *January 28, 1861.*

Col. S. COOPER

Adjutant-General, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.:

* * * * *

I have this day made a requisition on Bvt. Lieut. Col. A. C. Myers, A. Q. M., of which I inclose a copy. I also inclose a copy of his reply. In conversation with many persons in this city to day, I am astonished to find a most marked and determined change of feeling towards the Government at Washington. Under all circumstances I consider that any purchase of subsistence

in this market for and on account of the United States, would run great risk of seizure for the use and benefit of the troops now in arms in this State.

I am, very respectfully, &c.,

C. L. KILBURN,
Captain and C. S.

497

[Inclosures]

NEW ORLEANS, LA, *January 28, 1861.*

Capt. C. L. KILBURN, C. S., U. S. Army, New Orleans:

CAPTAIN: I have your communication addressed to me as assistant quartermaster, U. S. A., New Orleans, LA., inclosing me a copy of an order from the War Department, dated Washington, January 9, 1861, directing you to resume your duties in New Orleans; also making requisition on me for an office, a warehouse for packing stores, and for your allowance of fuel and quarters as allowed by Army Regulations, or the commutation thereof. In reply, I have to inform you that I cannot comply with your requisitions. My duties as an officer of the U. S. Army cease this day by the act of the sovereign State of Louisiana in taking possession of all property under my control belonging to the United States of America.

I am your obedient servant,

A. C. MYERS,
Lieutenant Colonel, A. Q. M.

NEW ORLEANS, *February 2, 1861.*

General Jos. G. TOTTEN, *Chief Engineer, Washington, D. C.:*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of instructions of the 16th ultimo. This delay is due to the fact that at the time of its arrival, and for several days afterward, I was absent at the forts. The state has employed one former overseer and several hands, and in a day or so the river revetment and levee at Fort Saint Philip will be ready for the rise of the river. The materials, however, which we had collected at Fort Jackson for the construction of the lower battery are being wasted as fast as raw troops know how.

I have also to inform you that I have this morning had served upon me a paper signed by the governor of the State of Louisiana, demanding possession of all United States property under my charge, and offering receipts for the same, a copy of which is herewith transmitted. As I have no authority for entering into any such transaction with the state of Louisiana, nor the power to retain possession of this property in opposition to the will of the State, I have refused to accept such receipts, leaving to the State the responsibility of forcible seizure of such property. The mint and custom-house were yesterday seized by the State. As I learned the day before that such was to be the case, and that there after money could be drawn from the former only under authority of the governor, I removed therefrom the unexpended balance of \$543.57 of the appropriation of the harbor on Lake Pontchartrain, which has been lying there idle for years, and

having applied it to the payment of the clerk and hired men employed upon the forts, to whom the Government was indebted, and whose wants were pressing in the extreme. Such an application I know to be unauthorized, but the emergency of the case will, I have trust, be my justification. I acted upon the supposition that the Government would prefer having its money go into the hands of those who were justly entitled to it rather than into the State treasury.

I should like to hear the opinion of the Department in reference to this matter.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
WALTER McFARLAND
Brevet Second Lieutenant, Engineers.

498

[Inclosures]

HEADQUARTERS LOUISIANA MILITIA,

Adjutant-General's Office, New Orleans, February 2, 1861.

Bvt. Second Lieut. WALTER McFARLAND, *U. S. Engineer Department:*

SIR: In the name of the sovereign State of Louisiana, I now demand of you possession of the offices and bureaus, and of all the property, maps, plans, &c., appertaining to the United States Engineer Department, now in your custody, charge, and control, belonging to the United States of America, for which the State of Louisiana is and will be accountable, and receipts for the same will be given you.

By order of T. O. Moore, governor and commander-in-chief:
M. GRIVOT,
Adjutant and Inspector General, Louisiana

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE

Washington, February 5, 1861.

Col. A. C. MYERS,

Late Assistant Quartermaster, U. S. Army, New Orleans, LA:

SIR: Your communication of the 28th ultimo, inclosing copy of a demand made upon you for the surrender of the public property in your possession to the State of Louisiana, has been submitted to the Secretary of War, by whom I am directed to return the following reply:

The demand of the government of Louisiana for the surrender of the United States property in your charge was an act of spoliation to which you seem to have yielded in anything but a commendable spirit. The adjustment of your accountability to the Government for that property is a matter for consideration at the proper time.

Your resignation had been accepted by the President prior to the receipt of the letter herein referred to, and it is needless to say the action of the President had no reference to the circumstances alluded to by you in connection with it.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. COOPER,
Adjutant-General.

[Inclosures]

This letter is returned to the Secretary of War because it shows a splenetic spirit and contains offensive language from a source personally irresponsible.

A. C. MYERS,
NEW ORLEANS, *February* 18, 1861.

WAR DEPARTMENT

February 7, 1861.

His Excellency THOMAS O. MOORE,
Governor of Louisiana, Baton Rouge:

SIR: I learn from a report of Bvt. Lieut. Col. A. C. Myers, late assistant quartermaster, in the service of this department at New Orleans, that on the 28th ultimo, under your direction and in the name of the State of Louisiana, "all the quartermaster's and commissary stores, and

499

all other property under his control and in his possession, belonging to the United States," were seized, and are now held under your authority.

The title of the United States to the stores, &c., thus taken is not controverted, they having been purchased with its funds, much of which was received by citizens of Louisiana. Their presence within your State, however it might excite the cupidity of wicked men, was in every respect lawful and harmless, and could in no degree, I should suppose, compromise the public safety. Their seizure, under the circumstances, was an act of flagrant and atrocious spoliation, which I can scarcely believe had the sanction of a government professing to be organized for the maintenance of law and order, and to be regulated by those principles of justice and morality which are inseparable from the civilization of the age.

I invite your excellency's attention to the matter as one which, you must perceive, much more deeply concerns the honor and fair fame of Louisiana than it does the pecuniary interests of the United States, and I await your reply in the confident expectation that you will disavow this discreditable act of your subordinate, and order a restoration of the property to the United States.*

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. HOLT,
Secretary of War.

NEW ORLEANS, *February* 9, 1861.
General Jos. G. TOTTEN,
Chief Engineer, Washington, D. C.:

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 28, relieving me from duty at this post, and ordering me to Key West. In reference to so much of it as relates to transfer of property and funds to Major Beauregard, who has arrived, I have to state that there is nothing to transfer, all money having been paid out and all property seized upon by the State authorities.

The monthly papers have already been forwarded, and the quarterly papers will be transmitted also as soon as ready. I shall leave by the first opportunity for my new destination.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
WALTER McFARLAND,
Brevet Second Lieutenant, Engineers.

NEW ORLEANS, LA, *February* 13, 1861.
To the Military Board of the State of Louisiana,
New Orleans, LA:

GENTLEMEN: As time presses, and it may soon become urgent to prepare for the worst, permit me to make a few suggestions, which may lead towards that desirable end. In the first place, we must look to our most vulnerable point, the Mississippi River; for one single steamer, with only two or three heavy guns, coming into the port of New Orleans, would in a few hours destroy millions' worth of property or lay the city under a forced contribution of millions of dollars.

It is an undeniable fact that in the present condition of Forts Jackson
500

and Saint Philip any steamer can pass them in broad daylight, and that, even when in a proper condition for defense, they could not prevent the passage of one or more steamers during a dark or stormy night, except with the assistance of a properly constructed raft, or a strong wire-rope, across the river, between the two forts, so as to arrest the course of said steamers, even for only half an hour, under the severe cross-fire of said works.

The first thing to be done is to commence the construction of (or prepare at least the materials for) said obstacles. Then the guns of the land fronts of Fort Jackson ought to be mounted at once on the river fronts. The guns, chassis, and carriages at Baton Rouge, Forts Pike and Wood, Battery Bienvenue, &c., where they are not required at present, ought to be sent at once to these two forts on the river, to be put in position as advantageously as possible on their river fronts; not overlooking, however, their flank guns of the other fronts. All said chassis and carriages ought to be tried forthwith by double charges of powder and shot. Ample supplies of ammunition ought to be sent there forthwith. The trees along the river masking the fire of those two forts, up and down, ought to be cut down at once, particularly those on the Fort Jackson side. In a few words, no expenses ought to be spared to put those two works in a most efficient state of defense, for fifty thousand or a hundred-thousand dollars spent thus might, a few weeks hence, save millions of dollars to the state and the city of New Orleans.

A rough calculation shows me that the raft spoken of would cost about forty thousand dollars, and three wire-cables probably sixty-thousand dollars. I prefer the first. Mr. John Roy, my former assistant architect on the new custom-house, would be of great assistance in the construction of either of said obstacles.

In haste, I remain, gentlemen, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
G. T. BEAUREGARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Baton Rouge, LA., February 16, 1861.

His Excellency James Buchanan, *President of the United States:*

Sir: I inclose a letter recently from the acting head of the war Department, Washington.* I infer that it was written without being submitted to your inspection, for throughout your long and distinguished service as a legislator, diplomatist, and executive you have been known to be a strict observer of the conventionalities of official intercourse. Without commenting on the tenor and spirit of the letter, I take pleasure in assuring you that I will promptly communicate to your Excellency any information you may desire concerning the action of the State of Louisiana in relation to any property lately belonging to the Federal Government, when such information is asked for in an appropriate manner and in respectful terms. With the highest regard and esteem

for your Excellency, I remain,
Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
THOS. O. MOORE.