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## Galveston Weekly News, 1864

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**GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS**  
**1864**

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

An old citizen of Dallas county says that a good article of worsted socks can be purchased in abundance in that county at five dollars per pair and Texas jeans at twenty dollars per yard. This will, of course, be cheering news to many of our citizens, and especially to the editor of the State Gazette, who expresses an anxiety to procure such articles.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 13, 1864, p. 2, c. 4

How to Spin Cotton Yarns Without Cards.—Gov. Shorter, of Alabama, received the following communication on the above subject, from Hon. W. E. Clarke, Senator in the Alabama Legislature. The Montgomery Advertiser publishes it for the valuable information it contains:  
Capitol, Nov. 12, 1863.

His Excellency, John Gill Shorter—

Dear Sir:--A constituent of mine, Col. R. R. Pickering, of Marengo county, is making excellent cotton yarns, for the manufacture of bagging and heavy clothing for negroes, without the use of cards. He gins the cotton slowly, so as to throw large flakes through the flue, which are caught in a hamper basket placed under the flue, and taken to the spinning wheel, without pressing the cotton. Col. Pickering informs me that his best spinners average eight cuts per day. Since he made this discovery he has abandoned the use of cards, in making coarse yarns. I herewith send you a specimen of the yarn for exhibition.

Believing this a matter of much importance to our country, I have taken the liberty of making this communication.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 13, 1864, p. 2, c. 5

Castor Oil.—Mr. I. M. Camp has shown us a most beautiful article of castor oil, of his own manufacture. It could not be distinguished from the best imported article in appearance, and we cannot entertain a doubt but that its quality is equally good. Mr. Camp deserves the thanks of the public for his enterprise. He has spent much time and money in bringing this article to its present perfection.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 13, 1864, p. 2, c. 5

Col. J. R. Skiles, of Karnes Co., writes us that his lady, in obedience to Gen. Magruder's call upon the ladies, has made fourteen haversacks from trunk covers of Russia duck, an admirable article for such a purpose. We understand the ladies of our city are also responding in this good work.—S. A. Herald.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 20, 1864, p. 1, c. 1

Shreveport, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

Dear News:-- . . . I have noticed several articles in your paper recently upon the subject of iron and from the tone I judge that the writer is not aware that there are already furnaces in operation in Texas that are turning out an immense quantity of the finest pig iron in the world. It is pronounced by Col. Clemson, the scientific gentleman at the head of the Iron Department in the Trans Mississippi Department, to be superior to any iron to be found in Europe or America. And the quantity is unlimited. All the iron used here for shot and shell and for other government

purposes as well as for private use—I mean castings is brought from these Texas mines. At present we have only the pig iron, but soon the rolling mills and hammers will be in operation and then we will have as much car iron and nails as the country can use.

Every week long trains of wagons arrive loaded with pig iron to be worked up in the government foundries here. In addition we have an immense coal bed in the immediate vicinity of Shreveport, of which thousands of bushels have been used by our steamboats and gas works. It burns well, as well as any, but I know not its exact quality. I am aware that Col. Clemson some months since was of the opinion that all the coal on this side of the Mississippi river, was what is called lignite, which I believe is not equal to other qualities of coal.

M. E.

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

Galveston Still Suffering.—We make the following extract from a letter just received from Galveston. It is from one of the most respectable citizens of the devoted island city:

"The want of wood causes a wide havoc with our buildings; over ten houses have been torn down for firewood. Our unfortunate town is fast going to destruction, whilst we have two or three steamboats making but about one trip in eight or ten days with wood. A heavy hand is laid on our property. The wharves are now being torn up for firewood. Most of our wood boats were seized a few weeks ago, and some thirteen went out to sea in a norther, the balance were returned to their owners. Oh, the folly, folly! of those men of theory! Yet poor Galveston is to suffer to the bitter end for their blunders."

Flake's Bulletin contains the following which conveys the impression that making fuel of the houses in Galveston is by order of the commanding General:

"Quite a number of old houses have disappeared since the cold weather came on. We understand that Gen. Magruder, in consequence of the scarcity and impossibility of procuring sufficient firewood, has issued an order for the impressment of the wharves and the old vacant houses, to be used as fuel by the troops. A number of houses have been torn down. The wharves have thus far escaped destruction."

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

Montague, Dec. 29, 1863.

Ed News.—The Indians came down to this country the other day and stole several head of horses, keeping down Red River right along the big road until they got into Cooke county. There they killed six persons, one man, two women and three children, and stole all the horses they could get. They then kept down the river some distance, when they made straight for the Gainsville [sic] settlements, going within four miles of Gainsville [sic]. The soldiers, about forty in number, came up with them, when the Indians, numbering some 200, charged them, compelling them to retreat, with the loss of two or three killed and one mortally wounded. When they got within four miles of Gainsville [sic], having by this time gathered up some two or three hundred head of horses, they then divided, one party with the horses crossing Dead River, the other party, consisting of about forty, turning to the right, and making for other parts, to try their hand somewhere else at murdering and stealing horses. What we shall do I know not. I hope those in authority will awake to a sense of our situation.

Respectfully,  
J. H. Cox.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 20, 1864, p. 1, c. 7

The Marshall Republican, of the 2d instant, announces that that paper will be suspended for a few weeks for the want of paper and the necessary assistance, but that an Extra will be issued when important news is received. We hope our able contemporary may soon be enabled to resume, but the "paper question" is becoming every day one of more and more absorbing interest to us.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 20, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

We copy the following from the Victoria Advocate:

On the recent raid of the Yankees to Lavaca, the following individuals took the occasion to leave and retire to "Abraham's bosom:" Dr. F. E. Hughes, Rev. Mr. McRae, pastor of a church in Lavaca, who occasionally "held forth" in Victoria; Dr. (?) Rosencranz, and \_\_\_\_ McKee, a quondam merchant of Lavaca. We have no sympathy for the traitors, and hold them up to the scorn of the true and faithful. We congratulate our sister town on being rid of these blots on her social surface.

The Yankees seem to have determined on a permanent establishment at Indianola. We hear that they have gone to merchandising and have begun publishing a newspaper; we expect to hear soon that they have opened intelligence and insurance offices, with a few model artist exhibitions.

Since the raid of the Yankees to Lavaca, we have heard nothing further of their doings. No one suffered from their visit there, we believe, except Capt. Bradbury, whose property they used pretty roughly. At Chocolate bridge they acted in a villainous manner. They entered the house of Mr. Norris, whose wife and children were at home, and destroyed everything in the shape of food, maliciously cutting up the furniture, bedding, &c. If two or three hundred good men had been there, the rascals would have had other work to attend to instead of a war on women and children.

The Advocate says the Yankees are publishing a paper at Indianola, on half a cap sheet, using the materials used by Mr. Yancey, deceased. It is called the "Horn Extra." The following extracts are taken from that paper:

We are astonished at a queer fact in regard to our new location, i. e., the entire absence of the "*unbleached*" American. A new feature in towns of this magnitude in "Dixie." Have learned, however, that all the "colored population," and a few *gentlemen* in "yaller," emigrated recently under the *chilling* influence of the recent "Norther."

Gen. Fitz Henry Warren has issued stringent orders against straggling and marauding by the soldiers of his command. Commissioned officers will be held responsible for the conduct of their men. A good order. It is not our purpose to molest defenceless [sic] inhabitants. Our business is with armed rebels. The Generals Commanding will see to all the wants of the soldier, through the regular military channel.

Our visit to this beautiful town was sudden, unexpected and unceremonious, but none the less pleasant—in fact we like it amazingly for the short acquaintance; have had some solemn thoughts of "settling down" right here "when this cruel war is over."

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 20, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

Shreveport, Jan. 16, 1864

Dear News:-- . . . A word on the subject of iron. You are aware that there is an unlimited supply of iron ore in Texas. The vein extends across Red River from Louisiana, and runs in a

southwesterly direction to the Trinity, and may be through the whole width of the State. Its quality is said, by Col. Clemson, who is, practically, the best qualified man in America, in such matters, to be unsurpassed in the world. Col. Clemson was educated in France, and received special instructions upon the subject of metals. He was afterwards employed by the Spanish Government to develop the mineral resources of Spain. He has large interests in iron furnaces East of the Mississippi. In a word, [illegible] in his manhood has been devoted to this subject. Having traveled recently through the iron region of Texas, he is well qualified to judge of the quantity and quality of the ore in your State. He is satisfied that no risk will be incurred, in peace or war, in making investments in iron works. The superior quality of the ore, the interior region in which it is found, will enable persons owning labor at all times to reap a handsome profit on their investments. In Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, etc., iron works open the widest field for a profitable investment of capital. I shall have something further to say on this subject at another time.

M. E.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 27, 1864, p. 1, c. 4

#### How Letters Should be Directed to Soldiers.

Ed. News:--Paper, ink, pens and envelopes are very scarce, especially among soldiers, and it seems a pity that they should waste so much writing material just for the want of a little information. You would be astonished to see the amount of letters lying in some of our offices, which, from the carelessness or ignorance of the writer, will never reach their intended destination, but will be finally sent to the Dead Letter Office. One reason of this is the want of the proper endorsement. Letters may be sent by soldiers without prepayment of postage, leaving the postage to be collected upon the delivery of the letters, but letters so sent, says the law, "shall be endorsed with the name, and shall be in account of the individual sending the same, and shall contain a description of the party who sends the same by the endorsement of his military title, if an officer, or of the company and regiment to which he belongs, if a musician or private." Again, many are under the impression that by having their envelopes stamped "Paid" at one office they are good for postage at any other office. Envelopes so stamped are good for postage only at the office where the money was paid, and letters enclosed in such envelopes cannot be mailed at a different office, unless the postage is paid again. Again letters endorsed *official business* cannot be mailed without prepayment of postage. No letters are sent free of postage except such as relate exclusively to post office business, and these must be endorsed "Post Office Business," over the signature of the post master sending the same.

In writing letters to soldiers great care should be taken to give not only the number of the regiment, but also to state whether it is cavalry, infantry, State Troops or Confederate; also the name of the Colonel commanding. For instance, a letter directed to the "wd Texas Regt.," may be forwarded by a postmaster to three different regiments before sending it to the right one, and in this round the chances are that it will be lost. There are four "2d Texas Regiments"—two are cavalry and two are infantry—two are State Troops and two are in the Confederate service, hence the necessity of particularizing in subscribing letters. Much complaint is made in regard to the mails, but the real cause of complaint is often with the writer of letters, at least in the opinion of

A Postmaster.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 27, 1864, p. 1, c. 4

The Mobile Register has an article upon the trade of that city, showing that the enormous high prices are in a great measure attributable to the unnecessarily large number of persons engaged in that trade, all of whom are making money by it. The same article has to pass through several hands leaving a large profit to each, before the consumer is permitted to get it. First, there is a class engaged in buying up the country produce and they make their profit by selling to the wholesale merchant of the city, who will only sell by the large quantity.—Between the wholesale merchant and the small retail dealer there is a class of jobbers who will only sell flour by the barrel, lard by the firkin, &c., and this class must also make a profit. But the poorer classes cannot purchase any of these, never having money enough to buy more than a few pounds of any article, and hence they have to go to the small retailer who charges them his profit in addition to the profit made by all the other classes of traders. Hence, the poorer people are, the more they have to pay under this system of trade. Surely there ought to be some remedy for this great evil. It is certainly not right that three or four classes of persons should be engaged in doing the business that might just as well be done by one class, and then taxing all the profits upon the poor consumers, made up, in great part, of the families of soldiers. The writer gives the following as an illustration, which may possibly apply with equal truth in this city:

A single instance will suffice as an illustration of the way in which the "so called" wholesale business of Mobile is now conducted. A housekeeper applies to a Commerce street merchant for a few pounds of butter from a firkin. The merchant is in his counting room, an assistant or two unemployed in the store, and scales and weights on the counter, showing that some articles at least are there sold by retail, but the merchant will not sell his butter except by the entire firkin, though there is no doubt he could dispose of it in less than twenty-four hours. It must stand until a retailer applies, who taxes it with at least fifty cents a pound in passing it over to the consumers.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 27, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

We learn that a small Restaurant or Store was broken into and robbed last night by some two or three soldiers. The proprietor immediately notified the city guard who promptly came to his protection. The soldiers soon returned a second time, and commenced firing on the guard with their pistols, when the guard returned the fire, breaking one soldier's arm with a shot and wounding another. The former was sent to the Hospital and the latter taken into custody.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 27, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

We have received a circular of the Waco University, from which it appears that that institution is in quite a flourishing condition. 171 students have been matriculated during the past session. In addition to the ordinary branches taught, Prof. J. T. Strother teaches the science of war thoroughly. The circular is signed by J. W. Speight, as President Board of Trustees.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 27, 1864, p. 1, c. 1

Blacking from China Berries.—The Columbus Sun recommends its readers to preserve the following receipt:

If you want good blacking, take a half bushel of China berries, and, having them well picked from the stems, put into a kettle, and add three gallons of water; boil down to one gallon, then strain the liquor through a sieve, from the seed and skins, and add as much pine wood (the richer the better) soot as will make a good black, and it is ready for use; a pint of good or a quart

of weak vinegar, (or stale small beer) first mixed with the soot will make it better, and if you add the white of one egg to half a gallon of the liquor it will be best, and equal to any Yankee blacking.

This blacking costs little besides trouble; and we have seen boots cleaned with it inferior to none in gloss, and it will not soil a white handkerchief.

Let it stand several days before you bottle it off.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 27, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

The Goliad Messenger of the 13<sup>th</sup> inst. says:

Some days ago, about sixty Dutch renegades and Mexicans came to King's Rancho. They committed some depredations, and left, carrying with them, we are told, three of our citizens. There were about seventy sacks of flour and a few bales of cotton at the rancho, which they could not take away, but they told Mrs. King that they would return in a few days, and would hold her responsible for the flour and cotton. Capt. Robb's men went down the next day, and burnt the cotton, and took the flour to their headquarters. Mrs. King did not wait for the return of the ruffians, but went to San Patricio. It is to be hoped that our small force west of the Nueces will soon be reinforced, so as to enable them to clean up the thieves.

The Yankees have paid several visits to Corpus Christi. They have some friends there. They offer the loyal citizens rations at King Abe's expense.—Old Capt. Dix it is said gave them a cordial reception to his house. He will no doubt apply for rations as he told Col. Moore he was not "patriotic enough to starve."

The road to Eagle Pass is open and travel is safe. We learn that a considerable quantity of goods has already been taken to that place. Our quondam citizens H. Seeligson and R. Bolter are engaged in the trade.

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

Sweet Home, Dec. 26, 1863.

Ed. News.—You will please announce to the traveling soldiery, that my charges for man and horse shall henceforth be \$1 per night, and everything else in accordance. This will be more proportionate to their small wages than the present extravagant charges throughout the country.

My inn, Sweet Home, Lavaca county, is constantly well supplied, and henceforth shall be the soldier's house.

W. West.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, February 3, 1864, p. 1, c. 3

Gov. Moore, of Louisiana, in his recent message, makes the following remarks upon the relations between that State and Texas:

Large numbers of our citizens have been forced to abandon their homes as the enemy advanced, or to remain in his lines, subjected to his brutal tyranny. They have preferred the former and more manly course, and have sought, with their slaves, a refuge in the neighboring State of Texas. Many have brought or sent back painful accounts of their reception. Between two States geographically contiguous and closely united by ties of common interest and reciprocal dependence, there should exist the most enlarged comity. The citizens of Texas and Louisiana have every inducement to cultivate mutual respect, confidence and amity. The Texian may boast of honorable service rendered in the defence [sic] of Louisiana, as the Louisianian is justly proud of the conspicuous part he has performed in the defence [sic] of Virginia, and of

every State east of the Mississippi. While each may vie with the other in recounting his deeds of valor, there should not be wanting the exercise of another knightly quality—the duty of hospitality.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, February 3, 1864, p. 1, c. 3

Take Care.—On the trial of a woman in England for biting off a man's nose, the foreman of the jury decided that if a man attempted to kiss a woman against her will, she had a right to bite off his nose if she had a fancy for so doing.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, February 3, 1864, p. 1, c. 3

The Savannah Republican mentions a novel way that has recently been discovered to smuggle whisky. There is a woman who sports gutta percha breasts, filled, not with lacteal juices, but old Bourbon of the best quality and greatest age. What a jolly old wet nurse she would make for the boys up at "the front."

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, February 3, 1864, p. 1, c. 3

Change of Costume.—With calico at ten dollars a yard, some of the fair sex appear to think that they can economize their means by dressing in male attire. A few days since we chronicled the arrest, near Raymond, of one of these *genus crinoline*—Here is another instance of the same tendency:

A handsome young woman, apparently about 17 or 18 years of age, giving her name as Mary Allen, and hailing from Norfolk, was arrested dressed in mans apparel, in the vicinity of Welden, on Friday last, and sent on to Petersburg by the commanding officer, of that department. She arrived here in the 4 o'clock train Saturday morning in charge of a guard, and was placed in confinement to await the disposition of Major General Peckett [sic]. Aside from her eccentric proclivity for masculine apparel, which in itself is cause sufficient for her arrest, she is suspected of being a Yankee spy, and if such has not already been done she will be subjected to an examination that will probably prove her true character.

She was neatly and becomingly dressed, and though she bore herself a little awkwardly, was not uncomely to look upon. She wears her hair short, and had on a well fitting cap, a dark jacket and pants, and boots in the latest fashion.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, February 3, 1864, p. 1, c. 5

Another Woman Order.—The following order lately issued by Gen. McPherson, has the order of Gen. Butler about it:

Headquarters 17<sup>th</sup> A. C., Provost marshal's Office.—Vicksburg Miss., Dec. 27, 1863.—Circular: The following named persons—Miss Kate Barnett, Miss Ella Barnett, Miss Laura Latham, Miss Ellen Martin and Mrs. Moore, having acted disrespectfully towards the president and government of the United States, and having insulted the officers, soldiers and loyal citizens of the United States who had assembled at the Episcopal Church in Vicksburg, on Christmas Day, for divine service, by abruptly leaving said church at that point in the service where the officiating minister prays for the welfare of the President of the United States, and all others in authority, are hereby banished, and will leave the Federal lines within forty eight hours, under penalty of imprisonment.

Hereafter all persons, male or female, who, by word, deed, or implication, do insult or show disrespect to the president, government, or flag of the United States, or to any officer or



soldier of the United States, upon matters of a national character, shall be fined, banished or imprisoned, according to the grossness of the offence [sic].

James Wilson, Lt. Col. and Pro. Mar. 17<sup>th</sup> A. C.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, February 3, 1864, p. 2, c. 7

State Penitentiary.

We are indebted to Gen. Besser, late Financial Agent of the State Penitentiary, for the report showing the condition of that institution. It will be seen that Gen. Besser has paid nearly one million of dollars into the State Treasury during the past two years.

Merchandise Account.

Merchandise made from December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1861, to December 18, 1863, including amount transferred by M. C. Rogers, late agent, to John S. Besser, Financial Agent, Texas Penitentiary.

<i>Goods.</i>	<i>Amount.</i>	<i>Sales</i>	<i>Bal on h'nd</i>
Osnaburgs	2,259 3814½ [?]	2,256,426¼	2,948¼
Cotton Jeans	409,047	408,182¾	864¼
Wh. Kerseys	242,022	241,780¾	190¼
White Plains.	78,103	77,912¼	190¾
Sheep Gray	49, 39½	47, 55¾	183¼
Total Goods			2,993,496
"    Sales			2,989,057¾
"    Balance on hand			4,438¼

For which said balance I hold my successors receipt, less 30 ½ yards of Osnaburgs stolen by a portion of the 2d Regiment Cavalry State Troops.

<i>How disposed of</i>	<i>Cotton Goods</i>	<i>Woolen Goods.</i>
Army purposes	1,419,364½	292,963½
Supplies	350,105½	2,026
Employees	8,214½	1,710½
Penitentiary uses	1,433½	10½
Factory uses	15,512¾	681½
Clothing uses	6,700½	1,819½
Citizens	.....	224
Lunatic Asylum	3,553	852
Old accounts	24,114	2,590¼
Citizens and soldiers' families to Oct. 1, 1862	238,847	21,570¾
Soldiers' families since Oct. 1, 1862	599,763¼	.....
 Total	<hr/> 2,664,699	<hr/> 324,448¾

Cash Account

Cash received and disbursed by John S. Besser, Financial Agent, Texas Penitentiary, from December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1861, to December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1863:

Received from M. C. Rogers, late agent	36.80
" App. for Transportation Convicts	3,549.90
" Appr. for Contingent Expenses	112.50
" Gen. sources, sales &c.	\$1,550,603.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,554,603.06</b>

Disbursed for sundries on Expense ac't	584,318.06
" amount paid my successor	1,822.30
" " deposited in Treasury	968,462.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,554,603.06</b>

Of the above amount deposited in the State Treasury on account of Penitentiary, \$537,060.95 has been paid in since the 22d day of June last; the balance, \$431,401.75 having been deposited between the months of September, 1862, and June, 1863, the proceeds, previously, having been applied to the extinguishing of the outstanding liabilities.

	Balance Sheet.	Dr.
From Ledger balances		\$3,090.28
" Bills payable		17,295.52
" Amount from State Treasury		3,662.40
" Balance down		1,096,122.02
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,120,170.22</b>

Cr.

By Ledger balances	\$25,500.99
" Bills receivable	1,422.94
" Amounts in suit	3,560.54
" Merchandise, &c., for sale	5,275.32
" Factory supplies on hand	106,039.36
" Provisions on hand	4,830.00
" Clothing on hand	2,601.07
" Penitentiary supplies	655.00
" Cash to successor	1,822.30
" Cash deposited	968,462.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,120,170.22</b>

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

San Antonio, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

Ed. News:--Notwithstanding wars and rumors of war, San Antonio looks about as cheerful as usual. Two months ago when I was here I was struck with the fact that although the

streets were crowded with people there were few to the "manor born" to be seen and those few mostly of a darker hue than the caucasian race. Now amid the stirring throng people of every hue and race are to be seen, and in every garb from the *chimesette* to the glittering stars. Ordnance stores are being moved rapidly to different parts of the interior for safety and convenience, we have news that Duff's regiment has had a brush with the blue-bellies and gave them a handsome drubbing taking a few live ones prisoners. The particulars are not given, but the most exciting topic at present is the order of Gen. Smith stopping the transit of cotton west. It has caused the elongation of many a laughing face, and forebodings of dreadful consequence marks the conversation of all interested in the accumulation of money. It is believed however to be only temporary, as Judge Devine and Col. McKinney are to start in a day or two as commissioners appointed by Lieut. Gen. Smith to settle pending claims with the Mexican parties interested; that war and everything will move on smoothly again until the edict of another order, say in some three weeks. There were some rumors of difficulties brewing at Eagle Pass yesterday and in consequence Capt. Giddings moved from this place in that direction with a company raised by him under authority to protect his cotton wagons. A lucky dog ain't he? I presume it will turn out as rumors generally do. But should it be so, and the Yankees are actually at Eagle Pass from El Paso, as reported there, look out for squalls. Cotton must be protected in mule wagons en route for Mexico when belonging to wealthy men.

Col. Ford, alias "old Rip" is here busy as a Bee organizing for some purpose not known to affiant [sic?] But rest assured that when old Rip takes the field something will be *did*. There will be no charging up and back again without at least one exchange of salutations, with the enemy. He has not been well treated by the powers that be and has no paid penygirist [sic], but acts will speak for his *venerable* head yet before this war is over. More from some where else.

Yours,

P. P.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, February 10, 1864, p. 1, c. 7

The benevolent associations of this city have achieved, and are still achieving, a vast amount of good. The Supply Association has been conducted with great ability from its start—at first under Col. Schilecher, its president, and after his resignation, under Mr. Waelder, who has finally sustained its reputation and usefulness. Whilst corn meal is selling at \$30 per bushel, and flour at \$125 per hundred pounds, this association is selling the former at \$7 and the latter at \$44.

The Mutual Aid Association is supplying dry goods, groceries, shoes, flour, etc., at rates almost equally below the ordinary market price. The Government officers are entitled to the thanks of the community for extending every facility in their power towards carrying out the objects of these truly benevolent institutions, through whose means a vast amount of suffering has been averted, and abundance of food and clothing placed within reach of nearly all our citizens.—S. A. Herald.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, February 10, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

For the first time for more than twelve months, we have lately received a few exchanges by mail from the other side of the Mississippi. We tender our thanks to Postmaster General Reagan and his agents and contractors, hoping it is the commencement of a decided improvement in the service.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, February 10, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

We refer our readers to the announcement of the extensive cotton and wollen [sic] factory

which Mr. Lockett says he is about to establish, and will have in operation by September next. Considering the extraordinary difficulties attending an enterprise on so large a scale, at such a time as this, many of our readers may naturally be a little incredulous at the very brief time required for its completion. But Mr. Lockett assures us there will be no mistake about it, and as he has the appearance of a man of energy and business capacity, the public may find his performance equal to his promise. One thing is certain, the enterprise will be of incalculable benefit to the army, to our State and to the people generally, and should meet with the most liberal encouragement. We hear of some other similar enterprises now in progress in our State and may have occasion to speak of them.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, February 10, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

New Texas School Reader.—Under this title we have received from Mr. Cushing of the Telegraph, a very neatly printed book of 184 pages, embracing a large variety of interesting and valuable articles, chiefly relating to Texas, and mostly of a biographical or historical character. We have not had time to more than cursorily glance at the several articles, but our impression is that it is admirably adapted to the use of our schools, as designated by the publisher. It can scarcely fail to deeply interest the youth of Texas; and the articles are well selected to inspire a feeling of pride in our State, and honor and respect for the memory of those who have borne a prominent part in the revolutions through which we have past during the past thirty years. We cannot doubt that Mr. Cushing will be well and liberally rewarded for supplying our schools with a book so much needed.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, February 10, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

#### The Cotton and Wool Factory.

Houston, Feb. 4, 1864.

Editor News.—I have received numerous letters from various parties, enquiring more particularly about the enterprise in which I am engaged, will you permit me, sir, to answer them all through your paper for the information of the public, as well as those making the enquiries.

On the 23d of Oct. last, I was ordered by Col. R. R. Lawther, to report to Maj. Gen. Price, with a recommendation that I be assigned to duty in some manufactory established in the State of Texas. I was sent by Gen. Price to Lt. Gen. E. Kirby Smith, with Col. Lawther's recommendation endorsed. I reported to Gen. Smith and was ordered by him to inspect certain factories in Northern Texas which I did, and reported by the 26<sup>th</sup> of November. I then drew up a plan and presented it to the clothing bureau for establishing a factory which would supply the wants of the army and people of the Department. This plan was approved by the Clothing Bureau and by Gen. Smith and I am now engaged in putting it in operation, having obtained from the State of Texas a charter for this purpose. I have nearly the minimum (\$1,000,000) amount of stock taken. The shares are \$1,000 each, to be paid in Confederate money or cotton at its market value.

The plan is not a speculation. It originated in the army, and was devised by those who have been in active service from the very first, and who expect to the very last, let it be long or short. It has the entire support and hearty approval both of the military and civil authorities of both the Confederate and State governments. Its first and great object is to supply the soldiers with clothes and blankets.—Second, the benefit of the people at large, and pay those who invest,

a good per cent. on their investment, both now and after the war.

He who gives his time and money, will be doing his country as good services as he that carries the musket, but we do not intend to take men from the field, but as far as possible employ negro labor and old men. A few energetic, active business men are absolutely necessary. No more will be taken. It is a private company acting under a special charter.—The State gives 320 acres of land for every \$1,000 expended in buildings and machinery, provided it is in operation by March, 1865. I expect it to be in full operation by September next.

The company is partially organized; a portion of the stock has already been paid in. The directors of the company will be elected on Tuesday, the 17<sup>th</sup> inst., at Navasota. Those wishing to take stock can do so by applying to me, or Henry Sampson, Esq., at Houston, and paying 10 per cent. down, or giving their legal obligation to deliver the required amount of cotton, on demand of the Directors, or by attending the meeting of stockholders and paying the 10 per cent. required.

Thos. F. Lockett.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, February 9, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

Haw's Brigade, near Fort DeRussey,  
January 23, 1864.

Ed. News.—It has been said of man, in relation to his aspiration in the literary world, that—

Thou who cannot write and thou who can,  
All scrawl and scratch, and scribble to a man.

But I cannot think it applicable to this army, from the fact that our journals seldom contain communications emanating from Walker's Division; and that your readers may know that we are good soldiers, mostly also of a General bearing the name of "Walker," I write these lines. We have been in the service near two years, and it has been so *active* since 8<sup>th</sup> August, 1862, that I find since said time we have marched *twenty-four hundred miles*, devoured more *poverty stricken* beef, suffered more from disease, and waded through more mud than any other army of the same numbers (in the same time,) in the service. Indeed, we are so "tough" and "*casehardened*" that nothing save the enemy's balls can have any effect on our constitutions. Some parlor General may give his lip an inimical curl and ask, "how many battles have you fought, sir?" True we have had no general engagement, but our boys have went wherever ordered, and fought like all brave Texans ever do, both at Millican and Opelousas. At the latter place, the bravery and daring of our troops won the eclat of our foe. We pass on and give a sketch of our "blockading campaign." On the 12<sup>th</sup> November, we crossed the Atchafalaya at Simsport [sic]; a pontoon bridge, under the superintendence of Gen. Walker was thrown across on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and the whole command moved to Black River, near the Mississippi River; by the 16<sup>th</sup> we had cut ten embrasures in the Mississippi levy and planted our cannon (masked) in sight of the enemy's fleet at the confluence of the Red with said river. The enemy had not discovered us, and all was ready for "the dance" with the first transport that should come up or down. Orders were to fire only in day time. On the night of the 17<sup>th</sup>, a transport, fraught with troops, came steaming past, and to the delight of all, cast anchor opposite our centre [sic] battery. At day dawn "every man was to his post," the steamer fired up, weighed anchor, was just in the act of leaving, when our little batteries, peal upon peal, belched forth their destructive missiles into the crowded decks of the transport. At the first shot a Yankee cried out, "see, the devils are firing into us," then nothing save the wild shrieks of the frightened, wounded and dying foe,

amid the roar or artillery and crash of timber could be heard.—Riddled by our shot, her steam power was lost, and the "Mother of Waters" floated the shattered boat beyond our reach. The iron "Choctaw," highly incensed at our audacity, opened a heavy fire, but our loss was but one man killed. After succoring the transport, the Choctaw returned to her station. On the 21<sup>st</sup> [?], our batteries fired into another transport, burnt off her pilot-house, and she drifted against the willows of the opposite bank below our batteries. The gunboat gave the woods a terrific shelling, after having gone to the assistance of the disabled transport. Our casualties were one man killed of Col. Hubbard's Regt. On the 1<sup>st</sup> December, the whole command moved down the river, and struck camp on the 5<sup>th</sup> six miles from Morganza, on the Fordoche. We repaired the graves of our brave comrades who fell here about two months before. Our batteries here blockaded the river again, and we learned from a citizen that forty men had jumped off the second transport fired into when she drifted against the willows, deserted their army, and reported to Logan, saying "they would fight no such daring soldiers as those who fired into them." On the 9<sup>th</sup> our batteries fired into, and it is believed, sunk a transport. After blockading the river for near a month, and doing much damage to the enemy, both with sharpshooters, who lined the bank, and our light artillery, the Atchafalaya rising rapidly, on the 10<sup>th</sup> December we were compelled for safety to recross the stream at Morgan's ferry. Haw's and Randall's Brigade are at this time near Fort DeRussey, Scurry's near Simsport [sic], and none of them idle, as we expect to give the enemy a warm reception if he comes here again. Our troops are satisfied with their officers and especially of this brigade, with their brigade commander. Lincoln's proclamation is looked upon here as "*nonsense*", and though no end can be seen as yet to this war, with a firm hand we will *continue* to "shake the pillar of despotism till it topples, though we perish amid the ruin."

Jaques Trenck.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, February 9, 1864, p. 2, c. 5

The Louisiana Democrat of the 3d inst., says there is not a particle of beef in Alexandria, that none can be had in that State and that the Texians will not sell them any. The editor complains that potatoes are five dollars per bushel and corn meal eight dollars. We would inform the editor that in this market potatoes are \$15 per bushel and corn meal \$10.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, February 9, 1864, p. 2, c. 6

The Telegraph line from Shreveport to this city, is now, we learn, nearly completed, and will be in operation in a few days. The Tyler Reporter says a project is on foot to have that place also put in communication with the line by another line to connect at Henderson.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, February 17, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Eagle Pass Prices.—Cotton 19 to 21; bleached domestic 25 to 30; brown domestic 30 to 33; cottonade 45 to 65; hickory stripes 35 to 40; denims 40 to 45; calico, American, 25; calico, Foreign 37; coffee 47 to 50; powder \$1.12; nails, keg \$16 to \$20; shoes, brogans \$24 per dozen.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, February 17, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

A friend on the other side of the Trinity who has been engaged in merchandise for about half a century, and who, by the way, has established a pretty fair reputation as a man of integrity in his dealings, and has not even been behind his neighbors in liberal contributions in support of this war, writes us that he thinks rather hard the merchants as a class should be so much abused,

while the planters are held up as models of patriotism. He seems willing that the merchants should bear their fair share of the denunciations upon speculators generally, but he does not think any one class has a right to monopolize all the patriotism in the country to the exclusion of the merchants. He believes that all are more or less "*tarred with the same stick*," all in eager pursuit of the almighty dollar. He says: I lately remonstrated with some of my country friends for asking \$15 for a yard of jeans, and \$2 for a pound of tallow. They replied, "it is to keep up with you merchants for asking so much for your goods," and yet many of them have not perhaps bought \$10 worth of dry goods since Old Abe declared war against us. I reminds me of what I was told by a man who had just come from Houston. He said he stopped at one of your hotels, and when about leaving, he was completely electrified by the enormous proportions of his bill, and expostulated with the landlord on its magnitude. He replied, "my dear sir, butter, eggs and chickens cost so exorbitantly now a days that I really cannot make my charge any less." To which my informant replied: "Why my dear sir, I have now been at your house four days, and have not seen on your table the shadow of either of the articles you have named." This, of course, ended the colloquy [sic]; but it shows plainly that the only reason for such high prices is to make money, and almost any excuse will be resorted to. The truth is merchants are a small class in the community and can be abused with impunity. They have now very little that the planters want, and the latter are fast learning to do without that little, while the merchants and all others are almost wholly dependent on the planters." There is some truth in this.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, February 17, 1864, p. 2, c. 4

[From Affleck's Almanac.]  
Gardening in Texas for February.

Kitchen Garden.—Natchez, Central Texas, &c.—Continue to sow, to plant and to tend, as in January. Plant a few Melons, Squashes or Cymblins, Cucumbers, Snap-beans, Okra, &c., protecting the young plants when needful. They may possibly be cut down; but to have early vegetables, we must plant early, and risk the result, using what precautions we may. Plant out all sorts of Aromatic and Pot-herbs, Carrots, Parsnips and turnips intended to produce seed—they should have been hung up in some dry place in December. Another sowing or two of Spinage [sic] may be made in soil rich enough to force it, as it will quickly run to seed. More Peas should be sown for succession; the same varieties named last month, as also any of the taller sorts. Sow, also, early Corn, Radishes, Lettuce, early and summer Cabbage, and the main crops of Beets, Carrots, Parsnips and Salsify. Continue to set out early Cabbage plants, in ground richly manured, and water the young plants with liquid manure; which may be collected from the house in a cask, sunk in the ground in some convenient spot, taking care not to apply it if strong without diluting with water. The Cabbage tribe requires strong food, and makes good return for a little extra care. The finer varieties of Broccoli will now be in perfection. As they continue to head, should severe frost or cold rains set in, bend a leaf or two over the flower to protect it.

New Orleans, Houston, &c.—Continue planting early dwarf Beans, Corn and Peas. Sow more Radishes, Spinage [sic], Beets, Carrots, Parsnips and Salsify. Plant now in the open ground, Squashes, Pumpkins, Cucumbers and Melons; though the last of the month is generally early enough for the main crop. So of the Lima or Butter and Seewee Beans. Make several plantings of Okra, to insure against a failure. Transplant Lettuce, Cabbages and Cauliflowers into rich ground. If the Onions are intended to form bulbs, be careful to break off the seed stalk

as it appears. Hoe earth up and stick Peas in that are large enough. Do not longer delay manuring, and digging or plowing all of the ground intended for garden vegetables, that is yet unprepared. Irish Potatoes may yet be planted, selected a cool spot and moist but well-drained ground. Hoe and tend all crops that need it.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, February 16, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

From San Antonio. The editorial correspondence of the Austin Gazette, dated San Antonio, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, says there was great excitement and preparations there to meet the expected invasion of the Yankees. . .

The following extract shows the large business doing by the Mutual Aid Association of San Antonio, and the thousands upon thousands of dollars saved to the people. Board in San Antonio \$30 per day, and horse feed \$45 per day! Well, the Houston hotels are thrown into the shade for once:

"There is little or no business going on here, except what is done by the Mutual Aid Association. They received a lot of goods which they offered for sale on Monday last, and in three days, their sales amounted to \$150,000. They sell for Confederate money to shareholders only, or on their orders, and their prices are about one half those charged in the other stores, where nearly everything is valued in specie. Board is only \$30 per day and horse keep \$45, yet we hear no complaints. Everybody seems to have plenty of money, and the only grumbling is among the store keepers, boarding house keepers, &c., who are losing money all the time. Those who stay there, and those who have had better bring along their own provisions and forage, and camp out during this fine weather."

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, February 16, 1864, p. 2, c. 6

The chaplains in Ewell's and Hill's corps, army of Northern Virginia, are enumerated as follows: Methodists, 28; Presbyterians, 15; Baptists, 10; Episcopalians, 7.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, February 24, 1864, p. 1, c. 2

Home Industry.—No people were ever impelled by such powerful motives to resort to every branch of domestic industry, as are the people of the Confederate States at this time, for in fact we do not believe any people were ever before similarly situated. On the one hand we are cut off from obtaining supplies by trade with foreign nations, and on the other the enemy have finally determined to the extent of their ability, to prevent the productions of supplies from our soil, or to destroy them if produced. Nothing short of our absolute destruction is now determined upon. If we now and then obtain a few supplies by a successful blockade runner, we have to pay such ruinous prices that few are able to make the purchases, and the few factories and hand looms in the country charge about the same prices for their products, so that nearly all families in moderate circumstances are compelled to supply their own wants by their own industry. This is now apparently the only alternative left us to save ourselves from the destroying power of the enemy. We should be as completely subjugated as completely enslaved to the Yankee racy by allowing ourselves to be deprived of necessary food and clothing, as by the defeat and annihilation of our armies. Our liberties are, therefore, just as much dependent on the industry and rigid economy of those who remain at home, as on the victories of our armies in the field. . .

The Richmond, Va., Sentinel says:

"Much more than heretofore should housekeepers and farmers make their arrangements for meeting all their wants by home industry and enterprise.



"It will not do to rely on importation. Already the blockade has closed all our Atlantic ports except Wilmington; and twenty grim steamers lie as watchers off the mouth of the Cape Fear, like so many grimalkins at a mouse-hole. We shall have no reason to be disappointed or surprised if the port of Wilmington should be closed ere many months. Nor must we rely on our factories. Look how the prices of their products have already ascended, until they have become unpurchasable by the multitude. This is all according to "the laws of trade" we are told, and therefore to be approved and applauded; but a protection must be found, and it is to be found in home production. Besides, the number of these mills has been reduced by fire, and the machinery of those that remain will not last forever.

"A hundred reasons combine to urge upon every family to look to its own resources. The hand card and the hand loom and the spinning wheel, whose music is sweeter far than that of the piano, should be found everywhere. All who can should grow their patches of flax and cotton. All should have sheep, if but a few. Our forests furnish dyes as various and as bright as the tints that make their foliage so glorious at "the turn of the leaf." With these materials, there is no reason why our ladies should not be clad in beautiful apparel, the product of their own industry and taste; while they may clothe their husbands and sons fine enough for kings. There is not a farmer's wife who may not easily provide clothing for all her servants, and make some to sell besides.

"And how much more independent and happy should we all be if thus providing for ourselves. A fig for blockaders, we might well exclaim; nor would we be any longer exposed to the extortioner's grip. And those eventualities of the future to which we have alluded would bring no terror to us. Earnestly, therefore, do we advise every one to use every means and make every arrangement in his power to provide for the clothing of his family from his own resources, and thus make himself independent of manufacturers and blockade runners."

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, February 24, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

*To the Ministers, Members and friends of the Church, within the bounds of the Texas Conference.*

Dear Brethren:--At the last session of the Texas Conference, a mission to the Confederate States army in the Trans-Miss. Department was established, Five Missionaries were appointed and their support provided for. As superintendent of the Mission, I have authority to employ other Missionaries, and to raise the means for their support. It is my earnest desire on the part of the Texas Conference, and in cooperation with other Conferences and other churches, to throw something like an adequate ministerial force into all the Confederate armies in the Trans-Mississippi Department. This is demanded by the pressing religious wants of the army, by the scarcity of Chaplains, by the readiness of the soldiers to receive the word of life, and by the encouraging work now in progress in some of our armies. At Galveston, at Virginia Point, on Caney and elsewhere, the Lord is reviving this work under the preaching of his word. Large, attentive, serious congregations; wrestling penitents and joyous converts indicate that God is blessing us in the army. "The harvest is great, but the laborers are few." We need more preachers, good preachers—earnest and devoted men of God, who are willing to work, to submit to privations, and "endure hardness as good soldiers of Christ," cheered by the triumphs of a more successful ministry than they have known heretofore. Cannot the presiding Elders furnish some suitable men, whose place can be supplied? Are there not preachers whose souls are moved toward this work? Are there not local preachers willing either to preach to the soldiers, or to take the place of those who can go? Will not the members and friends of the church give

liberally of their means to this good cause?

I have employed four missionaries in addition to those appointed at Conference, and wish to employ several others, and must, in some way, raise the means for their support. Our business being that of preaching to the soldiers, we must rely, mainly, on those engaged in the home work to do this. Presiding Elders, preachers in circuits or stations, local preachers, members and friends of the church—to you this appeal is made; and it is made under a deep sense of the need of help in this great missionary work. I know something of Texian liberality and feel sure that this call will not be in vain. Let those who may choose to go as missionaries, report at once; and let collections and subscriptions be immediately taken, as I desire to supply and systematize our mission to the armies in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and the Indian Nation, as full and quickly as possible.

Another object of the donations now earnestly solicited, is that we may be able to supply the necessities of the destitute soldiers wherever we go. We anticipate a large amount of usefulness in this field of benevolent enterprise; and we invite the patriotic and christian people of Texas to sustain us in it.

Capt. Sandford Gibbs, of Huntsville, is the Secretary of the mission, who will keep in a permanent form [sic—form] an accurate record of receipts and endorsements. Those who raise means for our army mission are requested to report accurately the amounts of donations and reliable subscriptions, the names of parties making them, the time when made, and the circuit or station to whose credit they are to be set down. Any layman or friend of the cause, wishing to donate any amount to this cause, can hand the amount or his name for it at a given time, to any traveling preacher, who will report it in the name of the donor to Capt. Gibbs.

Our preachers whose fields of labor lie contiguous [sic] to any portion of our army are earnestly requested to give as much of their time and labor to the soldiers as they can, and to keep an account of the same until it may be noted down in the records of the mission.

By way of adopting a safe and general rule, I would request any one who may wish to go into the army, to forward me his name, the size of his family, the amount he thinks he will need for a support, together with a recommendation from a presiding Elder, or some other well known member or members of the Conference, as to his suitability for the work. The salary of a missionary is designed to be quite sufficient, though the amount will be graduated in the payment of the *last installment*, according to the decision or advice of the Committee on Missions at our next Conference.

There is also a call for Chaplains, and I have been requested to look out for men suitable for that important work. Any desirous of a Chaplaincy can forward their recommendations as above.

Christian men and women of Texas! Several of your churches are represented in the missionary work and in the chaplaincy of the army. "Pray for us." It would be pleasant and encouraging, under the pressure of arduous and almost incessant labor, amid the camp fires of this mighty revolution, to know that in your stated public services, around your family altars and in your closets, we were remembered at the throne of grace. Your united fervent prayers would surely bring down "showers of blessings" upon the brave defenders of our homes and our all. Brethren, pray for us.

W. H. Seat,  
Superintendent Texas Army Mission.

Camp Sydney Johnston, Feb. 15, 1865

N.B.—Address me at Huntsville, Texas, care of Capt. Sandford Gibbs.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, February 23, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

A correspondent informs the Telegraph that the ladies of Gonzales county have raised the handsome sum of \$11,100, to be equally divided between Waul's Legion and the Terry Rangers. If the ladies of every county in Texas would do as much for the Texas troops, they would certainly be amply supplied with all they want. But such evidence of the devotion of the ladies of Texas in their behalf, even independent of the relief afforded, would stimulate them beyond all other considerations, to encounter every peril and endure every hardship in behalf of those whom they thus see laboring day and night to supply all their wants.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, March 2, 1864, p. 1, c. 3

Meat and Bread.—The Natchitoches Union says: We have no more meat at the market. The reason, says the butcher, is that no more beeves can be procured in the country. It is a very good reason, if such is really the case, nevertheless, it portends hard times in store for a certain class of the people. Of course we don't allude to those whose herds are grazing and feeding in well provided pasture grounds—they will get along. Another question—a most serious one, too—is that of bread. We don't allude, here neither to the bread of the fortunate ones above mentioned, to the forbidden wheat bread; we only mean here, the bread of the poor, of the soldier's wife and children—the corn bread. That is also denied the people here. That indispensable article—the corn meal—formerly sent around by the neighboring planters, to be sold to the population of the town, is now cut off. The reason given for so doing, is so miserable, so guilty, so unnatural, that we refrain from stating it until more particularly informed. As this is a subject admitting of no half measure, as the people must live; as hunger and starvation are the worst of advisers in a comparatively well provided country, we will return more particularly to this subject in a future number.—Natchitoches Chronicle.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, March 2, 1864, p. 1, c. 7

Victoria, Feb. 16, 1864.

Mr. Editor:-- . . . The hum of the spinning wheel and the clatter of the loom is heard in almost every house. The people are wide awake to the necessity of making their own clothing; and ladies, old and young, are doing service to their country and to themselves by their developments of our great staples, cotton and wool. Long may the new feature last! Its adoption, a long time ago, would have rendered us independent of Northern rule; its continuance will secure the independence for which we are battling. . . . West.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, March 2, 1864, p. 2, c. 6

Letter from Tennessee.

Tunnel Hill, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

Dear Father:--To-day two years ago I was enjoying the comforts of home, and the association of the fireside; it is quite the reverse to-day. I am hovering around a little smoky fire, trying to keep warm, in the mountains of northern Georgia, where the winds seem to blow from icy regions, and every blast that comes seems but to remind one of the blessings of the hearthstone.

We Texians feel very lonely at times, away a long distance from those we love. I have guarded against becoming homesick all the while until since the last two battles of Missionary

Ridge and Ringold [sic], since which, I have been considerably [sic] effected [sic] with that terrible disease, from which no comfort seems to arise. I have passed through so many narrow escapes for my life lately, that I sometimes think that if I go into another battle, without seeing homefolks, I never will be permitted to enjoy that much sought for privilege.

At the fight of Missionary Ridge our brigade displayed great courage and chivalry. Attacked by overwhelming numbers, they stood firm to their ground and drove the Yankees with great slaughter. Desperate charges were made by both parties, but the Yankees never reached our line. The nearest man that approached was a negro; he got within twenty feet of our battery, and was struck on the head with a rock and instantly killed. Rocks were used very frequently by our boys when they got too close to load, and with considerable effect. We captured in one charge five stand of colors. . .

Oh! the horribleness of this war! Will it never end and peace and harmony reign once more in this broad land of ours? Humanity answers it should—the promptings of civilization answers it should; the demands of the world answers it should; but the barbarous passions of a ruthless enemy will still continue it. A little girl said to me the other day—"why Captain, these Yankees are worse than the devil—they burn up houses and people, and nobody makes them do it." This little girl had just come out of the Yankee lines. She was only eight years old, but had noticed the barbarity of the Yankees. Nothing can exceed the inhumanity of those people. Shall I call them civilized people? They hardly deserve the appellation, and were it not, that they are formed in human shape, I would not deign to call them such, but assign them a place among the nations of the barborous [sic] ages, among whom the light of civilization never shown.

Our soldiers are going into winter quarters, constructing small log huts. The troops are rather poorly clad—wanting shoes and socks very much, and the prospect for getting them is rather slim.

I am more poorly clad at this time, than I ever was at any previous period. Our money is so depreciated that it will not purchase what we want. I have money plenty, or as much as I can use in purchasing little things for present purposes, but cannot find good articles of clothing for winter. I have sent up for a furlough to go to Noxubra county; if I should get it, I will be able to supply myself with clothing down there. Very few furloughs are granted now, especially for Texans. Our men frequently cross the river, and the authorities are unwilling to grant permits of absence.

According to the reports of the Adjutant General, there are absent from this army twenty-six thousand men, a good army in itself. My old native State is losing some of her prowess and chivalry—this I regret very much, as I am so near her, and have to acknowledge my nativity.

Texans are the only troops that have preserved their chivalry untarnished. I have never heard of a Texas regiment or brigade running, on this side of the Mississippi river. I feel proud of the reputation of my State, though her soldiers have suffered perhaps more than any others. Cut off from home—debarred the privilege of frequent communication with their families—all this has been very trying to the Texans. But, I think as they were among the first to come out, they will be the last to leave the field of contest.

Our Texas troops in this army have been neglected in one particular. We have no hospital for them controlled by our State at all. While great sums have been spent in Virginia, where there was but one brigade, we have been entirely neglected here, where there are many brigades. Now, as that brigade has been transferred to this Department, I hope our friends at home will see that some of the funds appropriated for Texas hospitals be used in this Department.

A great deal has been done by a few of the noble citizens of Georgia; our boys have been invited to their houses, to share their hospitality, and many lives, no doubt, have been saved in this way.—Many thanks are due to Col. Walker, of Wharton, Texas, for the kindness shown our men. He has taken care of about thirty soldiers since the battle of Chicamauga [sic]. I feel very thankful that I have never been wounded to any extent. I have been in the field all the while, never absent more than a day at a time. . .

J. F. Matthews.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, March 2, 1864, p. 2, c. 5

The Louisiana Democrat gives the following touching incident:

A gallant and beautiful boy, of only sixteen years, mortally wounded in a terrible encounter, and sent to a hospital to be soothed and provided for in his last extremity, was anxiously looking for the advent of his mother. As his sight grew dim, and his life was ebbing away, he mistook a sympathetic lady, who was cooling his parched lips, and wiping the clammy perspiration from his marble brow, for the fondly expected one, and with a smile of joy lighting up his pale face, he nestled his head in her bosom like a sleeping infant, and thus he died, with the sweet word, mother, on his quivering lips.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, March 2, 1864, p. 2, c. 5

We have heard it stated that more than half the poor children within a circumference of two miles of the Courthouse in Houston, are and have been during the past winter, destitute of shoes. Indeed, the present prices of shoes are almost beyond the reach of those in better circumstances.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, March 9, 1864, p. 1, c. 1

For the News.]

How to Raise from Five to Ten Bushels Tomatoes on Four Feet of Land.—The one end of a hogshead set in the ground, the top to be eight inches below the surface, fill with stones or brick bats, cover over with flat rocks or boards, have a spout or pipe so arranged as to convey water from the surface into the hogshead, make a hill of rich earth on the top of the hogshead, plant tomatoes, cucumbers or squashes on the hill, plant posts so as to make good and convenient trellises to support the vines off the earth, then keep the hogshead supplied bountifully with water during the entire summer and fall, thus assuring a large crop.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, March 9, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

The following letter will be read with interest, and I trust that it may have a good effect. It was written by Miss Emma Sansom, the young lady who guided General Forrest in his memorable capture of Gen. Streight and his raiders in Alabama, last year. The letter is in response to the one written by Gov. Shorter, when transmitting the resolutions of the Legislature to Miss Sansom. You will recollect that Streight and his men were captured in Cherokee county, Alabama, which is within a few miles of Miss Sansom's home:

Gadsden, Ala., Dec. 20, 1863.

To his Excellency, Gov. Shorter—

Respected Sir:--I must acknowledge your quite complimentary communication of Nov. 27, '63; and in doing so tender my gratitude for the more than expected respect shown me for having done my duty. At the time the duty was performed it was a pleasure to be able to render

some service to my country, and give aid to our noble cause. There are other duties that would seem more becoming and adapted to my sex, but feeling it my high privilege upon such an occasion, I went forward inspired by a sense of duty and of the purest motives, willing to hazard woman's timidity in giving aid to impede the onward march of the marauding foe.

In conclusion, I must acknowledge my profound gratitude for the very liberal donation by the State, and while I continue to live, I shall endeavor to render myself not more unworthy your high respect than heretofore. I have the satisfaction to be very respectfully

Your friend

Emma Sanson. [sic]

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, March 16, 1864, p. 1, c. 1

Ed. News.—Having suffered from vaccination with the impure vaccine matter so extensively circulated over the country, and experimented until I found a successful remedy, you will please publish it for the benefit of those suffering. Take sage leaves and vinegar, boil together, thicken with corn meal, and make poultice, apply to the wound for three days and nights, changing morning and night for fresh one, and treat constitutionally as follows: Take 1 tablespoonful Sulphur [sic], 1 do of cream tartar, mixed with molasses, every other morning, and every other morning a dose of salts and cream tartar. When the poultice is changed, the sore should be washed with camphor. This course faithfully followed will cure the worst arm in the State in less than one week.

Yours, &c.,

O. A. McGinnis

Moscow, Texas, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, March 16, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

"Our next army mail" will leave in charge of Mr. Adams about the 25<sup>th</sup> inst. He will take money or valuable entrusted to his care, on commission. Letters to be taken by him should be forwarded to us without delay, accompanied with \$5 each.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, March 16, 1864, p. 2, c. 5

Southerners in New York—Their  
Numbers, Resources & Quality.  
[From the N. Y. Commercial.]

It is estimated that there are about 25,000 Southern people sojourning in this city and its environs, Brooklyn, Hoboken and Jersey City. They are mostly refugees, and may be divided into three classes, namely—the secessionists, the no-siders and the Unionists. They stay at the hotels, they lodge in private boarding houses, and they rent our finest mansions; yet they keep so quiet, affiliating only with a choice *coterie* of friends and sympathisers [sic], that but few of us are aware of their presence. In fact their advent among us has had an effect to make rents high and houses scarce. Among them are some of the highest families of the South, whose names history loves to report, and men who, a few years ago, were fabulously wealthy. Numbers of them own valuable real estate in this city, or are interested to a considerable extent in various insurance companies, banks, etc. On the other hand, hundreds of them are absolutely dependent on their Northern relatives for their daily bread. These cases are generally widows, with their little ones, whose fathers have been killed in the war, the widow robbed of the little estate her

husband had left her, and who has returned to the home of her youth, which she left years ago, happy and proud, as the bride of a planter's son.

#### The Secessionists.

Of this class are the rich, those whose every interest is at stake when the 'peculiar institution' is in jeopardy. A great many of these are of Northern birth. They cherish the doctrine of secession with religious zeal, and are bigoted beyond all reason. Many of them have sons in the Confederate service, with whom they have frequent intercourse. They also receive the Southern papers regularly. Most of this class came North because they could live cheaper and better there, during the war, than they could if they stayed at the South, while some came with the double purpose of escaping the Southern conscription and to save their Northern property from confiscation. They are blind worshippers of Jeff Davis. When worse comes to the worse, and nothing can save the South from defeat, they will fly to Europe, where they imagine they will be received like princes. They effect to care nothing about slavery, whether it exists or not, the question now being, whether or not the North shall rule the South. This class is in the minority of our Southern visitors.

#### The Unionists.

This class is in the majority. It consists chiefly of Southerners, includes some of the most respectable and old families of the South, especially of Virginia and the border States. Some of them came on here before the war, thinking that they could pass the time pleasantly and quietly until the difficulties were settled, which, coinciding with Mr. Seward they looked upon as an affair of a few months. They then hoped to return to their homes, but finding that such was not the case, they concluded to stay here, eke out a living as best they could, some in business and some in Government employ. The gentlemen were unaccustomed to the heavy business which fell to their share, if they found anything to do, and many were unable to get work. The only resource left was that the ladies should do fancy work for the stores, or, (and these cases are few, as they had no friends to give security for the rent,) open a private boarding house. The sufferings of this class have been terrible. A large family which had lived in a palace at the South, passed the whole winter, last year, in one small garret room, in a tenement house. Many of these ladies have, so we understand, obtained work from the New York depository, by which they have managed to support a family.

#### The No-Siders.

This class consists chiefly of the border State people, Southerners who own no property, and Northern wives of deceased planters, who have as great interests at the North as in the South. Others have arrived since the war began, having had a taste of the perils of frontier life. This class is by far the best off. They think they will not be materially affected as individuals, no matter which side is victorious. If the South, they trust they can make it all right again with their old comrades; if the North, why they are all right already. So they watch the conflict with apathy, and so they live a life that has little in it to redeem it from the absolute contempt of the loyal, or of those who have decided convictions.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, March 23, 1864, p. 2, c. 7

We are compelled to issue this first number of the twenty first volume of the Weekly News on brown paper, for though we have just received a small supply of white paper it came to hand too late for this issue.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, March 30, 1864, p. 1, c. 5

Lavaca, March 19<sup>th</sup> 1864.

Mr. Editor:--The Yankees have left Indianola and retired to Saluria. This event took place on last Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> inst. The news was received at this "Sleepy Hollow," by way of Texana and Victoria on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> inst. Be it remembered that Lavaca is about nine miles, in a straight line from Indianola, and has its several lookouts, from which, with telescopes, the movements of the enemy have been carefully watched for nearly four months. I would not be surprised, if the denizens of this interesting spot should hear of the close of the war, at least four months after the proclamation of peace.

Much in the item way comes to us from our pickets, who entered the deserted quarters of the enemy yesterday. It appears that but five of the male citizens have been left behind by the enemy. A young lady of Powderhorn, writing to a female friend here, says that "Gen. Warren gave orders, when they got ready to leave for every man who was liable to be conscribed in the Confederate service, to go with them. Those who refused were arrested and taken any how." Several men were treated with great inhumanity and one, a noble Texan and as brave a spirit as ever resisted oppression, James L. Allen, was manacled and torn from his distressed family, because of his determined resistance to the oppressor.

To the credit of the sex, one woman only, and she an old Texian, presented herself before the Yankee Provost Marshal and swore allegiance to Lincoln. The rest, like heroines, stuck to the Confederate flag and wept tears of joy when the Confederate soldiers entered the town. In the letter above alluded to, the writer says, "I have looked for the rebels until my eyes ached; I feel another somebody since I saw them. When the Yankees first came here I was afraid to go to the door when any one knocked. I found out that would never do, so I made up my mind to face anything, and I got so brave I wasn't afraid of a Yankee even. I think I would make a good soldier."

The maximum of the Yankee force was 2,500 men. They were much demoralized, and during the larger portion of their stay were badly supplied with necessaries. They were in continual apprehension of an attack from our troops, and on occasions, when our scouts approached near the two towns, their whole force was drawn out in battle array.

I will go down to morrow, and on my return will furnish you with information connected with the last four months' operations below.

West.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, March 30, 1864, p. 1, c. 5

Lavaca, March 22, 1864.

Mr. Editor.—On assuming possession of Powderhorn and Indianola, the first act of aggression by the Yankees on the citizens was to demand food at their hands, for the soldiery. On the exhaustion of the limited supplies of food, rations were then issued to the soldiers and citizens. The citizens were thus made to depend on Yankee diet for their sustenance. Shortly afterwards, the proclamation of Gen. Dana requiring the oath of allegiance to the United States was promulgated. Without the means of living, except from the Yankee commissariat, and



unable to obtain permission to retire beyond the lines, finding themselves trapped, they had no alternative but to take the oath or the consequences to result from a failure to do so. Under such circumstances, all, with one exception, the noble James S. Allen, succumbed to the vicious influence exercised over them, and went forward and forsook their allegiance to the Confederacy. That the most of them did so reluctantly, we have abundance of evidence. Indeed, the Yankees asserted that out of all who took the oath, only a single man was an unadulterated unionist. Mr. Allen addressed a remonstrance to the commanding officer of the Post, asserting his live for the government of his choice and his determination never to forsake it. The reply to his letter was an order for his confinement in irons. He was then sent to Saluria, in charge of a negro guard, and I suppose is still there.

The Rev. Green Orr, an old gentleman of seventy-six years, and, for the last fifty years, a minister of God in the Methodist Episcopal Church, was one of the last who was forced to yield to their unholy influences. In the agony of his shame at what he had done, he took to his bed, and in his delirium before his death, bewailed the unhappy fate that had forced him to disown his loved and native South. His last words were "we'll drive you out of Indianola yet."

Many of the citizens after taking the oath, were taunted as rebels to the last, their persons threatened and the exterior of their houses spoiled. Even those whose sympathies were with them fared no better than the secessionists. Their privacy was invaded at all hours, and demands of all kinds, with which they were forced to comply, were made upon them by a rapacious soldiery, for all they wanted.

After the terms of the proclamation were complied with, and when they were about to evacuate the two places, an order was issued to all male citizens to embark with them. This order fell like a thunderbolt in the midst of the community. The order was afterwards so modified as not to include those over fifty years of age. The consequence was, that all were taken away except about twelve or fifteen of the oldest males. Many of those who were thus forced off took their families with them. Those men will, no doubt, be enrolled in the Yankee army. Tears of shame bedewed the cheeks of many as they left their former happy homes.

In both towns, seventy-four houses were taken down, and most of the others injured, more or less. All the fences were destroyed. The Marine Hospital, a building of large dimensions, was left a wreck. Its venitian [sic] blinds, doors and windows were all destroyed, and parts of the foundation torn up. The Court-house was used as an [sic] hospital, and suffered less damage than any other building. The furniture of the Court-house and the several offices has all disappeared. Every place is covered with filth and vermin. One hundred and fifty head of beef cattle, remaining in the pens, were shot down as they were leaving. It would require a good-sized volume to detail all the rascalities perpetrated by these villains. And still there are Texians who advocate their cause, and who are willing to cast their lot amongst them!

Casimere Villeneuve, whose fine buildings were the headquarters of the head devils, suffered much at their hands. Insults were daily heaped upon him and his wife. Their valuables were taken, piece by piece, until silver spoons, forks and everything else disappeared. He says they are "savages," and that he will proclaim their shame throughout France, to which country he is about to retire with his family.

I made a mistake in my last, in stating that their force amounted to only 2500 men. They had nineteen skeleton regiments, amounting to upwards of 5000 rank and file.

West.

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

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

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

### Rebel Torpedoes.

A Yankee Washington correspondent dating the 6<sup>th</sup> March, says:

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

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

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

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

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

Shreveport, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

. . . A distressing affair occurred on Sunday night about 2 o'clock. The large Baptist Church in Mansfield, used for a hospital, caught fire by accident, and in a short time was totally consumed, together with one of the gallant wounded. The fire occurred in the following manner: A nurse in the hospital let a lighted candle fall on the cotton scattered over the floor, which immediately caught and spread over the building almost as quick as a flash of gunpowder. The whole

building was almost instantly enveloped in flames, and the wounded were secured with the utmost difficulty. Some poor fellows, no doubt, in being dragged out, suffered intense agony, but I did not hear a groan from but a single man, and he had been dragged at least 100 yards.

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

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

#### Burning of the Hospital at Mansfield, La.

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

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

Orion.

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

[From the Montgomery Advertiser]  
Vandalism of the Enemy at Brandon, Miss.  
[Extract of a Private Letter.]

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

Every horse and mule Papa had, was taken away, hogs killed, and all the poultry taken. In the smokehouse nothing was left, except some meal which they emptied on the floor. Not a single pound of meat or sugar were we able to save, and none had been sent off. In the house

there was not a trunk, drawer, wardrobe, desk or anything they did not plunder, and plunder well; and the contents scattered over the floor, and every thing stolen they wished. Not a garment of yours did they leave, excepting a few pairs of socks and some collars. A great deal of S's and my clothing was stolen; silk dresses, embroidered handkerchiefs, silk stockings and B's beautiful little hat and cloak, and something of everything; it is impossible to mention all. My money and jewelry I managed to save by having them buried. Sister L. lost nearly everything in the way of clothing. What was left of hers was torn into pieces or abused in some way. Papa had nothing left but what he was wearing. Every bed was stripped of clothing. We managed to beg a few pieces from some of the thieves, but only enough for one bed; this one bed was the only one used for three nights, some of us sleeping one portion of the night, and the others the balance.

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

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

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

The Memphis Bulletin of the 30<sup>th</sup> says: "We have further interesting news from La. Banks is pursuing a victorious course, and the gunboats cause the rebels to run whenever they appear."

The following from the correspondent of the Bulletin, under date Fort DeRussey, March 15<sup>th</sup>, should not be lost:

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

M. E.

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

The Shreveport News of the 19<sup>th</sup> says:

We understand that the Hotel in Jefferson, Texas, has been converted into a Hospital, by the military authorities.

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

Notice.

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

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

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

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

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

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, May 4, 1864, p. 1, c. 5

Lavaca, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

... Yesterday evening, about 4 ½ o'clock, as I and the party with me approached Chocolate Bayou, we noticed a dark smoke rising from the town. In a few minutes the flames burst forth in tremendous volumes, and raged for two hours. Unable from our distance, of about five miles, to learn any thing of the extent of the fire, we were compelled to wait the departure of the enemy, to obtain the news connected with their stay.

On their departure this morning, we immediately started to town, and found, when we arrived, that the fire was wide-spread, consuming a square and a half, in the very centre [sic] of the town. It was, no doubt, the work of a Yankee incendiary. It burst out in the second story of Vandenberg's warehouse and spread right and left, consuming the property of the following citizens: Two store houses of William Moses, the dwelling of Major Kerr, the Post-Office, Vanderbergh's warehouses, the Railroad House, Randall warehouse, the Brown House, jeweller's [sic] store adjoining, Barney Mooney's bar-room and restaurant, and store adjoining, belonging to B. F. Kauffman; C. Monod's three large warehouses and dwelling, the Cook buildings, consisting of store houses and dwelling. Altogether about thirty houses, large and small, were consumed in the very centre [sic] of the business part of the town. The loss is very heavy; how much the amount, I cannot now say. Capts. Brown and Pendexter and Mr. Marye suffered heavily, in the loss of furniture. Threats had been made against the town and its citizens by Dr. Rosencranz, (another of our refugees,) on his landing from the steamers. It is certain that the fire was the work of an incendiary, as Vandenberg's warehouse, since last July, when it was fully repaired, was kept under lock and key. Two yankee soldiers were seen issuing from the back premises, just before the fire broke out. The inference is, therefore, fair that the fire was placed

in our midst for the destruction of the town. . .

Whilst every courtesy was shown to the citizens by General Warren, he declares that, if his resident sympathisers [sic] (and a very hard set they were and are) were interfered with by the citizens, he would visit condign punishment upon the town and its rebel inhabitants. Now, the citizens, for their own safety, are not willing to meet out the full measure of justice to this set, but in my opinion, they should be placed where they could do no more harm. We have got rid of the principals, Col. Wesley Ogden, who went to Abraham's bosom this morning, with a score of others; but then, our old *He*, Saltmarsh, has been foisted on us by Gen. Warren, who declared that if a hair on his head is touched, he will make us smoke for it. This same old *He* is again flourishing at the San Antonio House. He was sent away from here nearly two years ago by the Provost Marshal. Gen. Bee, however, to whose tender care he was committed, very kindly permitted him to return amongst us, and now Gen. Warren declares that the act of Gen. Bee was meritorious, and insists that he shall retain his domicile here.

A thousand details could be given of the presence of the Abrahamites here. Every citizen who remained in the place is full to overflowing of their actings and doings, but as I have been here only about an hour, and am compelled to hurry this letter for the messenger, who is about starting, I must close.

West.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, May 4, 1864, p. 1, c. 5-6

Under date of April 12<sup>th</sup>, Capt. Boren, of this place, writes to his sister (says the Tyler Reporter) as follows: . . .

"Prisoners are being brought in every day.—Before Banks gets his army safe under the shot and shell of his gunboats, we will capture not less than five thousand.

"They will all be sent to Texas, and in all probability to Tyler. If they are sent to Tyler, I wish they may receive just such treatment as Confederate States soldiers have at their hands. I could not regret their death by starvation, for as they came up from Alexandria they devastated the whole country. All live stock, and all provision of every description, were taken from helpless women and children. Their furniture was burnt and broken up. Beds and every article of clothing was taken or destroyed. Ladies told me that the Yankees acted so much like fiends, that they were compelled to seek refuge in the woods, where they remained two days and nights."

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, May 4, 1864, p. 2, c. 6

We have seen samples of the guns now being manufactured in Tyler Armory, and pronounce them, according to our judgment, the finest army pieces we have ever seen. The "Hill Rifle" for cavalry, and the "Texas Rifle" for infantry, are hard to beat, while the "short Hill Rifle," intended for artillery, is a perfect model of beauty and convenience. Col. Mill [sic], in charge of Ordnance Works here, has the very important qualification as an officer of doing what he undertakes well.—Tyler Reporter.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, May 11, 1864, p. 1, c. 2

Shreveport, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

. . . Twenty-six disloyal persons were sent up from Natchitoches, and reached here yesterday afternoon. A noted horse-racer, by the name of Small, is one of them, and several women, not the brightest specimens of the sex at that. They came up in wagons, and were lodged in jail.

About 2000 of the Federal prisoners, taken in Arkansas, will be through here to-day. . .  
M.E.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, May 11, 1864, p. 1, c. 4

Tulip, Ark., May 21, 1864.

Ed. News:--On the 30<sup>th</sup> of April we overtook the enemy at the Saline river and fought them. General Smith assumed command of the army in the field at Camden, and directed its movements up to this time. The pursuit was vigorous and the course of the Yankees marked with the destruction of property. Everything of wearing apparel from baby clothes to cavalry over-coats, as well as feather beds and bed clothing, wagons, buggies, ordnance, tools, stationery, and in fact almost every kind of thing you can imagine, was found along the route. Notwithstanding the enemy had destroyed, as they supposed, all means of our army crossing the river, our engineers rigged up a raft so that by 10 o'clock the morning after they had left Camden we were across the river and in pursuit. We traveled fifty miles in less than two days and overtook them with our infantry at the Saline river. Our cavalry caught them the morning before and skirmished with them all day. . . . [description of battle]. The battle was fought on their side principally with Dutch and negroes, and contested with determined stubbornness. I cannot say that we achieved a great victory. We kept the ground, but they accomplished their object, that is, they escaped with about 500 negroes, men, women, and children, which they had picked up on the route, besides a number of families that left Camden with them. . . . P.P.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, May 11, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

Camp of 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment, in Field.

20 miles north of Minden, La., April 22d, 1864.

Editor News.—I promised, in the conclusion of my first letter, to give you some of the incidents of the two battles more at my leisure; and, having a day's rest allowed us, I propose fulfilling that promise, provided you are not already wearied with the details sent you by correspondents.

I trust I will not be held strictly accountable for literary quotations and authorities, as my opportunities for "light reading" has been confined to a small work on "quick," "double-quick," "double roots and double duty," edited by one "Bill Hardy," which I make it a rule to kick, whenever it comes within my reach; but I believe it was the sarcastic Randolph who used the comparison—"the play of Hamlet, with the part of Hamlet left out."

I have been forcibly reminded of the aptness of this comparison by the various published accounts of the battles which have reached us. [excellent account of Walker's Texas Division in battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill.]

Orion.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, May 31, 1864, p. 1, c. 6

Bonham, 24<sup>th</sup> May, 1864.

Ed. News.-- . . . Having no news, I may tell an anecdote which may not have reached you. I can't vouch for the truth, but I can for the wit. On the way from Shreveport to Tyler, the officer in charge of the Yankee prisoners, on calling the roll one morning, discovered that two officers were missing. The roll was called some little distance from the spot where they had encamped. A party was sent back to search for them, and seeing no one, enquired of a woman, whose house was not far from their camp fires. She said that she had seen no one, but that her

children, a few minutes before, had come running to the house crying, "Oh ma! they have killed two of the Yankees and burried [sic] them, and they have come to life, and are getting up from their graves." The children had been playing about camp, as soon as it was deserted, and saw what they related, though the mother paid no attention until the enquiry was made of her. An examination was made, and sure enough two shallow graves, in the sand, were discovered, covered over lightly with sand and leaves, which had, evidently, just been vacated. Dogs were immediately procured and put upon the trail, and after purposely running the officers about twenty miles, they were overhauled, tired nearly to death. "Well," said one of the Yankees, "You've got us, and I am really astonished at it, for I have always understood that trained dogs would only follow the tracks of a negro." "That is in and about the truth," said the old farmer who owned the dogs, "but you see my dogs aint so overly smart, and they cant tell the difference between the track of a nigger and an abolitionist."

Yours, A.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, June, 1, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

We would call the attention of Sugar planters to the advertisement of Sugar Kettles.

Mr. Tanner, the advertiser, has extensive nitre [sic] works in Llano county, where he is turning out 5000 pounds of nitre [sic] daily. The cave which he is working is some three or four hundred yards in length, with a deposit of from twelve to fourteen yards. He also informs us that the Edgeworth cave in Burnett is still more extensive with equally as rich a deposit. Mr. Edgeworth having already supplied the Nitre [sic] Bureau with over 40,000 pounds of nitre [sic], so pure that it was found by analysis to contain but two percent of foreign matter. Mr. Fanner [sic] thinks the whole Confederacy could easily be supplied with nitre [sic] from these two caves. The price paid by the Bureau is but 75 cents per pound, which at the present depreciated state of our currency is less than the cost of manufacture, and it is understood that the price is to be increased to compensation rates.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, June 1, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

Excitement at Tyler—Three Men Hanged.—[The letter from which the following extracts were taken was not written for publication, but knowing the writer as we do, we take the liberty of publishing such parts as are of interest to the public. We know the writer to be a young gentleman of veracity. He is on duty at Tyler.—Editor Quid Nunc.]

Capt. J. B. Burnett—My Dear Friend:--On yesterday evening, about sunset, were hanged, half a mile from this place, three men, supposed to be jayhawkers, and of which there is but little doubt. They were evidently bad men, to say the least of it, and deserved the fate that befell them. One of them, the leader of the party, Jim Reed, was Sheriff of Collin county; another, McReynolds, or McRunnels, rather an elderly man, was Chief Justice of the same county; the other was a young fellow by the name of Holcombe. The charges against these outlaws were, as I understand the matter, the entering of the house of an old lady living in Vanzandt [sic] county, grossly insulting and robbing her of \$300 in specie, and about \$1900 in Confederate notes. They all plead not guilty to the last moment—making no confessions. Reed said that he had been burned out in his county by men much worse than he was accused of being, and forced to move his family, a wife and seer children, to his mother-in-law's in Vanzandt [sic] county. It seems that the evidence against them was not of the most convicting nature, as we could get it here, but the party that brought them in were sufficiently satisfied of their guilt. The old lady, whose house was broken open and robbed, identified and swore to their being the men. Reed had in his



pocket, at the time of his arrest, papers from Gen. McCulloch passing him to some command in Arkansas or Louisiana, he, as he stated, preferring to be in the army rather than out, exposed as he was. I learn that he carried a company in the service from his county at the commencement of the war; in fact, no one disputed it that I heard. The worst feature of the affair in this case is, that he served a term of three years in the penitentiary of Missouri before coming to Texas. This he denied, as well as ever having been in Missouri.

I forgot to mention that a young fellow by the name of Davis was brought in by these persons from Vanzandt [sic], and condemned, and carried out to be executed with the others, but, fortunately, he was to be last hanged, which circumstance saved his life. As they had but one rope, they could hang but one at a time, and had to wait till he was dead. Just as they were fixing to execute Davis, a gentleman came up who recognized him as being a member of his command, and said that he had always made a good soldier. He was, of course, released, and is now at Camp Ford. McReynolds, or McRunnels, has a son out at camp, who is now offering any price for a wagon to carry his father's body home, at Rockwall, Kaufman county.

I have written much more upon this subject than I expected to when I set out, as you will probably get a more full and correct account of it from other sources.

About 1500 Yankee prisoners were brought in a few days ago, and I heard Gen. Roane say, just now, others were coming. There are now over 3,000 prisoners at Camp Ford, near this place. Lieut. Col. Hill, commanding post, is quite an energetic and experienced officer. He was chief of artillery under Lieut. Gen. Holmes, in the District of Arkansas. I have no more news of interest.

Truly yours,  
J. C. M.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, June 8, 1864, p. 1, c. 4

Bonham, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

. . . The ink with which this note is written was made by boiling a very prevalent weed of our prairies and adding a small quantity of copperas to the decoction as a mordant. There is no further need of quartermasters paying a thousand dollars a bottle for ink. A lake of it might be made about here. Our women have been dying their garments with it. One girl said "she went into the woods, in a dress dyed with it, the other day, and the birds all went to roost;" and I don't know what all happened. The dye is ordinarily called "Lincoln's Blood."

B.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, June 8, 1864, p. 1, c. 5

Bonham, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

. . . If I was a botanist, I would make known to your female readers a jet black die [sic], recently discovered, and now in use in the country. The weed used for this purpose grows in great abundance on the prairies.

Your correspondent, "B," has this instant handed me a bottle of ink, with which I write, taken, as he says, from his wife's "die pot," and as he informs me he is before me in communicating this "item," it is proper that I should desist. . .

"A."

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, June 8, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

We will gladly receive any country produce for subscription, for which those acting as

our agents are authorized to allow the highest prices, and hold it subject to our order, or send by first opportunity of transportation. We, of course, expect such articles as will keep and will best bear transportation, such as flour and bacon, home made cloth, wool, etc.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, June 15, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

Galveston, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

Editor News:--There was quite an excitement at Head Quarters on Thursday, occasioned by a crowd of women, who demanded of the General rations of flour, bacon, &c., &c., refusing to receive corn meal, and such other articles as have heretofore been furnished them at Government prices. It seems to have been a preconcerted movement, gotten up by a party to take the General by storm, as had been previously done with the Major-General. The principal ringleaders, or rather sisters, were women who were not actually in need, and who seemed disposed to prefer a row rather than receive their rations. The women were placed under a guard, and were interrogated singly, and the real leaders were detected. These were ordered to be sent off the Island by this morning's train, and the order is now being carried into effect. At daylight this morning, quite a procession of wagons and ambulances were on the way to the premises of these female rioters to remove their families and effects to the Depot.

...

Item.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, June 29, 1864, p. 1, c. 2

Shreveport, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1864

Dear News.—One of our most respected fellow citizens, Dr. G\_\_\_\_, surgeon in the Confederate army, who was taken prisoner at Fort DeRussey on the 14<sup>th</sup> of last March, and who has been at New Orleans since, returned home yesterday, having been unconditionally released. The Dr. witnessed many things in New Orleans of interest, being a portion of the time allowed the limits of the city. . .

The Dr. relates a circumstance that will well bear repetition. At the very moment that Banks was fleeing from the disastrous fields of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, with the shattered remnants of his army, Mrs. Banks was giving *tableaux vivante* at New Orleans for the benefit of the Sanitary Commission. She, bedecked with finery, represented the Goddess of Liberty. A pole, with the star spangled banner, was placed in the centre [sic], and the Goddess, with exultant and proud mien, pointed to this proud emblem of American liberty. In the far back ground was placed a small weather beaten flag, with a few poorly clad females clinging to its folds. This was intended to represent the stars and bars, the emblem of Confederate liberty and nationality.

The scene now changes, the proud flag of the Union is triumphant and the foot of the goddess rests upon the flag of the Confederacy. The Confederate females are placed in a crouching and suppliant attitude at the feet of the exultant goddess, who points to the stars and stripes as the emblem of freedom and hope of the oppressed in every land. At the close of the representation it was announced that a series of such representations would take place during the next week, but before the next week arrived, the disastrous campaign of Red River had become known at New Orleans and the said representations were postponed to a more convenient season.

..

M.E.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, June 29, 1864, p. 1, c. 4

Shreveport, June 18, 1864,

. . . I have just learned the following anecdote of Sherman, which is told me by the lady herself, who was the principal actor in the scene.

Not long after the fall of Vicksburg, an accomplished young married lady, a former acquaintance of Gen. Sherman, called upon him. The lady stepped into the general's quarters boldly, and spoke to him, calling him by name. The general looked up, not immediately recognizing his visitor; but, soon recognizing her, he seemed surprised to meet her there, but expressed himself very much gratified at once more meeting with an old acquaintance.

*Lady*—"Well, Gen. Sherman, I must acknowledge my great surprise at finding you here, engaged in a deadly war with the South."

*Sherman*—"Why, how so?"

*Lady*—"You cannot have forgotten the speech you made the boys before leaving the University, in Louisiana."

*Sherman*—"What speech?—Well, I believe I did say to the boys, that I would not take up arms against the South; but the truth is, Madam, I was forced into it—compelled, you may say, against my own will."

*Lady*—"General, that will never do. It is impossible that a gentleman of your position could have been forced to do anything. So you must have some other reason, and, moreover, no gentleman should ever be forced to violate his word of honor."

*Sherman*—"Well, the truth is, Madam, I did have some other good reasons. The people of the South are the noblest in the world, and I would not live in the United States, if they did not belong to it; and so I went North, and aided in raising an army—composed of the scum of the earth—to force the high chivalry of the South to submit to the Union."

*Lady*—"General, your reasons are unbecoming a man of your position."

*Sherman*—"Well, Madam, to be plain, I don't care a d—n which whips, any way!"

This conversation of Sherman soon reached the ears of General Grant, who, not being on the best of terms with Sherman, called upon him for an explanation of his language. Sherman would have denied the use of the language if he could, but the proof was positive, and he had to bear the consequence. As Grant and Sherman were not on very good terms any way, this little incident considerably increased their coolness, and for some time they scarcely spoke at all.

M.E.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, June 29, 1864, p. 1, c. 5

Head Qrs., Bureau of Conscription,  
Trans Mississippi Department,  
Marshall, Texas, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

General Orders No. 13.

I. Manufacturers of iron, salt, wool or cotton cloth, soap or candles, who have been or may be detailed as such manufacturers, or to manage and superintend their factories, or who have had or may have conscripts or soldiers detailed as operators or employees in such factories, will be required to make affidavit that they will, during the continuance of their details, sell the articles produced or manufactured at their establishments at prices not exceeding those fixed by the Commissioners of the State under the Impressment Act.

II. Persons who have been or may be detailed, or who have had or may have others detailed in their employ, as wool carders or threshers, or cutters of wheat or other grain, will make a similar affidavit that during the continuance of their details they will not take or receive, by way of toll, or other means of compensation, a higher rate of pay for carding wool or

threshing or cutting grain, than was customary to be paid for such services in the localities where rendered before the war, and that they will sell their surplus of the articles received by way of toll, over a sufficiency for the supply of their families, at prices not exceeding those fixed by the Commissioners of the State under the Impressment Act. . . .

VII. Any evasion of this order or of the provisions of General Order No. 11, either by refusal to perform work or to sell for Confederate money, or by obtaining provisions in exchange for work articles manufactured, or received by way of toll at prices below their customary market value in the neighborhood, or by exchanging work or articles manufactured or received for toll for provisions or supplies for re-sale, will be punished by prompt revocation of the detail.

VIII. Upon proper application and satisfactory proof, one man will be detailed as superintendent to every manufactory of Salt, in which not less than 20 bushels are actually manufactured per day. But such details will not be made to such manufactories as have superintendents not subject to military duty. By command of

Brig. Gen. Greer,  
W. Stedman, A. A. General.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, June 29, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

The Army Mail.—We are requested by Mr. Warren Adams to state that on account of the heavy discount on the old currency, and for the reason that he now brings back a heavy mail without a charge, his charge per letter for his next mail will be \$10. His expenses will now be quite double in the old currency what they have been. Charge for taking and delivering money 10 per cent. He will leave on the fourth of July.

There will be ample time for answers to be written, to be brought by Mr. Adams, on his return; and those who wish answers should direct them to be sent AT ONCE to "*Montgomery, Ala.*, care of 'Advertiser,'" or to "*Mobile Ala.*, care of 'Register and Advertiser,'" and they will be brought FREE OF CHARGE. On his last trip Mr. Adams brought back just about as many letters as he carried over.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, June 29, 1864, p. 1, c. 1

Official information has been received here confirming the report that the Federals have finally evacuated Fort Esperanza. They blew up the works on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup> inst., and left on their transports on the same day. There is, therefore, not a Yankee at this time on our whole coast this side of the Rio Grande. It is, indeed, not positively known that they have left Mustang Island, but it cannot be supposed that they would destroy and evacuate their only strong position and continue to occupy an exposed and unprotected island, without any intelligible object. . . .

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, July 6, 1864, p. 2, c. 5

Tyler, Texas, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

Editor News:-- . . . By the way, perhaps, there is no harm telling your numerous readers how well our young Confederacy is getting along in this section in the fabrication of fire arms and ordnance stores generally—articles so much needed by our gallant soldiers in the great struggle for liberty. Well, then, I recently had the pleasure to accompany Lieut. Col. G. H. Hill through the extensive works he has caused to be erected near this formerly flourishing town, and I was most agreeably surprised to witness the progress which has been effected. One fine blacksmith shop runs sixteen forges. In another extensive brick structure, the machinery for the

manufacture of fire arms rolls daily (Sundays excepted) putting up splendid guns, from the first to the last screw, and all going on with perfect order and system. Though this is a Government establishment, I did not see one idle man about the premises—all was quiet, save the roll of the machinery and the clink of the hammer.

Capt. Geo. S. Polleys is superintendent of the work here, and deserves much credit for the orderly manner in which all is carried on.

I do not mention, for particular reasons, the precise number of fire-arms added to our supply every week from the establishment, but it is by no means inconsiderable.

Col. Hill is engaged in fabricating nearly everything belonging to the ordnance department, excepting cannon, round shot and shell; and certainly no more faithful or skillful officer graces this branch of the service.

It might be well to mention that a great many mechanics employed in these shops are Master Masons, and this fact, no doubt, accounts to some extent for the extraordinary good conduct of the laborers, who by dint of their honest industry and skill will yet live to be called from their many months of labor to many long years of refreshments, amid the smiles of independence, peace and plenty, Heaven speed the time!

Col. Scott Anderson is in command of the Post here and the Prison Camp, which now contains nearly 4800 Yankees. The Colonel is a gallant officer and well known to Texians.

Everything goes bravely on in this section, and an early peace is anticipated. There is a good prospect now of effecting an exchange of a goodly number of prisoners soon.

Fraternally yours,

Alamo.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, July 13, 1864, p. 1, c. 4

Tyler, Texas, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1864

Dear News:--The weather in this part of the Confederate vineyard, is at present oppressively hot and sultry—winds dry and dusty. Yesterday, the Fourth of July, passed without any celebration among the quiet denizens of old Smith; no mint julips [sic], sherry cobblers or brandy smashes with ice; the few who indulged took whiskey straight, for the same reason that the fox thought the grapes were sour.

Last night we had a "small sprinkling" of excitement in the way of a reliable report from Camp Ford, informing the commander of the Post, that the Yankee prisoners of war, intended celebrating the Fourth of July by storming the little picket fence which surrounds their plantation, paying a summary visit to their numerous overseers, (who with muskets in their hands, have an eye to their interests and frequently anticipate their wants) after which they would prepare to take a journey of more magnitude by way of calling upon their brethren of "African descent" in lower Louisiana, and on the Arkansas and White rivers—their plans were all made known by one of their own number, and the ever vigilant Col. Anderson, immediately took steps to prevent the attempt as well as defeat it, should their temerity lead them thus far—by his prompt action he no doubt saved these poor deluded fanatics and negro worshippers, from being "welcomed by bloody hands to hospitable graves."

Last Saturday night, seven of them undertook to escape by removing two of the pickets and then stealing away. One was shot right at the line, but not killed; the other six ran away as fast as their pedestals would carry them, they were trailed up by dogs, and four of them caught up in tree tops the same night, and the other two captured in the same manner the next day. As the trailers came up, the Yanks shouted most lustily, "here we are boys, come and take us, but please dont hurt us!"

All is quiet today. Colonel Scott Anderson is the right man in the right place, and your readers may rest assured that should any attempt be made, on the part of the prisoners, to over run the guard, they will be repulsed with most bloody results.

In haste fraternally yours,

Alamo.

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

[From the Louisiana Democrat.]

The men and material of the army of the Liberator of Louisiana, while here on their last trip *en marche* to Shreveport, amused themselves wonderfully at the expense of the citizens. It would take months to relate their doings. We will, however, give a few of these tricks as we witnessed them. The navy were the first to arrive, and had full sway before the army of Smith arrived, and well did they play their part. As soon as they reached the shore they broke out in town in squads, each under an officer, and charge chicken coops was the word, and never since the days of the far-famed Jeremy Diddler was such stealing, or as they call it, foraging seen. Not a chicken, not even the old veteran Shanghais were respected, and a clean sweep was made in less than an hour. While this game was going on, a few select naval crowds, the most respectable of old Abe's web footed boys, were entering private houses, *sans ceremonie*, and helping themselves. We saw a naval officer, with sword belted on, and two non commissioned marines in broad day, walk into a house, take the clock off the mantelpiece, wrap it up in a quilt on the bed, and marched to the gunboat with both. Just think of the navy of the United States, once the pride and boast of the world, so low sunk in depravity as to turn thieves of family furniture. Again, while the town was in flames and the women and children were saving at the risk of life a few articles they most needed, we saw a naval officer, with two negro marines under his orders, go to a pile of saved furniture, and take two family portraits, a pair of curtains and a musquito [sic] bar from the pile and walk off aboard of his boat. The same day we witnessed two soldiers on front street, in the presence of more than one hundred officers, go into a private yard, take off an old brood mare with a young suckling colt, cut the throat of the colt from ear to ear, and both mounted the mare and rode off, yelling and whooping. Reader, these are facts our own eyes, without specs, have seen, and we place them on record as a few of the infamies of the Union saviors.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, July 20, 1864, p. 1, c. 5

The Condition of the Frontier.—We have a communication from Gainesville, correcting some errors and exaggerations made (as the writer says) by a previous communication published in this paper. Want of room compels us to condense this article, but, as we understand its statements to be generally correct, we feel it due to the people to give them in substance. He says the large amount of property represented to have been captured from the disloyal people on the frontier by Gen. McCulloch, is an exaggeration. The property taken was really very insignificant, and what was taken has generally been returned to the right owners, from whom it had been stolen. Our previous communication represented that there were a very large number of traitors and bushmen in camp in the Western counties, whereas, this writer says there are really very few of them, with the exception of some misguided militia men from Jack county, but that these had returned to their homes. This writer says, that at this time the entire section, embracing Wise, Jack, Young, Stephens, Palo Pinto, and adjoining counties, is in a healthy

condition. An officer just from Gen. McCulloch's headquarters, to whom we have shown this letter, says it is true in the main, and that Gen. McCulloch, by his energetic and prudent administration in that Department, had rid the country of nearly all that disaffected class of persons—some having been sent in chains to Shreveport and others to camps of instruction. There are, however, still a few left, but they will probably soon come in. Both our correspondent and the officer above referred to, concur in stating that the number of the disloyal in that section has been exaggerated, and that many included in that category were good soldiers, who had been induced to desert and fly to their families, on account of the unfounded reports of their suffering and the dangers surrounding them. These soldiers having found that they had been misled have returned, or are returning, to their duty. They have done good service to the country, and are ready to do it again. There are, however, skulkers all over the country, who have hitherto succeeded in evading the service, and are still making every exertion to escape our conscript officers. This class are doubtless numerous, and by no means confined to the frontier, though many have gone there from the lower counties, the better to escape detection. These are really far more deserving of punishment than the soldiers who have deserted temporarily, for no other motive than to protect their families. We give the following concluding portion of the correspondence:

The line of defence [sic] as established by the State under the direction of Colonel McCord, that has been so remarkably successful—no important Indian bands in this section ever having penetrated or passed through it—has been strengthened north of Belknap by twenty-five hundred cavalymen, the substance of the families of absent soldiers has been consumed by useless soldiery and their service needed elsewhere. Not an Indian has been seen in the country this year. Major Quail's command organized under the direction of the State authorities numbers fifteen hundred and seventeen men and Colonel Bourland's near one thousand and other troops are near at hand; this is besides the Frontier regiment.

During the past winter and spring we had many troubles here resulting in killing, robbing, &c., but that all passed away and perfect quiet restored with the departure of restless, ambitious independent warriors, who adjourned among us for a time. We say to your readers and to our gallant defenders on the distant fields, that no such military preparations, no such concentration of supplies and outfit as above alluded to could be gathered together in our midst or upon our borders for the enemies purpose, and the huge stories about formidable camps and troops of Tories, deserters, and skulkers are circulated for a purpose either by speculators or apprehensive frontiersmen or the officer or soldier who had rather while away his time here in useless marches or fruitless campaigns after vague rumors or imaginary apparitions, than aid their brothers upon the field of honor. We will write you again.

Yours, Cook.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, July 20, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

Tyler, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

Ed. News—One of our agents of exchange, Capt. Birchett, arrived here a few days since, and has been busy making out his rolls for the exchange of 1,000 Yankee prisoners of war. One squad of them started this morning, and the balance will leave to-morrow morning for Alexandria via Shreveport. This number, I am informed, covers all that the Yankee Government now has on hand of our men in this Department, and we still have an excess of at least 4,000, the most of whom are still at this point.

Our news from Virginia and Georgia is very fine, but you no doubt have later dates than

we. The signs of the times are all pointing towards the rainbow of peace. Great, skillful generals and brave soldiers have given us many glorious victories. Crops are splendid—yesterday gave us some fine showers.

The Yankees who recently made their escape, and were recaptured by the dogs, are very bitter in their denunciations of poor Tray. Some of them swear that after the war is over, they intend to raise dogs just to kill.

The dogs used here are nothing but common fox hounds, yet it is truly wonderful how they will strike a trail and follow it—five or six of them are worth more than one hundred soldiers, to catch runaway Yankees or deserters with, and this is another improvement developed by the war. The time will come when every Sheriff will have his pack of hounds, kept by the county, expressly for the purpose of capturing evil doers.

Faternally yours,

Alamo.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, July 20, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

Trinity, on Black River, La.,  
June 28, 1864.

Ed. News.—As announced in my last, our cavalry is now on the move. The advance reached this place this morning.

The country through which we have journeyed since leaving Red River at Alexandria, is a high and dry pinny [sic] woods soil, worthless section, sparsely inhabited, and it would have been better for us if it was not inhabited at all. The people have been in the bushes sneaking nearly ever since the war commenced, and constantly conveying to the Yankees information that they acknowledge as being of a most valuable nature. Whilst Banks was in Alexandria they organized as a regiment of cavalry in the Yankee service, (to them the prisoners we took lay all the house burning, and everything else done contrary to civilized war,) and with them left the country. The commandant of the "District of Western La.," being desirous that they should not be separated from their families, took it into his head to rid the country of the stock, by sending out of our lines the families of the aforesaid traitors, consequently this country is indeed quite sparsely settled at this time. The last remnant of them crossed at this place but a few days ago on their way to Natchez, Miss. Should the war end shortly, this State will present great advantages and opening for young men of industrious and stirring habits, whether farmers or mechanics. For the farmer, the land is already cleared, whilst there is no place to which the mechanic can command better wages. I speak of Louisiana proper, not of this back woods, worthless region—where none but thieves as have just been compelled to leave it, would live. Our horses are catching it out here on the pine straw and burrs, which suggest to me that we have altogether too much cavalry in this district for the present condition of affairs. There has been no corn raised in this country for the last three years, and to ship forage for the horses and mules from Shreveport would be out of the question, but we must have forage, else our horses will still be of less use to the government than they are now, and were the inspecting officers so disposed, they could with perfect propriety condemn, as being unserviceable, at least one third of our present cavalry horses. Should our stay in this country be protracted over a week, no one can conjecture what is to become of our horses. . .

N.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, July 27, 1864, p. 1, c. 5



## Letter from Richmond.

We have been favored with extracts from a private letter of Hon. Jno. R. Baylor, M. C., written at Richmond, Virginia, May 26<sup>th</sup>, just after taking his seat in Congress:

. . . "Should Congress adjourn soon, (which is likely,) I shall visit all the Texas troops in the army, on this side of the Mississippi, especially the sick and wounded. The Texians, I find, are at the head of the army here for gallantry and good conduct. Gen. Lee says they are his best and bravest troops. The State may well be proud of such men. The State, herself, stands high on this side of the river.

"I met a train of Yankee prisoners the other day, and as they passed, seeing the star on my hat, they pointed me out, one to the other, saying, "There's a Texas Ranger! they're the boys to fight!"

"I have seen thousands of Yankee prisoners in the last few days. It is amusing to hear out boys talk with them. They chat, laugh, and trade together as if the best of friends. . .

"I visited the hospitals at Atlanta, and found some of our wounded Texians there. They were delighted to hear the latest news from home, and I was equally well pleased to give the poor fellows all the consolation I could, and to find the hospitals so well conducted. They are neat, plank buildings, whitewashed and scrupulously clean. The men receive all the care and attention that are necessary, and the ladies do all in their power to make them comfortable, and to cheer their tedious hours.

"Whilst I was at Atlanta, I saw a train come in with 1500 of our wounded. Committees of ladies were waiting to receive them. Each had something nice to eat or drink to bestow on the sufferers, and hundreds of little girls had beautiful boquets [sic] for them.

. . . "It is difficult to believe that this city is really threatened by an army of 150,000 men, bent on its capture—so unconcernedly do the citizens take it. Wounded soldiers are constantly coming in from the front; every hour the sound of cannon is heard, for Beauregard is only five miles distant, and is fighting Beast Butler daily; yet the people here are as calm and cool as if in the midst of peace. . .

"Living in Richmond is dear, dearer, dearest. A beef steak costs \$8; meal \$50 per bushel; flour \$5 per lb.; and other articles in proportion.

John R. Baylor.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, July 27, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

A friend just from Laredo informs us that corn is there worth \$8 per bushel by retail, and \$6 by wholesale. There is not a green thing to be seen in the market. Not a vegetable of any kind to be found. There are no beds. Every one lies on his own raw hide and blankets, and if he sleeps in a house, he pays usually 50 cents a night specie for the space he occupies on the floor. Confederate money is not there seen, and scarcely heard of. Furniture is so scarce that chairs and tables are rented at \$1.50 each per week. The Mexicans charge 25 cents specie for turning over a bale of cotton. Their wages per day is \$5 specie.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, July 27, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

We were present for a short time at Colonel Sydnor's auction on Tuesday. We saw prints sold for \$8.50 to \$9 per yard, which he assured the audience he had sold for \$13.50 per yard one month ago, but which had been left with him for sale again by the purchasers. The speculation was a loss of about \$5 per yard in one month. We noticed that socks were sold for \$5 per pair,

which Col. Sydnor stated were sold for \$11 per pair only a week previous. Boy's socks were sold for \$3.40 to \$3.70 per pair. Girls hose for \$6 to \$7 per pair. We were not able to see the end of the sale, but the prices paid leave no doubt that there has been a heavy decline in prices of late in Confederate money. It should be borne in mind that we have none but the old issue. But the truth is there is a great scarcity now of Confederate money. There is every appearance that it will become more scarce before those who want it can get it. The taxes for 1864 have not yet been collected but will soon have to be collected. This should be borne in mind.

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

Lavaca, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

Editor News:--One of our citizens yesterday, whilst on the opposite side of the Bay, at Cox's Point, saw two men in a skiff, who he supposed, from their actions, to be deserters. On his return, he reported the fact to our Provost Marshal, Gen. Woodward, who, with his characteristic promptitude, dispatched a party of pickets across the water, who captured them and brought them to this place. At first they represented that they belonged to Colonel Cook's regiment, and were part of a detail serving on the Confed. gunboat J. L. Carr. To corroborate their statement, they exhibited furloughs from Col. Cook, endorsed by Col. Steele and Gen. Magruder, the furloughs dated 13<sup>th</sup> June, and the approvals on 14<sup>th</sup> May. On being asked how they could reconcile the discrepancy in dates, they caved in and acknowledged that they were Yankee prisoners, taken at Calcasieu, and that they had escaped from Camp Groce. The furloughs were in the names of Jones and Smith.

On asserting their individuality, they were found to be Lieutenant Loring and Ensign Howard, of the steamer Wave, captured in the late gallant affair at Calcasieu. They left Camp Groce on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and after many trials and vicissitudes, in which they were nearly worn down, the succeeded in getting so near the blockader at Pass Cavallo, that in a few hours more they would have been safe on her deck, but for their untoward luck. Gen. Woodward will dispatch them to Houston to-morrow morning, via Matagorda.

West.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 8, 1864, p. 1, c. 2

Walker's Division, Waterhouse's Brigade,  
17<sup>th</sup> Regt. Inf. Camp Fiacan [sic], La., July 12, '64.

Ed. News.—I desire, through the columns of your invaluable paper, to convey to our friends, some information of our "whereabouts," health and condition.

At present this brigade is in camp on Bayou Fiacan, about 15 miles East of Alexandria. Our time is principally occupied in drilling, grumbling about poor beef and furloughs. The general health of the troops is very good, better than it has been for several months, but they are poorly clad, many of them are without necessary articles of raiment, others have on their only suit. To remedy this, several officers from the different brigades have been detailed to go to Texas to procure clothing, with what success is yet to be seen. But probably the most important item of news with us at this time, is a revival of religion now in progress under the supervision of Elder W. A. Mason, Missionary to the army from the Baptist State Convention. He arrived in this brigade about the 4<sup>th</sup> May last, and was welcomed by a hearty reception from the soldiers. Since that time he has been laboring night and day with much zeal and fervency, doing much good, and receiving many souls for his hire. The meeting has been progressing several weeks, and some twenty five or thirty have confessed and put on Christ in Baptism.

Elder Mason has also organized the "Christian Association of Waterhouse's Brigade," composed of the members of the different denominations, who, laying aside all sectarian prejudices, have convened at the altar to worship God, and do all they can for the promotion of the much neglected cause of Christ. Committees are appointed from the different regiments, whose duties are to visit the sick and procure every possible comfort for them. Its works, up to this time, promise much good.

Elder Mason has had no assistance whatever, indeed, the soldiers have been much neglected, there having been only one chaplain in the brigade—Elder Hay, who has no superior as a chaplain. He has been promoted to the rank of Brigade Chaplain for his gallantry on the field at the late battles, and for his attention to and efforts in behalf of the sick and wounded. He is not absent trying to procure clothing for his old regiment, the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Elder Mason is, by resolution of our association, an authorized agent to procure religious literature for the army, which is very much needed and desired. Any one having pocket Testaments, hymn books, or any other benefit for the sick and wounded, which they can spare, and wish to contribute, will confer much good, and for which many soldiers will thank them, by sending them to Elder Mason, who will soon return to Texas for the purpose above named, and to attend the Baptist State Convention.

Most respectfully, I remain your obd't serv't,

B., Co. A, 17<sup>th</sup> Regt. Inf.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 8, 1864, p. 1, c. 2

Orangeville, Fannin Co., Texas,  
July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

Ed. News.—Sir, I see in your number of June 29<sup>th</sup>, an inquiry for information how to manage the tobacco crop, whilst growing, to prevent it from having strong and sickening qualities. In the first place plant your tobacco in good strong ground, cultivate it just like you do corn. While small, be careful to keep the bud worm from cutting the top out, until the plant can be primed, that is, break off about four of the bottom leaves, and then leave as much as ten leaves still above, at that hight [sic] you will top the plants. After you top the plant, suckers will immediately commence growing out where every leaf leaves the stalk, and then you must sucker, that is, break off those suckers, once a week at least, and worm as often, for four weeks after you top it. And occasionally stir the ground, either with the plow or hoes, or both, putting the soil to the plant every time you stir the ground, until it is thoroughly ripe, which can be ascertained by the leaf curling up and getting very spotted and much thicker than when it was in a growing state. You must then cut the tobacco, split the stalk within two or three inches of the lower leaf, with a long and large knife; cut it in the evening or morning, when the heat of the sun will not burn it. Immediately after the plant you have cut wilts, remove it to a shade, and straddle the stalk over a stick some four or four and a half feet long, putting about 10 or 12 plants on one stick. After you get it all on the sticks, then hoist it in your house, prepared with bars, so your sticks will reach from one pole to the other. Be careful not to crowd it in your house after it gets yellow, which it will do in a few days—as yellow as the leaves of the forest after a frost. Build small fires promiscuous, all over the floor of your house; keep these fires up every day—provided the weather is damp—until the stem and fibers of the leaf are cured. If the weather is dry, very little fire is required. After the stem, stalk, and fibers are all cured up, and look of a dark mahogany color, you then can strip the leaf off, separate the two lower leaves from the others, which is called, in Kentucky, Seconds. Put about seven or eight leaves together, and then

take one leaf and bind the large end of the stems together. After we get the tobacco all stripped, we generally hang the tobacco on the sticks and raise it up in the house as when it was in the green state, and wait for the tobacco to come in case, that is, in pressing order, which it will do when the atmosphere becomes camp and heavy. The pressing stage is easily ascertained, when the point of the leaves are soft enough that you can press it in your hands as hard as y our whole grasp and it will not crumble, and the large end of the stems, where you broke it off from the stalk, will crack when you bend them with your hands, it then is in good packing order; you then take your tobacco down, and bulk it with the leaf in, and the large end of the stem out, on both sides like racking oats. After you get it all put in bulk, lay straw and boards on the top and put heavy weights on them. Let the tobacco lay in these bulks until you want to use it for manufacturing. The sooner you bulk your tobacco, after stripping it, is the best; provided you bulk it in the proper order. Every time it changes from high case to dry, it loses strength and body. There is more tobacco injured by cutting it before it gets ripe, than any thing else. You never can give tobacco the body, nor make it have that palatable taste, when cut green. As for manufacturing, I can give you but little information, as respects the recent mode, by experience is merely this: I let the tobacco lay in bulk until the month of May, at which time all tobacco goes through a sweat, and will get in very high case. I then stem and plug it; put in a prige [sic?] without putting any composition of any kind, pack it very hard down in this way, and then give it age,—say 6, 12 or 24 months—it makes it still better.

I have given you my experience on the subject in the States of Kentucky and Tennessee.  
Yours respectfully Milton Draper.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 8, 1864, p. 1, c. 4

We have been shown a letter from Beaumont to Rev. Mr. Castleton, stating that since he left that town, a Soldiers' Home has been successfully organized in that place. This is the beginning of the good work. We expect soon to present our readers with a list of Soldiers' Homes, and will keep it standing for the information of the public.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 8, 1864, p. 1, c. 5

#### Soldiers' Homes in Texas.

One in Houston, in charge of  
One in Beaumont, in charge of  
One in Millican, in charge of  
One in Rusk, in charge of

Sergt. C. A. Scales  
Wm. Fletcher.  
Wm. R. Ellis.

We hope our friends throughout the country will give us early information of the establishment of Homes in their respective neighborhoods, that we may add them to our permanent list, for the information of our soldiers. They will also please give us the names of such persons as may be placed in charge, and to whom application by the soldiers may be made.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 8, 1864, p. 1, c. 5

Jacksboro, Texas, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

G. H. Bringhurst, Esq.—Sir:--I arrived at home on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. I found all well. On the night of the 29<sup>th</sup> the Indians came into our town and stole about fifteen head of the best horses that were in the country. On the next day they went to near the house of a Mr. Fauner about six

miles from town (no one at home except an old lady in her dotage), who, when they showed themselves, ran to the nearest neighbor. Upon examination it was found that after she left the house, they went in and stole all of their clothing, several bed quilts and a rifle gun, leaving some blankets unnoticed. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, (about daylight) they stole five or six good horses on Been's Creek about ten miles East from this place. On the same day late in the evening, another party supposed to be about ten or twelve, went into the farm of a Mr. S. E. Camp, on Kechi Creek ten miles Southwest from this place, gathered green corn as much as they wanted, destroyed the melons, &c. The family had been washing at the Creek about seventy yards from the house and had hung their clothing on the under brush and weeds. A young lady about fifteen years of age and four little boys from three to ten years old, went to the wash place after the clothing. The boys ran ahead of the young lady and were playing in the sand at the waters edge, when about ten Indians that had secreted themselves in the weeds, showed themselves, the boys ran towards the young lady except one, a child of Mr. White, that ran in a different direction and was captured and carried away. The Indians caught one of Mr. Camp's sons, but Miss Cap with her life in her hand, ran among them, and seized her brother, when she was shot through the right arm above the elbow and through the right breast, she then seized the gun, and a second gun was fired at her inflicting another wound through the left arm. The wound through her right arm and breast was inflicted by an ounce ball, that through left, by one about the size used for Colt's Navy six-shooter. The Indians were doubtless kept from murdering Miss Camp and the boys by the appearance of Mrs. White and Camp with guns in hand, when they struck her a severe blow on the arm with the gun and left them. One of the boys has a severe cut on the head caused by an arrow; the others were knocked down, but not hurt. Scouts started in pursuit of them as early as possible, and followed a part of them as far as Big Wichita about seventy miles from this place, but the rain had extinguished the sign so that it was impossible to pursue them further. Miss Camp is recovering slowly. Yours, &c.,

W. W. O. Stanfield.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 3, 1864, p. 1, c. 5

The Countryman says: "Three Yankee prisoners recently escaped from Camp Groce. One was treed by negro dogs. The others were still at large. Look out for them."

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 17, 1864, p. 1, c. 3

Atlanta.—A correspondent of the Mobile Advertiser, writing from Atlanta on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July, gives the following description of that place:

"I can give you no idea of the excitement in Atlanta. Everybody seems to be hurrying off, and especially the women. Wagons, loaded with household furniture, and everything else that can be packed upon them, crowd every street, and women, old and young, and children innumerable, are hurrying to and fro, leading pet lambs, deer and other little household objects of affection, as though they intended to save all they could. Every train of cars is loaded to its utmost capacity, and there is no grumbling about seats, for even the fair ones are but too glad to get even a standing place in a box car. The excitement beats anything I ever saw, and I hope I may never witness such again. But in the midst of all this, the soldiers are cool, and cheerful, and sanguine."

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 17, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

The Fight at Diamond Grove, Arkansas.

Camp 20 miles south of Fort Smith, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

An event has at last occurred in this most uneventful of military districts—though scarcely sufficient to terminate the war, yet it has caused quite a ripple in our stagnant "way of life," and inspired your correspondent to give you and your readers an account of it.

Brigadier-General R. M. Gano reached our camp and was enthusiastically welcomed by his brigade on the 24<sup>th</sup> inst. Becoming tired of inaction, in a couple of days he organized a scout, composed of 500 men from his own brigade, a detachment from Lieutenant-Colonel Wells' battalion and a few Indians, and at 3 o'clock in the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> inst. took up the line of march for Fort Smith. One of Gen. Cooper's scouting parties had reported a party of 200 Yankees encamped in a prairie, six miles from Fort Smith, doing out-post duty. This party was supported by another party of 400, with two pieces of artillery, encamped two miles nearer the Fort.

We marched through Sculleyville, a deserted Indian village; then took a road leading in a north easterly direction, and got on finely until nightfall. Through the incompetency of our guides and the multiplicity of Indian trails, the brigade then got lost. We blundered about until midnight, finally found the road, crossed the Poteau river, and marched to within four miles, as our guides informed us, of the position of the enemy. It was the intention of Gen. Gano to attack them at daylight. At 6 o'clock we were again in our saddles, but instead of finding the Yankees in four miles, we had to march ten. About six o'clock in the morning we reached Mazzard Prairie (Arkansas) and drove in their pickets. Riding out on the prairie, our advance of Indians had a miscellaneous skirmish with a few adventurous Yankees.

In the centre [sic] of the prairie stood a beautiful grove, called Diamond Grove. There the general ascertained the enemy to be encamped. Ordering the Indians and Lieut. Col. Well to the right, the General, with the detachment of his own brigade, proceeded to the left of the grove in a sweeping gallop. Arriving within three or four hundred yards of the encampment, the General ordered Capt. Welch, of the Gano Guards, to dash into the timber, and, assisted by Capt. Hard's company and a detachment of the 29<sup>th</sup> Texas cavalry, under Major Carroll, to drive the enemy into the prairie.

He then placed the remainder of his command in position to secure the game when roused. These movements were promptly executed. The enemy, 6<sup>th</sup> Kansas, were drawn up in line of battle in front of their tents. Immediately a hot fight began in the timber. It lasted but a few minutes, when the routed enemy abandoned the timber and fled to the prairie—our fellows at their heels. They fought with desperation under the impression that the Indians would murder them if they surrendered. The fight was kept up on the prairie some fifteen or twenty minutes, when the entire party was either killed or captured, with the exception of 150 mounted men who effected their escape before the grove was surrendered.

The killed and wounded between fifty and sixty, captured one hundred and twenty-seven prisoners, sixteen wagons, and a great many sutlers stores. The tents, wagons, etc., had to be burned as they could not be brought out by our tortuous and difficult route. The prisoners are now in camp. Our men had a fine opportunity to supply themselves with pistols, overcoats, and all the luxuries of the Yankee Sutler's establishment. Your correspondent is even now solacing himself with the unwonted luxury of a good cigar.

We had scarcely begun a retrograde movement before the enemy, in large force, from Fort Smith made their appearance on the prairie. They had a battery with them. Gen. Gano did not think it prudent to fight them without artillery, fatigued as the troops were, so we very, very leisurely retired before them. They followed us very cautiously a few miles, occasionally firing

on our rear, but soon drew off. At night we encamped on Poteau river and this morning reached camp.

Gen. Gano was in the thickest of the fray, directing and cheering the men, and his coolness and gallantry is the theme of the entire brigade. You can always tell his whereabouts by the cheering of the troops. Maj. Stackpole, Cap. Matthews, Lt. Adams and Lieut. Wall of the staff were on the field and rendered valuable assistance. Our loss was 6 killed and 15 wounded.—Dallas Herald.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 17, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

The Crockett Quid Nunc of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst., gives a full account of the destructive fire that destroyed so large a portion of that town on the Thursday previous. Mr. Rusk Simpson's two store rooms were consumed with all their contents including over 10,000 pounds of government bacon, Capt. Cox's hotel was next consumed, and only about half the furniture saved. Mr. L. E. Downes' store house, A. Corly's drug store, Capt. A. T. Munroe's store house, ware rooms, &c., with John H. Pott's office and bedroom and Messrs. Aldrich & Zimmerman's brick store were all consumed with many of the contents of immense value. Next Messrs. Blair & Wingfield's store and ware-house including the post office, Stubblefield's saddle tree shop, Willingham's shoe shop, T. E. Garner's law office, W. P. Simpson's silversmith shop, John McConnell's blacksmith shop, Box, Jones & Vernadore's blacksmith and woodshops, McNey's wood shop, Zimmerman & Frederick's tin shop and Wm. Johnson's two store rooms, (in one of which Col. Brazier had goods and the other was used as a shoe shop) all were consumed. The Quid Nunc office caught on fire several times, but was finally saved. The total loss is said to exceed one million in currency exclusive of the large amount of goods and furniture. The Quid Nunc office suffered a good deal from the breaking of presses and damage done to material in attempting to remove it. It is believed that the fire was the work of an incendiary.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 17, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

Valuable Information.—For the information of our friends who have cultivated the sorghum, says the Charlotte Times, we have obtained permission to publish the annexed letter on the mode of manufacturing sugar from syrup, which has been successfully done by the author of the letter, a large and very successful planter, residing in an adjoining State:

June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

Dear Sir:--Yours of the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, desiring information for making sugar from the sorghum syrup is received. In the first place, the cane must be fully ripe, so much so that the cane must look yellow, and also the juice after it is expressed. Boil the juice down to a very thick syrup, until it bubbles like a pot of soap when it is done. Before you commence boiling, dissolve one pint of lime into two quarts of the juice, pour it in about one hundred gallons, boil as fast as you can without running over; as for the time, you must judge by the bubbles and by holding up y our dipper, it will fall in sheets instead of drops. Let it cool in large trays or open troughs before you pour into your barrel where you expect it to granulate. Before pouring into the barrel, bore three holes in the bottom sufficiently large to insert three cane stalks. The object of the cane is for the syrup to drop down through the bottom of the barrel when the cane shrinks—the cane should be moved occasionally until it commences dripping freely. I think, if your cane is thoroughly ripe, by following the directions above you will be successful.

Respectfully Yours,

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GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 17, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

Independence, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

Ed. News:--Will you allow me to make a statement as to the condition of affairs east of the Mississippi river, for the information of your many readers, who are, to a great extent, cut off from all means of information. And as I visited most of the troops, I can speak with certainty as to their condition.

. . . I visited the hospitals [in Atlanta], and was gratified to find they were so well kept; everything that can be done for the sick and wounded is done, by both the army surgeons and the citizens, especially the ladies who are as untiring in their devotion to the soldiers as they were when the war first broke out. Nothing that will contribute to the comfort of the sick and wounded is left undone. On the route from Richmond, along the railroad, at every depot, I found ladies with baskets of provisions for the soldiers, or else long tables set for them, and in some instances, when citizens found it difficult to get something to eat, the soldiers had more than they could eat. All this kindness and devotion is not wasted—the soldiers are not insensible to such kindness, and will never lay down their arms while the homes of such women are in danger. I found the feeling of the people to be hopeful and cheerful everywhere, the money very day, strange as it may seem, in those districts that have been over run by the enemy and where every thing was destroyed; for the Yankees left their trail in fire and ruin; every village burnt, every cow, hog, sheep and chicken killed, the horses and mules taken, and the provisions that could not be carried away were burnt, yet among these people I found more kindness, patriotism and liberality than in any other section. This contrasts strangely with our people at home, for if they would only charge Yankee batteries with half the unrelenting, savage ferocity that they charge wounded, sick and furloughed soldiers coming home or returning to the army, my deliberate opinion is that the Yankees wouldn't have a cannon left in their army in a week.

And why it is in our State that there are not soldiers' homes all through the country, I am at a loss to imagine. Texas is overflowing with provisions, has never been invaded, (thanks to the soldiers,) and our people have both the means and the time to do this much for our soldiers, and it is their duty. It is humiliating to think that a man who has returned wounded, a cripple for life, should be charged a *month's wages* for a bed to sleep on and a little bread and meat to eat. . .

I visited Dr. Bryan's Hospital, at Auburn, where there are four hundred sick and wounded soldiers. The Dr. kindly showed me through the different wards, and even the kitchen. I found it far ahead of the other hospitals, and the people of Texas ought to contribute liberally to that hospital, for it is for Texas soldiers, and contributes greatly to the comfort of our unfortunate sick and wounded. The ladies at and in the vicinity of Auburn are doing all in their power to aid in taking care of our men, and they deserve the thanks of our people for their devotion to our wounded and sick soldiers. Dr. Bryan has done his part nobly, and deserves the gratitude of our State.

I will not trespass upon your space any further, Mr. Editor, and hope you will pardon me for sending so long a communication, but hope you can make room for it for the information it will give those whose sons are in the armies east of the river.

Respectfully,

Jno. R. Baylor.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, August 24, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

Atlanta, July 22—Night.—A great battle has been fought, and splendid successes achieved. . . The mourning hours passed slowly and solemnly. Every face wore a look of



despondency. Shells were dropping in the streets, and sad groups of women and children, with a temporary supply of provisions, were wending their way to the woods. During the night, straggling ruffians had broken into the stores, robbed them of such of their contents as they wanted, and scattered the remainder through the streets. During the morning, these demoralizing scenes were repeated. Abandoned women broke into the military shops, and men in the uniform of soldiers gutted and pillaged premises from roof to cellar in search of tobacco and whiskey. The office of the Southern Express Company underwent this process far before day, and I enjoyed the melancholy privilege of seeing boxes, papers, and everything mentionable, thrown in "confusion worse confounded" on all sides. I dwell on the subject with peculiar dissatisfaction, because of my own losses, which leaves me minus of everything, from tooth brush to blanket, except the clothes in which I stand. While this indiscriminate pillaging was going on, wagons, stragglers, citizens and negroes, loaded with plunder, were hurrying out of town, fully impressed with the idea that Atlanta was about to be abandoned. Under these circumstances, it is no wonder that even the officers of the army were in a measure despondent, and regarded the fortunes of the day as decidedly unpromising.

Not until evening did this mood change. Then it was ascertained that we had struck the enemy one of the severest blows of the war. . .

A considerable number of Yankee wounded are lying in the depot. Our own wounded are being sent to the various field hospitals.

The ladies of Atlanta have been kind beyond measure. While the wounded are coming in, they go out to meet them, with water, coffee and other refreshments, and after the wounds are dressed, visit the various hospitals in the city and tenderly nurse the sufferers. Confidence is restored in every heart, and no one now believes that Atlanta will not be saved.

Personne.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, September 7, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

Goliad, Aug. 27, 1864.

. . . A Sunday School celebration, with dinner, addresses, &c., came off here 25<sup>th</sup> inst., attended by several hundred ladies and but few men—500 of our citizens being in the army, also by a company of soldiers encamped in the vicinity. The preliminary examination before C. S. Commissioner Burlage, at Austin, of five citizens of this county, arrested by Col. Steel, for treason, takes place on the 29<sup>th</sup> inst. Some forty of our citizens have gone to Austin as witnesses. The Southern party carried the late election here four to one.

W.H.J.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, September 7, 1864, p. 2, c. 4

From Fort Smith.—The Washington Telegraph of the 17<sup>th</sup> ult., contains the following extract of a letter from Doaksville, C. N., August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1864. After recapitulating the news of Gano's fight, heretofore published, the writer says:

"Since which time he went within one and a half miles of Fort Smith, captured twelve prisoners, drove them from their fortifications, shelled them for one hour, found he could not draw them out, therefore retired. His loss, two killed—one having his head, the other his leg carried away by a round shot. He then fell back some distance, thinking they would pursue, which they did not do. Gen. Cooper then made an attack upon them in three columns—he commanding the centre [sic], Gen. Watie [sic] the left, and Gen. Gano the right wing—drove in their pickets, captured 119 prisoners, and were, at last accounts, shelling the place. The Federals

are reported as being greatly alarmed, and are, it is said, moving a large number of barrels, boxes, etc., across the Arkansas river. The supposition is that they are endeavoring to evacuate the place, which they will be permitted to do, for the place is well fortified, and it would cost us a good many men to take it. I forgot to mention, that before Gano's second attack the Federals had been reinforced by a regiment from Clarksville, Ark. I think we will take the place if they do not vacate it. I think, from all accounts, their troops are discouraged—indeed, demoralized. The negro troops are frightened almost to death. They have not forgotten the way the Choctaws served them in Arkansas."

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, September 7, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

A private letter from Fort Worth says:—"J. M. Luckey, of Weatherford, was hung by a mob on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. This is the same Luckey that was arrested for treasonable conduct some time since, by Major Quayle, and sent to Houston, and was there acquitted."

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, September 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

We have received a note from the Post Office Department, requesting us to discontinue our private express. The letter says: "Letters mailed at any point west of the Mississippi river, prepaid forty cents and endorsed express mail via Shreveport, Louisiana, will go across the river with as much certainty as if sent by private hands and at an expense that does not tax so heavily the soldier or his family.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, September 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

It is difficult to tell whether treachery, falsehood, or impudence, enters most largely into the composition of a Yankee. Certain it is, that it requires the concentrated essence of all these *virtues* (?) to make a complete Yankee. As long as they confined their falsehoods to our men and government, they should be permitted to pass for what they are worth. But when they "reach up" to the "heart of the rebellion—the women of the South—the depth of language should be sounded for words to express our indignation. Had the lie published below been concocted in the bottomless pit, and then traveled through the length and breadth of that dark abode, it could not be blacker or more malignant. Read it Southrons, and let your blood beat quicker and grasp our rifles firmer:

"Somehow I notice, wherever our armies go they succeed—conciliating the women with the greatest readiness. My observation had convinced me that 'when this cruel war is over,' many a starved rebel, driven into the service by his betrothed, will come home to find her, whom he entered the army to defend, the wife of one of those terrible Yankees—those hated puritans; and he will doubtless be spurned away as a traitor, deserving the scorn and contempt of respectable people, deserving to be deserted by his affianced. So it will be in Atlanta. Many a Georgia maiden will, ere a year has elapsed, thank her stars that some Yankee, whom she hoped to see slain on the 4<sup>th</sup>, was allowed to survive and bless her for life. But enough of this—Mars, not Venus, calls."

What! the Georgia maiden unite herself in the marriage tie with him who came for rape, murder, and plunder. *No!* Not till Nature's laws are all reversed and virtue becomes a crime. Had we the pencil of Raphael, and could transfer to the canvas this vile invader, we would place him on a throne of skulls; at his feet should flow rivers of blood; in the background the violated forms of helpless innocence; then light the scene with blazing villages, and you would have an imperfect picture of what is done by those who propose our subjugation. In after ages, when the

student of history shall read of the atrocities of Butler, and Milroy, and Sturges, and Turchin—bating his breath—he will disown his species and deny the existence of a Providence.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, September 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

Hempstead, Sept. 3d, 1864.

Ed. News.—I send you by this morning's train a specimen of bagging manufactured here from common moss. The warp is of cotton, and the filling moss. Its superiority consists in the fact that the moss will not rot, however much it is exposed to the weather, and all it costs is the gathering and rotting. A small improvement on the fabric would make comfortable carpets, negro blankets, &c.

It is made by Mrs. Lee, of this vicinity, and sent to you for inspection.

Very truly yours,

F. J. Cooke.

[The above letter explains itself. We are not a judge of such things. We invite those who are to call and examine it.—Ed.]

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, September 21, 1864, p. 1, c. 2

Waco, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1864.

Ed. News:--We have now all the machinery on the ground for a cotton and woolen cloth Factory, and will begin to put it together in about two weeks. We will need the services of thirty or forty operatives, and send an advertisement to your pages, hoping that our wants may thus be found out by parties who are skilled in manufacturing.

Yours truly,

Jno. B. Earle, Superintendent.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, September 21, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Brenham, Texas, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

Ed. News:--I send you a sample of wool dyed by Mrs. Caldwell and her daughter, Miss Kate Caldwell. It is the only home dye I have seen that strong soap and hot water will not fade.

Process.—Take the pear from the large size cactus, bruise it well, put in a tub, a layer of the bruised pears and then a thin layer of wool and continue that until the tub is nearly full, put a light weight on it, add no water, set it in the sun or by a stove for six or eight days and you have the color of the sample. Nothing is required to set the color.

J.K.M.

The sample can be seen at our office. It is what the ladies call salferreno [sic] color (we have no name for it.) It is a reddish purple. We are heartily glad at every success of this kind. Until we become self-sustaining and self-supplying, we can never be a free people.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, September 21, 1864, p. 2, c. 4

#### Burning of Alexandria, La.

A correspondent of the St. Louis Republican, writing from Cairo, Illinois, gave a description of the burning of Alexandria, La., by Bank's army, which we have never seen on the Southern prints. It is a very graphic sketch, and shows up the heartlessness and ferocity of our oppressors. It is peculiarly good reading just now, that the North is howling over Chambersburg. Here it is:

When the gunboats were all over the falls, and the order to evacuate was promulgated, and the army nearly on the march, some of our soldiers, both white and black, as if by general understanding, set fire to the city, in nearly every part, almost simultaneously. The flames spread rapidly, increased by a heavy wind. Most of the houses were of wooden structure, and were soon devoured by the flames. Alexandria was a town of between four and five thousand inhabitants. All that part of the city north of the railroad was swept from the face of the earth in a few hours, not a building being left. About nine-tenths of the town was consumed, comprising all the business part and all the fine residences, the "Ice-House Hotel," the Court House, all the churches except the Catholic, a number of livery stables, and the entire front row of large and splendid business houses. The "Ice-House Hotel" was a large brick hotel, which must have cost one hundred thousand dollars, and which was owned by Judge Arall, a member of the late Constitutional Convention, who voted for immediate and unconditional emancipation in Louisiana; which Convention also sent delegates to the Baltimore Convention. While Judge A. was serving the Administration, the Federal torch was applied to his house, his law office, his private and law library, and all his household goods and effects. All this property, be it remembered, has been protected for three years by the Confederates, who all the time knew the Judge's Union proclivities. Hundreds of other instances may be cited of Union men who have suffered in like manner, *et uno iudice emne*.

The scene attending the burning of the city were appalling. Women, gathering their helpless babes in their arms, rushing frantically through the streets with their screams and cries, that would have melted the hardest heart to tears. Little boys and girls were running hither and thither crying for their mothers and fathers; old men, leaning on a staff for support to their trembling limbs, were hurrying away from the suffocating heat of their burning dwellings and homes. The fair and beautiful daughters of the South, whose fathers and brothers were in one army or the other; the frail and helpless wives and children of absent husbands and fathers, were, almost in the twinkling of an eye, driven from their burning houses into the streets, leaving everything behind but the clothes they then wore. Owing to the simultaneous burning in every part of the city, the people found no security in the streets, where the heat was so intense as almost to create suffocation. Everybody rushed to the river's edge, being protected there from the heat by the high bank of the river. The gunboats lying at the landing were subjected to great annoyance, the heat being so great that the decks had to be flooded with water to prevent the boats from taking fire. Among those who thus crowded on the river bank were the wives, daughters, and children, helpless, and now all houseless, of the Union men who had joined the Federal army since the occupation of Alexandria. Their husbands had already been marched off to the front, towards Simmsport [sic], leaving their families in their old homes, but to the tender mercies of the Confederates.

The Federal torch had now destroyed their dwellings, their household goods and apparel, the last morsel of provisions, and left them starving and destitute. As might have been expected, they desired to go along with the Federal army, where their husbands had gone. They applied to Gen. Banks, with tears and entreaties, to be allowed to go aboard the transports. They were refused. They became frantic with excitement and rage. Their screams and piteous cries were heart-rending. With tears streaming down their cheeks, women and children begged and implored the boats to take them on board. The officers of the boats were desirous of doing so, but there was the peremptory order from Gen. Banks not to allow any *white citizens* to go aboard. The officers of the boats. A rush would have been made upon the boats, but there stood the guard, with fixed bayonets, and none could mount the stage plank except they bore the

special permit of the Commanding General. Could anything be more inhuman and cruel? But this is not all.—Gen. Banks found room on his transports for six or seven thousand negroes, who had been gathered in from the surrounding country.

Cotton that had been loaded on transports to be shipped through the quartermaster to New Orleans, under Bank's order, was thrown overboard to make room for negroes. But no room could be found for white women and children, whose husbands and brothers were in the Federal army, and whose houses and all had just been burned by the Federal torch! I challenge the records of all wars for acts of such perfidy and cruelty.

But there is still another chapter in this perfidious military and political campaign. Banks, on arriving at Alexandria, told the people that his occupation of the country was permanent; that he intended to protect all who would come forward and take the oath of allegiance; while those who would not were threatened with banishment and confiscation of property. An election was held, and delegates were sent to the Constitutional Convention, then in session in New Orleans. A recruiting officer was appointed, and over a thousand white men were mustered into the United States service. Quite a number of permanent citizens of Alexandria took the oath and were promised protection. Their houses and other property have now all been reduced to ashes, and they turned out into the world with nothing—absolutely nothing, save the amnesty oath! They could not now go to the Confederates and apply for charity. They, too, applied to Gen. Banks to be allowed to go aboard the transports and go to New Orleans. They were refused in every instance! Among those who applied was a Mr. Parker, a lawyer of feeble health, who had been quite prominent making speeches since the Union occupation in favor of the emancipation, unconditional Union, and the suppression of the rebellion. Permission to go on a transport was refused him. He could not stay, and hence, feeble as he was, he went afoot with the army. Among the prominent citizens who took the oath was John K. Elgee, of Alexandria.

Before the return of the army from Grand Ecore, Judge Elgee went to New Orleans leaving his family behind, expecting to return. He was not able to do so before the evacuation of Alexandria. Judge Elgee is one of the most accomplished and able men of the South. A lawyer by profession, he occupied a prominent position, both politically and socially, and has immense influence. So great stress was placed upon his taking the oath, that one of our bands serenaded him at his residence, and Gen. Grover and General Banks honored him in every way possible. During my stay at Alexandria, I had occasion to call upon the Judge at his residence, and at his office—which were both in the same building—on business. His law and literary library occupied three large rooms—being as fine a collection of books as I ever saw.—His residence was richly and tastefully furnished—a single painting cost twelve hundred dollars. In his absence the Government he had sworn to support, and promised him protection, allowed its soldiers to apply the torch to his dwelling and turn his family into the streets. His fine residence, with all its costly furniture, his books, papers, and his fine paintings, were burned up. It may be that many of the last-named articles will yet find their way to the North, having been rescued from the flames by pilferers and thieves; for where arson is resorted to, it is generally to cover theft.

J. Madison Wells, the Lieutenant-General of Louisiana, elected with Hahn, by Gen. Banks's orders, was not spared. He had been a Union man from the beginning. He had a splendid residence in Alexandria, well and richly furnished, at which his own and his son's family resided. His son was absent in New Orleans, attending the Constitutional Convention, of which he was a member, and in which he voted for abolition and all the ultra measures; but that

did not secure his family the protection of the government. All was burned. Thousands of people—men, women and children—were, in a few short hours, driven from comfortable homes into the streets.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, September 21, 1864, p. 2, c. 6

Ed. News:--I am happy to inform you that revivals of religion have been numerous in our section of the country for the past few months. At Mount Zion Methodist Church, (near Sweet Home,) Bro. Buckner Harris and myself held a meeting for nearly four weeks, which resulted in forty conversions and over fifty accessions to the Church.

In Hallettsville our Baptist brethren had a revival meeting of two weeks duration. Result, about twenty-five additions to their Church.

Our meeting at Hallettsville continued eleven days. Result, fifty-seven accessions to our Church.

At Concrete, Antioch, Orizaba, and other places around, similar success. Glory to God in the highest—on earth peace—good will to men.

A. M. Box.

Sweet Home, Texas, Sept. 15, 1864.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, September 21, 1864, p. 2, c. 6

A correspondent writes to the Picayune from Baton Rouge, August 22, as follows:

Flag of Truce.—The Steamer Laurel Hill arrived here on Sunday evening, and afterwards cast anchor in the river close by. She had on board about one hundred Confederate Prisoners for exchange. At sun rise this morning they disembarked and proceeded to Redwood, about seventeen miles on the Clinton road. The exchange was to take place at 12 until 2 P.M., that auspicious event (to the prisoners at least) did not come off until the latter period.—The Federals were under the command of Colonel Landrum, of the 19<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Volunteers. They and the Confederates all commingled and spent a pleasant time.

The Confederates were accompanied by at least one hundred young ladies, the pride and beauty of Louisiana. Many of the Federal officers were completely captivated by their appearance. A young and gay officer told me to day that they (the Federals) were perfectly astonished by the appearance the ladies presented. Each lady had her basket well filled with provisions—ham sandwiches, custards, jellies and other *cuisine*, showing there was no lack of the sweets of life in Dixie. The Confederate Colonel Scott is considered a very gentlemanly man and he caused a very favorable "notion" in the mind of his antagonist.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, September 21, 1864, p. 2, c. 6

The Yankee prisoners who lately made their escape from Camp Groce, were recaptured and brought back on the Beaumont train this evening.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, September 28, 1864, p. 1, c. 4

Two Yankee prisoners escaped from Camp Groce, about two weeks since. One of them died on San Jacinto river, several miles above Gentry station, and the other, finding it very lonesome in the woods, gave himself up on Thursday last, to the gentleman doing Provost Marshal's duty on the T. & N. O. railroad. Three others escaped about the same time; two of them were captured by some members of Spaight's Battalion, that below Spement, and the

third, being very sick, gave himself up at Pine Isle station. Of the two captured, one was brought here on the train to-day, the other was left sick at the hospital at Beaumont.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, September 28, 1864, p. 1, c. 6

A Fiendish Outrage.—A correspondent of the Atlanta Appeal narrates the annexed fiendish outrage: "A body of Yankees went to the residence of Mr. Wm. Iverson, who lives about 16 miles north of Decatur, Ga., on last Saturday, and after destroying his effects to their heart's content, laid hands on his daughter (about 16 years of age) and by force, one after another, satisfying their hellish lust. Her father attempted to take her from them, whom they beat with clubs, which so disabled the old man that he has not been able to turn himself in bed since, and, in all probability, will die of his injuries. This beautiful and virtuous young lady expired before they left. The Yankees came back next morning and dug a hole near the well, in the yard, and put the corpse in and covered it. Such accounts as these, we are well aware, are not generally fit to be inserted in newspaper columns. We publish this simply because we hope it will have the effect of rousing our people to more energetic action in their endeavors to drive back a foe who is seeking to devastate our fair State and to lay waste and render desolate happy homes and firesides."

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, September 28, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Four more of the Yankee prisoners who recently escaped from Camp Groce were brought in by the train from Beaumont on Thursday. Two gave themselves up at Sour Lake Station, one was captured near Liberty and the other at Beaumont.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, September 28, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

The S. W. Express Company wishes us to say that they will take all soldier freight at one half railroad rates, and all packages under five pounds free of charge, for the present.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, September 28, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

The Texas Republican reached our office yesterday. The editor intends to enlarge it so soon as he is certain of getting more paper. We are truly glad our friend Loughery has "resumed."

By the same mail we received the Army and Navy messenger. The Messenger is a "soldiers paper," published at Shreveport, and edited by the Reverends H. M. Smith and Wm. B. Norris. We bid the Messenger "God speed," with its messages of love to the army.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, September 27, 1864, p. 2, c. 7

Specie for Garden Seeds.—I will pay specie for the following Seeds—growth of 1864: Beets, Onions, Carrots, parsley, Parsnips, Cauliflower, Lettuce, Tomato, Indigo, Pepper, White Mustard, Radish, Egg-Plant, Poppy, delivered by November, 1864.

James Burke.

September 27, 1864 skipped to October 26, 1864

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, October 26, 1864, p. 1, c. 1

Shreveport, Oct. 12, 1864.

Dear News:--The following extract of a letter written by an officer of Gano's Brigade to

Captain Stafford, furnishes additional and very interesting particulars of the late brilliant affair in the Indian country near Cabin Creek.

Gano made a magnificent thing of it across the Arkansas river a few days since. They captured a train of over 250 wagons richly laden with all kinds of Quartermaster's, Commissary and Sutler's stores, &c. After the fight was over, and the wagons ours, Gano clothed completely 2000 men on the spot with splendid Yankee coats, overcoats, pants, shirts, drawers, fine boots and shoes, socks, hats, blankets, oilcloths, &c., &c. He burnt all but 150 wagons, which he brought successfully away, heavily laden with all kinds of stores. L\_\_\_\_\_ is here and was with him. He says they had immense quantities of fine brandy, whiskey, champagne and all kinds of sutler's stores, such as oysters, preserves, candied fruits, sardines, fine cigars, &c., &c. I wish I had been along. Howell was there with his battery, and, they say, did fine service, but he had a clean thing of it as the army had not artillery with the train. They captured also three wagon loads of coffee and great quantities of calico; so that not only the men are well clothed this winter, but many of the families of the men engaged. The Brigade is represented to be in splendid spirits and very much elated over their recent success. Gano is a big man himself, and when you reflect that this capture was in the enemy's lines, 50 miles north of Fort Gibson, you will see that it was one of the most magnificent cavalry raids of the war. Fts. Gibson and Smith are represented to be almost in a starving condition, and their evacuation may be looked for any day.

The writer states that Gano's brigade is 4000 strong and occupies at present a very eligible position not only for recruiting their animals, but for movements against the enemy.

M. E.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, October 26, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

A letter from Fairfield says: "I am pleased to inform you that there are now Soldiers' Homes established in this county (Freestone) at three different points: One at Fairfield, one at Cotton Gin, and one at Butler—there are two separate houses at Butler at which soldiers can stop, one owned by H. Manning, Esq., and the other by Mr. Wm. M. McDaniel. All of the Homes are well supplied by the good citizens of the immediate vicinity of each of said Homes."

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, October 26, 1864, p. 2, c. 4

Belle Boyd.—The Canada papers are lionizing the famous Virginia lady Belle Boyd. She is described by the Kingston News as going about with a pistol in her skirt belt and dogged by two Federal spies—whose business it seems is to watch her.

Belle Boyd, it will be remembered, was captured while attempting to run the blockade from Wilmington, on her way to Europe. Long captivity has very much impaired her health, and she was about recruiting it in the old world when retaken by the Yankees. She is described as sitting very composedly on deck fanning herself, as she watched the effects of the shots before the boat surrendered.

Belle Boyd is a young lady of striking appearances, tall, and with dark auburn hair and brilliant complexion. On some occasions she wears a somewhat singular costume. A gray flannel dress, with a tightly fitting body buttoned up to the throat with large gilt buttons; the sleeves are like a man's coat sleeves, decorated with the insignia of her rank, that of a Captain in the Confederate service. We believe that she is the only regularly commissioned female officer in the Southern army.



GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, November 2, 1864, p. 1, c. 2

Escaped Prisoner Arrested by a Woman.—Mrs. Patterson, of Sumter county, Ga., a few days ago arrested and returned a Federal prisoner who had escaped from Camp Sumter. Prisoner came to her house, she being alone, and asked for breakfast.—Under pretense of preparing it, she procured a double barreled gun from another part of the house, and presenting it to Mr. Prisoner, told him to march before her or she would kill him. In this position she kept him marching for seven miles, until she had turned him over to the guard at Camp Sumter.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, November 2, 1864, p. 1, c. 4

Austin, Oct. 27, 1864.

Ed. News:--Since my last communication several important measures have been reported from the committees having such measures under their special charge, and have, to some extent, been under consideration. The most important bill, and one which appeals more to the interests of the citizens of the State, is the one presented from the Finance Committee, presenting and recommending the mode and manner in which the former appropriations for the relief of soldiers' families, and the indigent can be carried more effectually into operation. They propose to set apart 750,000 yards of cloth, manufactured by the Penitentiary, to be distributed to the different counties, which can be sold or distributed, as they may deem best. The sale, if made, has to be done at public outcry, the currency, the time and the mode to be determined by the County Court—The quota to which each county will be entitled, is to be determined and allotted in accordance with the report of the number of soldiers' families, or indigents, made by the respective County Courts. The bill also provides that County Courts may levy a special tax, not to exceed one half of one per cent. for the purpose of giving additional means in aid of those requiring assistance. The bill has been very carefully drawn, and reflects great credit upon the judgment and ability of the gentlemen composing the same.

A bill has been introduced to repeal the present Liquor Law, which now so uselessly encumbers the statute book. This bill provides a license tax upon distilleries and bar rooms, and makes it a penal offence for any one to engage in the distillation of any of the agricultural products, without having paid said license.

Letters were laid before the Legislature from Gen. Smith, in reference to the price charged by the State for cloth from the Penitentiary, viz: \$1.80 per yard, and urging a reduction of the same. Also, a letter from the President of the Confederate States in relation to the Frontier Organization, regretting that he cannot exercise the power to exempt the same from the Conscript Law, but consenting to detail a sufficient number, after enrollment, for the defence [sic] of the frontier. Resolutions, in relation to the cotton transactions of the State, and asking for information from the Governor, have also been passed; also, one as to the necessity of abolishing the Military Board. As the mail is just closing, I must do the same.

Exile.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, November 2, 1864, p. 2, c. 4

Squire Smoothly's 18<sup>th</sup> Letter.

In which he desires Mr. Wigfall's [sic] Views on the impressment system, and deprecates further discussion of States Rights at this present. The christening and the conflagration which

ensured, in which General Magruder's "sox"  
are finally disposed of.

Brushy Fork of Sandies, Oct. 18, 1864.

Ed. News—Dear Sir:--After offerin of my pious regards I again take pen in hand to write you these, and proud to hear tell you got back from the Rio Grandy, through perils of land and sea, of robbers and of false brethrer, and saw Cortina and Mr. Bradwell; and now home safe under the shadow of your own vine and figtree and none to make you afeard, and the yaller fever much abated—and again a writin of your News Paper and I hope and pray it may continue to be wrote in the fear of God, and to the enlightenment of His people—having due regard to them in authority and sustainin of law and order, but at the same time not fearin to rebuke iniquity in high places—nor shunnin to declar right in the face of all men, to the eend that the godly be encouraged and the wicked put to shame—Amen. . .

We happened to a bad accident at my house at Thursday, which thanks be to His name it want worse. We had a christenin at my house. Mrs. Kincaid she had the twins and my wife her little one, and three of the naybors brung childring, making of six in all, and brother Raimy offshiated and made a power full prayer, and was a comfortin season generally, and sat the supper in an out cabin whar the weemin does thar weevin. Well, after supper my dauter Jenny and some more of the young gals, they gets General Magruder's sox and stuffs them with cotton, and sets the six babies to the table, all in a row, and draws a sock on every babies head; and when all hands was called to see, thar sot the six babies as bright as dollars, with the General's name in gould thread, only upside down, round hits little head, and them as spry as minks, a winkin and staring at the candles, and all as good as gould and never whimpered, and the sox a stickin up like the General's legs was in them, as natural as pigtracks, and lookin so sweet the weemin pitched right in to kissin of them and some how upshot the table, and must have been then the fire got in the cotton. Well, between midnight and day hit broke out, and Mrs. Kincaid, she first, and cut the cloth out of the loom, and saved nine yards for the boys pants, and got scorched shockin, and fit the fire like a soldier, but the balance was all burned, loom and all, and all the wool and cotton for spinnin, and the clock reel (the wheels providentially was in the house), and we lost two par of cards and a whole bilin of soap, and a cross cut saw, and a turkey hen and her settin of eggs onder the floor, and all the dye stuff, and the grist from the mill, and all the taller and the candle moulds, and two bushel of salt and a gourd of honey, and a heap of things, besides them unfortunat sox—and not even a speck of the gould thread to be found in the mornin. The worst loss is the loom and the truck for spinnin, the weemin bein all hard at it, to get cloth wove for the boys in the army before the cold weather, but thankfull it want worse—"The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord!"

And in regardin of the General's sox, the nayborhood talk is, they was onlucky from the jump, but my reflection is, that if they had been sent right along when they was nit, they out have been a comfort to him at this writing up thar in the cold in Arkansaw, but if people has to wait for gould lace and the like vanities, the right time gets past and the opportunity lost.

I close these, hoping you are enjoyin of reasonable health and a growin and prosperin, not only in temporal affairs, but in them that outlasts this present vale of disappointment.

Yours to command,  
Jasper Smoothly.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, November 9, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

The Dallas Herald contains an account of recent murders committed by Indians and Jayhawkers. They appeared in force of 300 or 400, near Camp Murrah, twelve miles west of Belknap, and a portion of them had a fight with a scout from Bourland's company, four of whom were killed, and one wounded mortally. Several companies of the Frontier Regiment went in pursuit. Up to the last accounts ten or twelve of our citizens had been killed, and as many more wounded or missing.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, November 9, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

The LaGrange True Issue says: The machinery for carding has arrived at the Hat Factory in this place, and will be in operation in a few days. Maj. Kampmann is one of those go ahead kind of men, that works himself, and makes everything and everybody around, or under his control do the same. The right man in the right place. We expect to be enabled to report an increased number of soldier's hats turned out from the manufactory in a short time. This factory delivered to the Clothing Bureau at Houston, between 1600 and 1700 hats during the month of October.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, November 9, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Capt. Martin K. Snell, an old and well known citizen of Texas, is reported to have been killed yesterday in Hempstead. The circumstances are briefly stated to us as follows: Capt. Snell having received some information in relation to the conduct of a negro woman employed in the Hospital, went there for the purpose of punishing her. Dr. Kerr, who, we understand, is a physician in the Hospital, or fills some position there, objected to the punishment of the woman. Whereupon angry words ensued resulting in Snell's shooting Dr. Kerr twice, or shooting at him twice with a pistol. Our informant thinks Dr. Kerr was wounded slightly by both shots. By this time Dr. Kerr seized Capt. Snell took the pistol from him and shot him in the breast, then beat him over the head with the pistol, breaking in his skull. Capt. Snell died soon after. These are all the particulars we have received.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, November 23, 1864, p. 1, c. 5

According to a statement in the New York World more than one-third of the newspapers in the United States, published four years ago, have suspended publication. The aggregate circulation of the remainder has much diminished. The price of all printing materials has doubled and trebled, and of paper has almost quadrupled.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, November 30, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

We learn from Mr. Warren Adams that the Government mail arrangements for crossing the Mississippi are entirely broken up. A very large amount of mail matter, letters &c., has accumulated at Brandon, Mississippi—several cart loads—and there is no prospect whatever that it will ever be sent to its destination. This mail matter has been accumulating there for the last two months, and we presume, letters sent from this side have in like manner been accumulating at Shreveport or Monroe during the same time. Those of our citizens, therefore, who have depended on the Government mail will understand that their letters have not gone forward, and are not likely to go forward.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 7, 1864, p. 1, c. 6

## Texas News in the New York Herald

The New Orleans correspondent of the N. York Herald, dating Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, gives the following Texas items:

. . . Our returned prisoners state that immense quantities of cotton on wagons pass the stockade at Tyler, Texas, on its way from Shreveport and vicinity over the long road to Mexico and Brownsville.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 7, 1864, p. 2, c. 6

Camp Groce, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, 1864

Ed. News.-- . . . More than fourteen months have passed since that brilliant achievement [Battle of Sabine Pass] was gained by a display of more than ordinary skill and bravery, and the question naturally arises: Where is Captain Odlum? I saw him a few moments ago pass by with pale face and faltering step, for sickness has sadly changed him. He is still at the post of duty, obeying orders. But why is he at Camp Groce, with a detachment of three companies, guarding Yankee prisoners? Why is it that he still wears the uniform of a Captain? I had thought

"Honor and fame from no condition rise,

Act well your part, there all the honor lies!"

Captain Odlum has acted well his part, and although the stars of promotion may never glitter upon the collar of his uniform, history will say he was a hero, and the victory of Sabine Pass saved Texas from the horrors of vandal invasion. VIM.

[We publish the above with great pleasure, but would remind the writer that we believe Capt. Odlum was not present at the glorious victory achieved by his company, which was then under the command of Lieutenant Dick Dowling. But it was Captain Odlum's misfortune that he was absent, not his fault, and we believe had he been present, the victory would have been equally complete, though it could not have been more so. Nevertheless, Capt. Odlum has eminently earned promotion, and every body would be gratified to see some reward bestowed upon that excellent officer. But what promotion has been conferred upon Lieut. Dowling for an achievement that saved our State from invasion, and was universally pronounced the most marvelous and astonishing exploit of the whole war.]

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 14, 1864, p. 1, c. 6

A Soldier's Home has been established in Dallas. We believe there are now Soldiers' Homes in all the principal towns of the State, and we should be glad to publish a full list of them for the information of soldiers, if any one would give us a correct list. We should have stated sooner that the Rev. Mr. Castleton, who has been so indefatigable and successful in building up Soldiers' Homes, has obtained important aid from Gen. E. Kirby Smith, who has issued an order authorizing Commissaries to furnish subsistence stores to the superintendents of Soldiers' Homes to the amount of what was consumed by soldiers during the previous month, as shown by the superintendent's oath—to be paid for at Government prices. This will prove an important aid, and our people should, therefore, object the less to receive the low prices offered them by the Government, when they see the use made of the supplies.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

A private letter from Brownsville, dated Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>, says business is now very brisk there. A few weeks ago there was but one store open, now they are to be found all over the city. The

writer met several hundred teams on the road, returning with goods, and overtook as many more going out loaded with cotton. Thieves, he says, are very abundant, and horses and mules are stolen almost every night. It is unsafe to leave teams without some person to guard them. The price of stolen mules, he says, is \$10 cash, and of "honest mules," \$75 cash. Our friend P. J. Mahan was there, waiting for the arrival of his family.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

A letter in the Telegraph suggest that in Austin the Soldier's Home Association have adopted a decided improvement on Rev. Mr. Castleton's plan; to-wit: They have arranged with a hotel in Austin to accommodate soldiers and their horses at the regular hotel rates, and this is what the writer considers an improvement on the plan of having a house expressly furnished for soldiers by the Association. In this city the difference would be this: By paying hotel prices it will cost the Association about four times what they are now paying, but it is true that what the Association would lose the hotels would gain.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 4

Sad Occurrence.—We regret to learn that on last Thursday night, Capt. Graham, enrolling officer of Van Zandt county, while charging with a small company of men a squad of deserters, in ambush, was shot. He was not killed on the spot, but there is no prospect of his recovery. Capt. G. was a gallant man and one of the most efficient officers in the service. What a pity that so brave a man should be killed by a deserter. We learn that the excitement among the citizens of that county is intense; they have formed a large company, and are in pursuit of the deserters, none of whom, as yet, have been captured.—Kaufmann Enquirer.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 4

The State Gazette informs us that Messrs. Smith and Nance have established a wool carding machine on the Blanco, in Hays county. We understand that there are now several such machines in various parts of the State.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 4

The Huntsville Item says flour sold there on the 30<sup>th</sup> ult., at \$5 per hundred pounds. It also corrects a mistake made, in relation to the price of woollens at the Penitentiary, which it says is \$1.50 per yard.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 7

Flake's Bulletin contains the following, some of which is condensed:

This morning three hundred and forty-three exchanged federal prisoners, from Camp Groce, were sent out to the blockaders in charge of Col. Izymanski [sic] our commissioner of exchange; also, twelve females and their children, who availed themselves of the privilege granted to leave the country. Among them were Mrs. Jack Hamilton and Mrs. Judge Duval. Col. Izymanski [sic] informs us that the prisoners delivered to-day were exchanged for all our prisoners captured at Fort Gaines. Arrangements are now making for the exchange of all our naval prisoners captured in Mobile Bay by the enemy.

The only difficulty yet to be overcome is the unwillingness of the Federals to include Admiral Buchanan in the exchange list. Col. I will not conclude the exchange except Buchanan is included.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 7

Christmas is Coming!—A variety of finely bound books, with other articles suitable for gifts during the approaching holidays—some on hand—more expected.

James Burke.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 6

Mrs. Lancaster, of the Texas Ranger, says:

"We have heard it publicly asserted on the streets, that details could be purchased in San Antonio, and that in Houston men were detailed for other purposes than the good of the country. The number of active young men that remain about Houston, gambling, speculating, selling goods, keeping drinking saloons, &c., has been the theme of conversation for some time, and we are now enabled to say, that a move is on foot in the right direction, headed by a General who has earned his laurels on many a bloody field, to place these men where they properly belong, and to detect and punish those in office who have been transcending their authority to the injury of the Confederacy. Not only those about Houston, but men throughout the State, who have been evading the service, will have to fall into ranks or do worse."

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 28, 1864, p. 1, c. 7

To the Patriotic and Charitable.

Having been appointed by the County Court of Galveston county, to solicit contributors of corn, bacon, and provisions generally, for the indigent women and children of that county, I am compelled, as it will be impossible for me to visit many of the citizens of the adjoining counties, to make an appeal through the papers to the liberal and patriotic citizens of my State in their behalf. The peculiar situation of Galveston Island and the calamities of this war have thrown the wives and children of many of our gallant soldiers upon the county for support. The county have thus far been able, unaided and alone, by using every exertion and making every sacrifice, to support not only the resident destitute, but also those who have temporarily made Galveston their home. Sixteen hundred women and children are now the recipients of relief in Galveston county—a number of whom are from other counties in this State. The question was presented to the County Court, of either confining their bounty to those who were of the county proper, or of making the necessities of the applicants the only test and criterion for relief. With a just and proper appreciation of their duty, they determined that the pale cheek of the mother and the piteous cries of her little ones, was an appeal which effaced all county lines; and, so long as human exertions could procure a single bushel of meal, it should be equally divided among all. I confess that the decision of my county was a source of pleasure to me, and I would have been mortified if their judgment had prompted any other conclusion.

I feel confident that the claims of the poor of this county are of such a character, that the sympathies of the people of this State will provide a generous response. Their property destroyed by the repeated attacks of the enemy and by the acts of our own forces; their town declared an entrenched camp, and the citizens subject to military rules and regulations; deprived of those commercial pursuits, upon which they so much depended for support; visited by pestilence and fire; with an exhausted treasury, and even the bounty of the State anticipated and expended, they are induced, as a last resort, to appeal to the benevolent of their sister counties, and to urge them by every generous impulse that can move the human heart to give of their

abundance to the destitute and "loved ones" of those who have either sealed with their lives their devotion to the cause of the South, or beneath the proud banner of our State, are adding fresh laurels to her wreath of fame.

To show how impossible it is for the county of Galveston to maintain those dependent upon it, without some assistance, I will here state that the article of wood alone, for the poor, costs more in that county than the entire amount necessary to support the indigents of any county in this State. If, with this brief statement of the situation and wants of those whose sex and age, at all times, when in distress, have recommended themselves to our kindly aid, any are disposed to assist us, in this our hour of trial and need, donations of corn, bacon, flour and wood will be gladly received. Those desirous of assisting with the articles above named, or in money to be applied in procuring the necessaries of life, can address me, to the care of "Editor of News," Houston, stating the articles and the amount of their contribution, or they can ship the articles, or remit (if in money) the amount to Messrs. Ball, Hutchings, & Co., Houston. A few bales of cotton would prove very acceptable for distribution among the poor, who have the cards furnished by the county, but not the staple. It is desirable, as far as practicable, to have corn, which may be given, shelled, in order to save transportation, and the County Court are prepared to furnish sacks for this purpose. The following gentlemen at places designated, will act as agents for the poor of Galveston, viz: Geo. H. Trabue, Esq., Millican; J. S. Vedder, Navasota; Hon. E. W. Baker and Allen Lewis, Chappell Hill; Hon. D. C. Dickson and Hon. J. G. McDonald, Anderson; N. N. John, Richmond; and Hon. C. W. Buckley, Sugar Land.

I will merely add, in conclusion, to the generous and patriotic of our State, that every dollar they may donate shall be faithfully applied to the purposes intended by the donors, and that the inmates of many an humble cottage on our sea-girt isle, will call down blessings upon the heads of those, who, in their hours of prosperity, forgot not the widows and the fatherless, and that their generosity will make a record upon many a suffering heart, which time itself will not erase.

Respectfully,

H. B. Andrews,  
Agent for Galveston Co.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 28, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

#### Heroism of Southern Women—Letter from a Mississippi Lady.

The following letter, written during the dark days of last winter by one of Mississippi's noblest matrons, presents a vivid picture of Yankee rule, and shows the undying spirit of heroism which prevails with our Southern women. It is worthy of preservation as a part of the history of the times, and is addressed to a brave and distinguished officer commanding an Alabama regiment:

Mississippi, January, 1864"

"I embrace this opportunity to let you know that we are still in the land of Abraham, and permitted to breathe by taking the oath every few days. How long we are to enjoy this blessing I know not. We are carried to Abraham's bosom occasionally by the angelic Hessians, where we are permitted to lift up our eyes, begging for bread, and to plead for the crumbs that may fall from his table, but we are not allowed to sit in council with the spirits of black men made white! I could fill pages with the insult and injuries heaped upon us since I saw you last. I then thought that my cup of woe and bitterness was full (her son, a brave lad, having died of his wounds

received in battle;) but since, I have suffered every thing but death, which would have been far preferable to the miserable existence spent in LaGrange for a few months. We begged our enemies to let us depart, but they seemed too [illegible] to liberate the writhing pangs of the worm they had crushed under their feet, and though it would make us too happy to breathe once more the air of Dixie. In fact, they held us there until they could think of no other punishment they could inflict on us; deprived of provisions, wood, and servants, we were left at their tender mercies, until reason was tottering on her throne, and our emaciated bodies a perfect wreck. Notwithstanding, thank Providence, my spirit has never been subdued, but I seemed to acquire new energy and firmness to contend with these demons of darkness!

I told them that when I became speechless, I would crack my nails at them to indicate the miserable crawling vermin of their natures.

They gave me up at last as a hopeless case, and were very willing to get rid of me, and I of them. I felt truly happy when I got out of sight of the "blue devils," as we call them. We are still in hearing of their reveille and sundown cannon, which is unpleasant enough. We are at their mercy, and live in continued dread.

It is truly disheartening to hear of so many disasters—nothing but retreats. In the name of humanity, when will we stop? Are we going to be chased around the world until we run into the sea? Hundreds of our men quit the army and go to speculating with the Yankees. Memphis is full of them—you can't walk the streets for these cowardly, skulking renegades, calling themselves men. How can we succeed unless we lay these dens of corruption in ashes? What a miserable policy of our government to leave one city or village standing, as a harbor for deserters, smugglers and runaway negroes. But for them, we should have 20,000 more men in the field to-day.

Memphis is a negro Paradise. Miscegenation is progressing to perfection, and soon the white race must become extinct. If a negro comes home, his master is arrested and put in jail for harboring deserters—another plan to steal your property. Oh, that I could see a little hope for our deliverance. Our prospects are growing more dark and gloomy, and some of our men seem almost ready to kiss the rod which smites them. Oh, if our army could only realize half the degradation that awaits them and their families, surely it would nerve them to energy and great deeds of heroism and daring. Life is but a mockery in the hands of these monsters. When will our people awaken, and unite as one man to drive these blood-thirsty hirelings from our homes? Polluted, desecrated, disgraced by their presence, Satan would blush to keep their company, and, I am sure, would resign his commission and flee to other parts more congenial to his Satanic majesty.

May heaven protect and save you from disease and Yankee bullets. Learn to put your trust in Him who alone is able to save both soul and body. Religion is worth all the world, and nothing else is able to strengthen and support us in all times of trouble and danger. May God preserve you and yours, and our bleeding country."

What a consolation to this Spartan matron's heart to have heard of our late victories, and how her hopes must have revived with Forrest's successes.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 28, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Col. Andrews has returned from a trip to Huntsville, in behalf of the poor of Galveston. He informs us that he scarcely met a man who did not give something, in response to his application, though it was not in his power to call on many. He had an interview with the Directors of the Penitentiary, and was shown through that establishment. He speaks in the



highest terms of the excellent system under which everything is conducted, and of the good order apparent throughout. He received every attention and civility from the Directors and Financial Agent, who showed a disposition to do all they could to relieve the poor of Galveston. For the purpose of facilitating the distribution of the six hundred thousand yards of Penitentiary cloth appropriated to soldiers' families by the late Legislature, the law required the State to be divided into six districts, as nearly equal as possible. The Financial Agent and Directors were directed to district the State and to determine by lot the time for each district to draw its share of the cloth. The districting took place at Huntsville last Saturday. The counties between the Trinity and Sabine, as high up as Houston county, constitute the First District.

The counties above Houston county between the same rivers to the State line constitute the 2d District. Col. A. does not know exactly the counties constituting the 3d, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Districts, but says the 6<sup>th</sup> District is composed of the extreme Western counties. Galveston is in the 4<sup>th</sup> District. After the counties were districted the drawing took place, to determine the order in which they are to be supplied with their respective quotas of the cloth.

The several Districts will receive the cloth in the following order:

1<sup>st</sup> District is the first to draw cloth; 6<sup>th</sup> District is second to draw cloth; 4<sup>th</sup> District is the third to draw cloth; 2d District is the fourth to draw cloth; 5<sup>th</sup> District is the fifth to draw cloth; 3<sup>rd</sup> District is the sixth to draw cloth.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 28, 1864, p. 2, c. 5

#### The Charge Against Wharton's Body Guard.

Anderson, Dec. 23d, 1864.

Editor News:--My attention has been called by a friend to an article published in your paper of the 16<sup>th</sup>, (I think) and copied from a Henderson paper, making very serious charges against the company known as "Wharton's Body Guard." The paper has been mislaid and I cannot quote more accurately from it. Being a member of that company, I do not feel willing that the stigma of such gross brutality as wantonly "firing at an inoffensive citizen while standing in his own door, and firing into another house in the midst of ladies and children," should rest upon it. You express a charitable hope, Mr. editor, that the charges are not true. In this case, I can assure you that they are not. Our company was at Henderson only one night. Strict orders were given not to straggle through or into the town, and a guard was placed at proper points in the town to arrest all who should be found there without a permit. *No permits were given that night.* This same slander—each some additions—was circulated at the time; the Capt. of our company investigated the matter and reported the result to Gen. Wharton, who was perfectly satisfied of the innocence of *our* company, and he is not a man to be easily deceived. That *some* persons may have committed outrages of the character complained of, may be true. This I do not controvert, for I know nothing about it, but I think I ought to know whether my company had any hand in it or not, as you, Mr. editor, will acknowledge when I tell you I am a private and not yet eighteen years of age. There are many other boys about the same age in the company, and I suspect we are much like boys everywhere, talking freely over (around the camp-fire) *everything* we know; and, under all these means of information, I say to you that the charges are untrue. These wanton attacks upon the reputation of whole companies are to be deprecated. Soldiers are bad enough, but some of us hope to live after this war is over, and would like to keep our skirts free at least from absolute brutality. There is another bad effect resulting from them, which I

observed in our company when we were in Henderson. It produced a feeling of reckless defiance in many of the company. "We are charged," said they, "with crimes of which we are wholly innocent—what incentive have we to good conduct?" You must remember, Mr. editor, that we are only boys, and reason generally only from our passions, but I can see that the effect of these charges on our company is *bad*. Perhaps the publication of this feeble defence [sic] may result in a little *good*, and this hope alone induces me to trouble you with this communication.

A Member of Wharton Guard.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 28, 1864, p. 2, c. 7

Radish Seed.—A friend informs us that in a case of sickness, where a blister was required, he found the radish seed pounded up as good as mustard.—Macon (Miss.) Beacon.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 28, 1864, p. 2, c. 7

#### Soldiers' Homes.

We learn from the Rev. Mr. Castleton that the following Homes are now organized and in successful operation:

Beaumont		Jefferson county.
San Antonio		Bexar county.
Austin		Travis county.
New Braunfels		Comal county.
Corsicana		Navarro county.
Hillsboro		Hill county.
Palestine		Anderson county.
Butler		Freestone county.
Fairfield		"
Cotton Gin		"
Springfield		Limestone county.
Mansfield		Louisiana.
Minden		Louisiana.
Homer		Louisiana.
Independence	Maj. Blanton's Hotel	Wash'n Co.
Waxahachie	Maj. Roger's Hotel	Ellis Co.
Ash Creek	Mr. Ward's	Hill Co.
Bastrop	Mr. Nicholson's Hotel	Bastrop Co.
Paris	[Name not known]	Lamar Co.

Mr. Castleton informs us that he believes there are as many as sixty Homes in Texas, but that he cannot be positive as to the complete organization of any but the above.

We omit from this above list several Homes that have been discontinued, but which it is hoped will soon be reorganized. Efforts are now being made to reorganize the Home in this city.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 28, 1864, p. 2, c. 7

#### Garden Seeds.

For 1865.—By dint of effort, I have succeeded in obtaining, from various foreign countries, a very general assortment of the Seeds most needed in Texas.

Now is the time to secure a supply for planting next season. In these unsettled and uncertain times, it may be emphatically said "delays are dangerous." In many parts of Texas gardening operations commence early in January. For peculiar reasons, obvious to all, a united effort should be made to produce, next season, an abundant crop of vegetables. I have made arrangements by way of Matamoros and Havana, to keep my Stock regularly replenished. My prices, until February, 1865, are: Eight dollars per hundred papers; one dollar and twenty-five cents per doze; one dozen papers (assorted), sent, post-paid, for one dollar and fifty cents.

The above are specie rates. The currency received at its market value. Soldiers' families supplied at cost.

James Burke.

Houston, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 28, 1864, p. 2, c. 7

#### Virginia Tobacco Seed—Grown 1864.

I have a supply of Tobacco Seed grown in Virginia—bought in Richmond and brought through by Warren Adams, Esq., mail carrier. Price 50 cents per paper or \$5.00 per dozen sent, pre-paid. Each paper contains seed sufficient to produce one thousand plants.

James Burke.

Houston, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 28, 1864, p. 2, c. 7

Holiday Gifts.—Books, for all ages. Perfumery, Cologne, Fancy Soaps, Pictures, Gold Pens, Fine Cutlery, Fancy Inkstands, &c., &c.

James Burke.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 28, 1864, p. 2, c. 6

Bibles for Hood's Army.—Sixteen thousand copies of Bibles and Testaments arrived in Selma, Ala., yesterday evening *en route* for Hood's Army. They are the first installment of the fifty thousand presented to the Confederate troops by the American Bible Society of New York. They came by way of Memphis.—Selma Mississippian.