

Confederate States of America,

WAR DEPARTMENT,

Richmond, Va. Nov 17 1862

Dear Mary,

I don't know what Jane wrote to you about the General's resignation, so being here at my office, my work over, and nothing to do for an hour, except to wait to see whether my new master Genl Smith ("Sec of War ad interim" an office of the President's creation) has any commands for me, I feel too full of gloom and discontent, not to pour out some of it. I feel gloomy not only because a friend whom I do value and value has been compelled to adopt a step of such importance to himself, - and which sunders relations so agreeable to me - but because I fear I discern mischief to the cause and country of which this event may be the cause - and still more, the index

In itself it may not be a very vital matter that some one else than Genl Randoeple shall be at the head of this vast machine upon whose systematic, and vigorous working so much depends - but for it to pass from the hands of one thoroughly conversant

with it, to one who has
all to learn - from one
who has constructed a great
mass of its most vital arrangements, to
those of one who has to find out - what the
parts are, and what their functions.

And then, when will the President find a man
who will take the office on his terms?

I don't hesitate to say that I would make a
fair Secretary of War on such conditions - so
far as advice is friction given. for I could see
him every day, get his views, and write
and appoint accordingly.

Genl Baudolph could not have done otherwise
Sept - two September, that he should have been
put into a position in which he was obliged
to do the country a serious injury for the
present - at least - I forbear to go into the
special circumstances. You will learn
them from him, when he goes up, as he
speaks of doing, to Edgehill. The point
of the thing is that the President formally
and in writing required him, to give no
instructions to commanding officers except
through the Adjutant - to appoint no com-
miffioned officers - direct no movement of
troops - give no instructions, except after

previous consultations with him -
One has to bear in mind that there are some
15,000 to 20,000, commissioned officers to see
the force or rather the folly of this - that what
goes through the Adjt-General's office, is venti-
lated through an indefinite number of
hands - and this is to apply to the confiden-
tial instructions regulating future movements
that a company can't be transferred from
Manchester to Richmond - nor an officer
of the lowest grade, a Qr master or cornet at
a village, appointed or ordered on duty
without a previous consultation, which at
any rate, about matters of consequence
absorbs the heart of the day.

The long and short of it is, that the Govt is
impracticable on any such principles.

It is gratifying to us, that some infusion
of ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~idea~~ ^{idea} of reality into the War Department -
marks the era of this struggle, which converted
an armed, and disolving mob into an army -
is precisely coincident with the transition
from a series of disasters, which cost us
a third of the Confederacy, to a series of
triumphs which have, challenged the admi-
ration of civilized mankind - and that the
entire administration of General Randolph

has blazed with the honors of Jackson's splendid
Valley campaign, and Lee's around Richmond
and on the Potomac. The defence of Army's
Bluff and of Vicksburg. The transition from
armies of 40,000. (at Fort Johnson's) and (35,000 Lt. J.
Stoneman) to 80,000. in the East, and nearly as
many in the West - that meanwhile there has
been organized an efficient Engineer Corps
a Bureau of Mine & Mining - which has developed
the domestic resources astonishingly. The Signal
Corps. and the Ordnance Corps put on a footing
to be of some account - in the production and
preservation of arms and munitions - And
these things the country will remember -
I told Genl Howell Cobb at Suffolk that I regretted
that Genl R. accepted the post - because we had
to suffer the disasters which were incident to the
state of things which then existed - They stopped
at that point - The Concept-Bill which was put
down the President's throat as you give a genuine
pill to a sick child - saved the country for this year
1862. - Without it - or with it - delayed one month
we would have ceased to have any Government this
side of Washington. But I am generally
Lover to all. We are well, except Alfred who
is much complaining Affectionately
R. G. W. Rogers