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## Report of Adj.-Gen. Thomas on the Armies of the West.

The report of Adj.-Gen. THOMAS to the Secretary of War, in regard to the condition of the Western Military Department and the manner of conducting business under MajorGen. FREMONT'S administration, which we publish in the TIMES to-day, is certainly the most remarkable document that has seen the light since the beginning of the present war. We allude not so much to the matter of the report, though that is astounding, perplexing and painful enough; but to the fact that such a document, so singular in its details, so damaging, if true, to the National cause in its revelations of our weakness to the enemy, and so disgraceful to one of the first officers of the country and to his aids and associates, was permitted to be published at all, in the informal and unsustained shape of the diary of a traveling Adjutant.

We make no imputation, whatever upon Adj.-Gen. THOMAS. He is, no doubt, a gentleman and a soldier, and these titles guarantee the honesty and truthfulness with which he has reported what he heard and saw in the Department of the West. The attacks upon Adj.-Gen. THOMAS for making this report -- the attempted depreciation of his honor and fairness because of his having repeated in his report "hearsay" testimony -- the allegation that he should have sought the proofs of what he heard, when he had no power to compel witnesses to testify, and no time to devote to such elaborate investigations, as he was the official traveling Adjutant of the Sec. rotary of War -- are exceedingly unfair towards that officer. He was called on by the Secretary of War to make the tour with him to the Western Military Department, and requested to "take full notes" on all points connected with the object of the visit. He simply complied with the order of his superior. He saw everything in the Western Department with a military eye, and he made notes thereon, as he was certainly competent to do. He put himself in communication with quartermasters, paymasters, officers in garrison and generals of division in the field, and these men, their names in each case being given, made statements and gave him copies of official orders, betraying the condition and management of the Department, Gen. THOMAS made "notes" of these statements, many of them accompanied by documentary evidence attesting their authenticity, and nearly all, certainly all of the important statements, resting on the word of regular and sworn officers of the United States Army, who professed to be personally cognizant of their truth.

Gen. THOMAS kept his notes in the form of a diary -- they were at best mere memoranda, accompanied here and there with the interjected remark, "This should be inquired into." The whole paper is an unstudied, desultory collection of notes and reports of private and (in their character) confidential conversations with officers of the army; well enough suited for the private information of the Secretary of War or the President, if they were hesitating whether to institute official inquiry into the condition of things in the Western Department, but wholly unfitted and never designed for publication. With this knowledge of the kind of service required of Gen. THOMAS, and the time allowed him for its performance, it will be admitted that he could do nothing else than what he did

-- see with his own eyes, converse with the regular officers who were transacting business under Gen. FREMONT, and report what he heard and saw.

Some of the statements made by the officials in the Western Department, and reported by Gen. THOMAS, are the following:

1. Gen. CURTIS, of Iowa, late Member of Congress, but now General in command at St. Louis, says that he would freely express a military opinion to Gen. SCOTT, but "would not dare do so to Gen. FREMONT." "He considered him (FREMONT) unequal to the command of the army in Missouri." "He (FREMONT) was no more bound by the law than by the winds."
2. Col. ANDREWS, chief Paymaster, represented great irregularities in his Department. He was threatened with imprisonment, by FREMONT's order, for refusing to pay a claim that he was not by law authorized to pay -- he being under oath to pay according to law, and under bonds to account, according to law, for the money in his hands.
3. Col. FREMONT required payment for two hundred commissioned officers irregularly appointed by himself, and had twenty-one commissioned officers in a body of only 300 men. He appointed a "Musical Director" to his Department from one of the St. Louis theatres, and gave him the title, and required him to be paid as "Captain of Engineers!"
4. A member of Col. FREMONT's Staff was a contractor for hay, mules, &c., and had a partner named DEGRAF. The partner on the Staff obtained an order from Gen. FREMONT, commanding all persons holding hay for the Government to deliver it to DEGRAF, "taking only his receipt therefor." By this means the partners could borrow from the Government its own hay, and sell it back to the Government, and repeat, the operation till all the profits of their contract were realized, without really having furnished the Government a pound of hay.
5. Gen. DAVIS, another member of Gen. FREMONT's staff, obtained a direct contract for blankets. They were delivered, and condemned as worthless; but this judgment was overruled, and the blankets paid for by the Government.
6. Capt. MCKEEVER, Assistant Adjutant-General, states that one week after the President's letter was received in St. Louis, modifying Gen. FREMONT's proclamation, Gen. FREMONT ordered him to have two hundred copies of the proclamation printed and circulated, without the President's modification. (A copy of FREMONT's order in this case is given.)
7. Gen. HUNTER, the next General in rank to FREMONT, and commanding the First Division of FREMONT's army in the field, states that there is "great confusion" in the army, and that "FREMONT is utterly incompetent." He (F.) had marched one regiment into the field, "without knapsacks or provisions, carrying their cartridges in their waistcoat pockets, which were all spoiled by a rain the first day;" the men were kept in the rain all night without tents or shelter, and twenty-four hours without food, and the first food (beef) they got was spoiled. This was the first day out from Jefferson City. Gen. HUNTER states that he was ordered by FREMONT to march from Jefferson City, "taking forty-one wagons," when he had only "forty mules," and had so reported to headquarters. Gen. HUNTER further states, that while PRICE was marching upon Lexington, FREMONT exhibited to him a plan for "retaking Springfield." Gen. HUNTER suggested that there was no enemy at Springfield, and that he thought it would be better to advance upon PRICE

towards Lexington, which there was plenty of time to do. But it was not done. The order to Gen. STURGIS to go to the relief of Col. MULLIGAN was not issued for two days after Gen. HUNTER urged it on FREMONT, and these two days lost to the Union Col. MULLIGAN and his gallant army of 3,500 men. Gen. HUNTER states that a Colonel of his Division reported to him, that "of one hundred guns in his command only twenty could be fired." These were of FREMONT's European purchase. Though it is so late in the season, Gen. FREMONT ordered 500 tons of ice to be sent from St. Louis to Jefferson City for the use of his army, and 500 half barrels to carry water.

These are specimens of Gen. HUNTER's statements to the Secretary of War and to Adj.-Gen. THOMAS. They close with this sweeping remark:

FREMONT's order to march was issued to an army of nearly 40,000 men, many of the regiments badly equipped, with inadequate supplies of ammunition, clothing and transportation \* \* \* Gen. HUNTER expressed his decided opinion that FREMONT was incompetent and unfit for his extensive and important command."

Each Division of Gen. FREMONT's army now marching into Southwest Missouri is specified, its commander's name is given, its strength, and the order of the army's proposed march against the enemy.

So far as to affairs in Missouri. On their return, the Secretary of War and Adjutant-Gen. THOMAS came by way of Kentucky, and in Louisville had a conference with Gen. SHERMAN, commanding in that State. Adjutant-Gen. THOMAS jots down, in his minute way, all that was said by Gen. SHERMAN, and it was most discouraging to the National cause. Gen. SHERMAN "gave a gloomy picture of affairs in Kentucky" -- he said "the young men of the State were generally Secessionists," and the aged and conservative who were for the Union would not turn out and fight. Few Kentucky regiments could be expected. Gen. BUCKNER was represented to be advancing upon Louisville, and Gen. SHERMAN admitted he would "not be able to resist him," but that he would fight him. Being asked what forces would be required to save Kentucky from the rebels, Gen. SHERMAN answered, "200,000 men."

Such is a digest of the main facts revealed in Adj.-Gen. THOMAS' report, and the authority on which they are given. We repeat that their publication is the most disastrous blow that the National cause has yet received. The report of Adj.-Gen. THOMAS, intended for the private information of the President, revealing the constitution of FREMONT's army, its defective equipment and arming, its confusion and imbecility, its lack of transportation, and the deep conviction of one of the most skillful Generals in it, that its head is wholly incompetent and unsafe to be intrusted with its management, is presented to the world in minutest detail, so as to reach BEN MCCULLOCH, STERLING PRICE and Gen. A.S. JOHNSTON, to be read for encouragement at the head of their columns, and to nerve them for their fight. And in order that they may have no sort of difficulty in bagging the Union army and its imbecile head, they are advised as to the very order of march that the divisions of the doomed army will observe while passing through the country. If the rebel leaders wish any more encouraging or fuller information, we do not know where they will find it.

And so of Kentucky. The rebel Confederacy is distinctly told that Gen. SHERMAN is not sustained by the people of Kentucky; that he has no hope of saving that State to the Union; and that he is preparing only for a hopeless fight before the State is given up. With what a yell of delight will this

news from the War Department be hailed in BUCKNER's camp, and by ZOLLICOFFER's savages! How will the pious Rev. Bishop POLK rub his hands over the document, and felicitate himself upon the abandonment of the contest by the Nationals! How will the implacable revolutionists at Richmond revel in triumph as they see their despotic dominion extended over unresisting Kentucky, to the Ohio River!

It is proper to say that the Tribune of this City enjoys the bad eminence of having betrayed to the world the demoralized and helpless condition of our armies in Missouri and Kentucky. Whether the War Department has again been betrayed by secession clerks, or this report, never intended for the public eye, was obtained before it reached its proper destination, we know not. But the history of its publication will doubtless be given. Whilst the report is full of disgrace to the service, and must bring disaster to the National army, it cannot fail to involve the most serious collisions between high officers of the army in Missouri. What will be the relations now between Gens. FREMONT and HUNTER, and between FREMONT and CURTIS -- between FREMONT and all the responsible officers of the West, whose private, if not confidential, charges against him, of profligacy, usurpation, and incompetency, are given to the world in this report?

It is incredible that the War Department or the President has authorized the publication of this diary of Adjutant-Gen. THOMAS. It exposes FREMONT's campaign, expresses the strongest opinions of his military imbecility, raises a storm between himself and his officers in his camp and in his rear, teaches the people everywhere to distrust his promises and his responsibility, and yet leaves him at the head of his army!

If the TIMES' publication of the power of the American fleet, sailing to an unknown shore, excited the "surprise and indignation" of the Cabinet and of the Tribune, what will their verdict be on this unparalleled exposure of the inefficiency of our Generals and their armies, and the indication of their plans of moving through the enemy's country?