

Room 38, No 52 Wall Street, February 1877

My Dear General,

Yesterday I gave to Marria a brief of the points which I thought would be of use to you in preparing that paper for the Philadelphia Times. It was not to Soule that you wrote your letter proposing the Western Campaign just after Chancellorsville (inserted blue crayon note by GTB, "2nd & 3rd May 1863"). The plan sent to Soule was written much later, and that plan is published in the Rebellion Record. It was pitched to the same time indeed. Concentration of our masses & by means of no railway interior lines upon exposed fragments of our Enemy - and in opposition to movements like that of Gettysburg. The letter in question, I am entirely satisfied was sent to Porcher Miles, by him thence to Genl Howell Cobb, and others - doubtless Wigfall - Cobb it was that brought it to the attention of Davis, and urged its adoption. I have an assured recollection of hearing you and Miles answer, and his statement of Cobb's participation.

That you made the proposition substantially as I state it is brief is certain and you can confidently write to that effect in the paper Sheridan and myself propose that you shortly write as a matter of interest of history! If Davis or any friend should deny that such a plan was ever submitted - very well, the reply can be made. The plan was so patent, in view of the military situation at the time; that it ought to have occurred to those charged with the public defense, without outsider suggestion! For nothing could be clearer than the utter disability of Hooker, after the battle of Chancellorsville, to make any offensive movement for 60 days at least against Richmond, and the safety with which the Veterans of Lees' army could (in material part) be thrown elsewhere, to cooperate in crushing ... against such exposed federal fragments as that of Rosecrans, or that also of Grant then opening the extraordinary campaign from Port Gibson through Mississippi to the rear of Vicksburg. Not to have seen and taken advantage of the plain opportunity then opened, and to go off on such an operation as that which ended in the mortal wounding of the Confederacy at Gettysburg was the climax of Military blindness - What I say about the statements of the Northern Newspapers at the time, you can rely on & confidently assert in your paper! You must remember how carefully I used to search those papers for items concerning the federal forces - and keep you informed upon those points - They also spoke in the most significant terms of the terrible demoralization of Hookers Army after the battle - through correspondence even in papers which at same time in the same column or paper perchance, would claim, as Hooker does, that, after all, his battle had not been a disaster to the Federals.

Almost nightly Marria and myself work at your "Reminiscences" of the Shiloh Campaign. It is slow work but it is being done very surely, you were even giving too much "away" - as they say in the slang phrase of this day. We are weighing every paragraph - and considering its relation and bearing to what has gone before, or is to come after. We have the Maury letter undergoing the same process, but it will be ready to enclose to you in a few days.

I have been much discouraged about my Iron enterprise by not finding the small capital so often promised before beginng the work. Never was a great enterprise so fettered by the lack of a paltry capital. The profit was certain - I had a contract for 30,000 tons of ore on which profit would be \$14,000 in all expectation. At no time of \$6,000. I am again promised the money but must confess I am not so hopeful as I was.

I am unspeakably disappointed in the political result - the conduct of the commission(?) when they filed the most infamous thing in history: barefaced, unblushing & scandalous on the part of the Republican Party that should consign all concerned to historical infamy, as I trust it will. The ancients set no penalties for certain deeds because they were so unnatural that they could not be committed. So it can be said with regard to the conduct of Judge Bradley. By the way, as a judge, his circuit duties carry him to New Orleans. He should be made to feel socially and in every possible way when among you, that no gentleman can recognize him as other than a perjured, fallen dishonest magistrate. No man of respectability should recognize him except professionally on the Bench - There are a thousand ways by which the ... desolation of your people can be made a whip of scorpions for the rascal - and if not, he should be omitted or neglected. Then who bar should act in the same way at all hazards and practice before him in such cruel ways as to show him that they regard him as unworthy of fellowship - If man will not act together they can clothe there people in fast-clinging garments of infamy, Sincerely your friend, Thomas Jordan.

GTB initialed note in crayon on final page "relative to my plan of Campaigns For May 1863 for the West - GTB