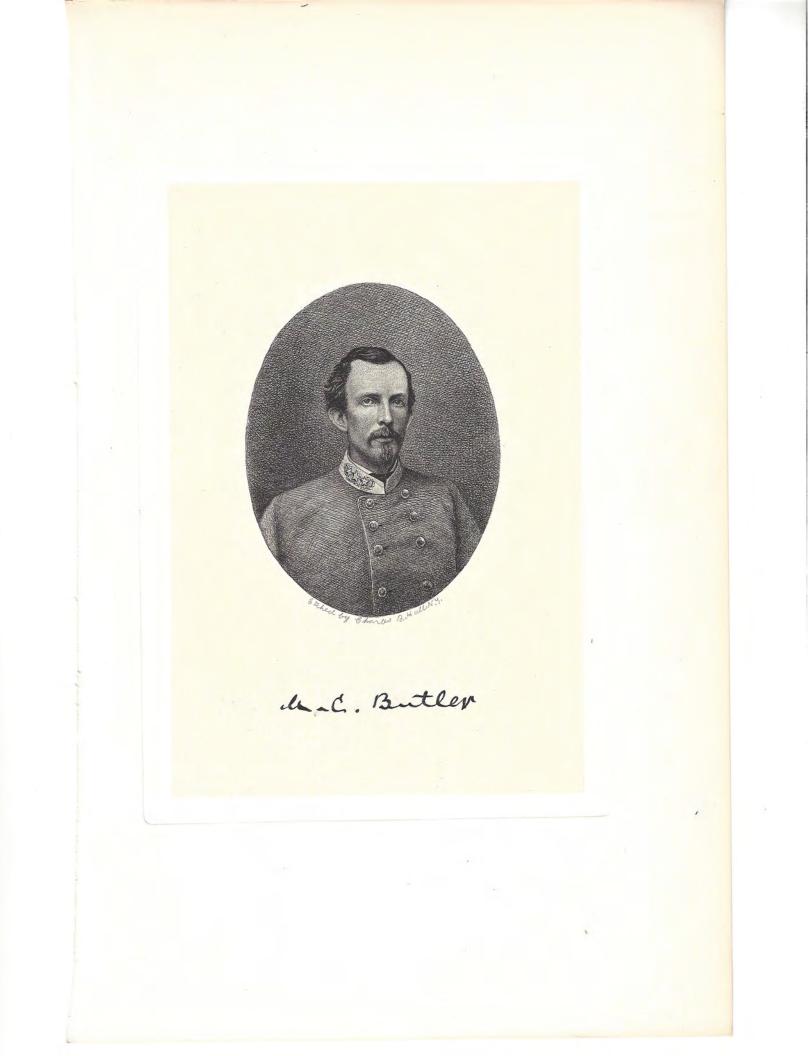
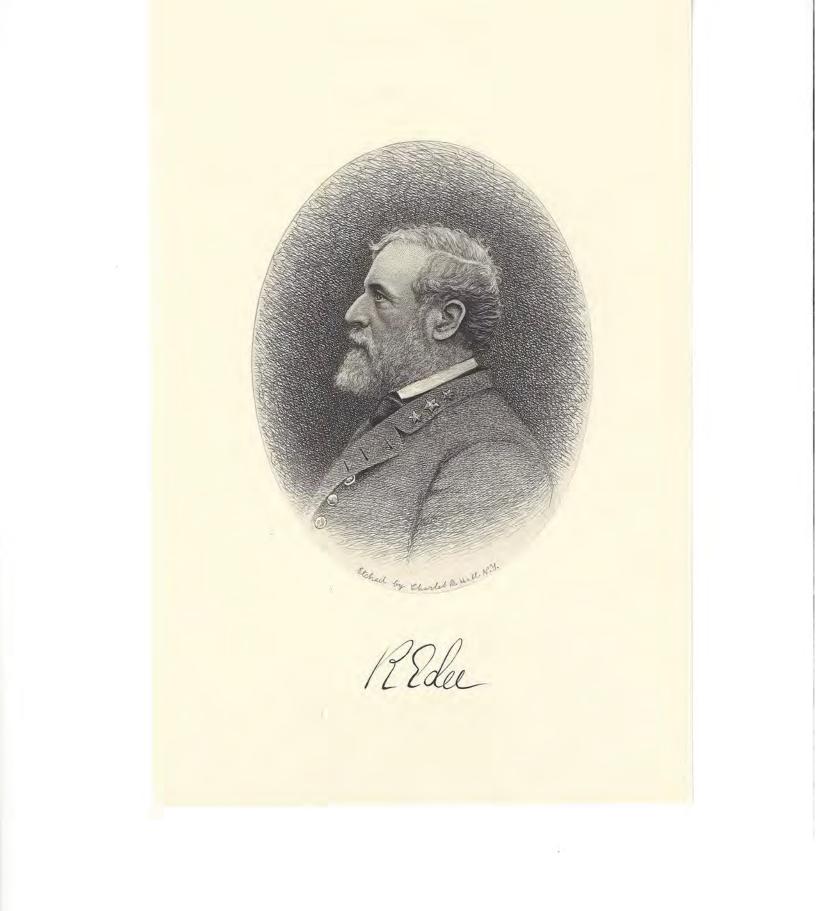


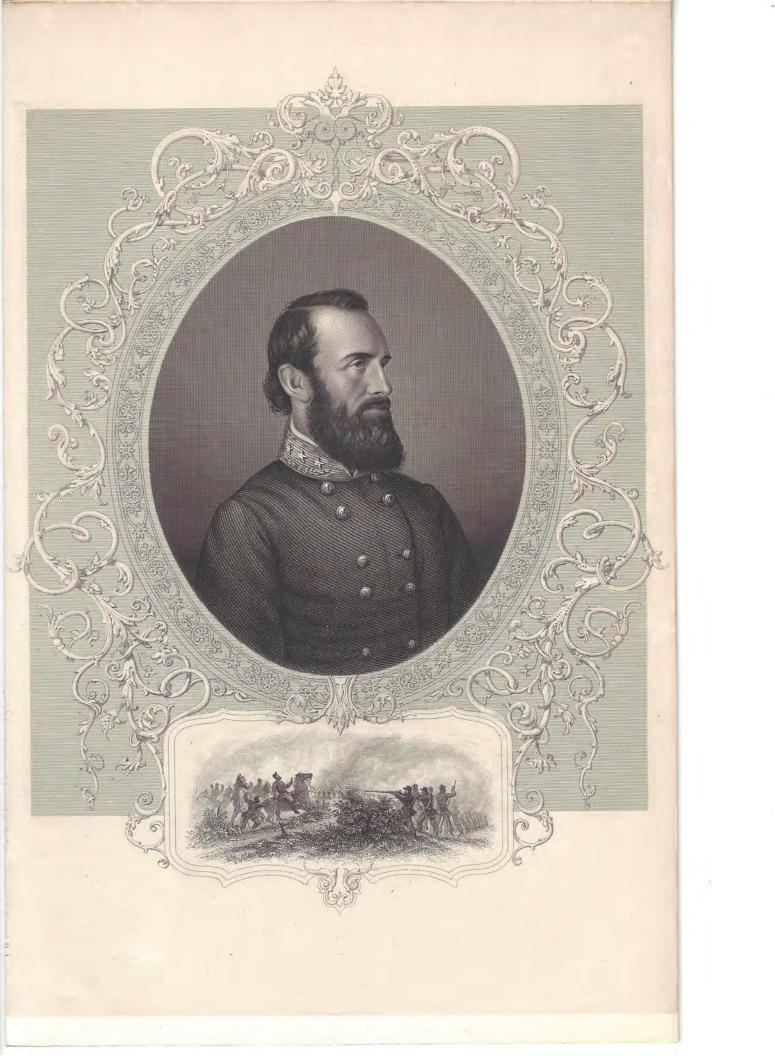
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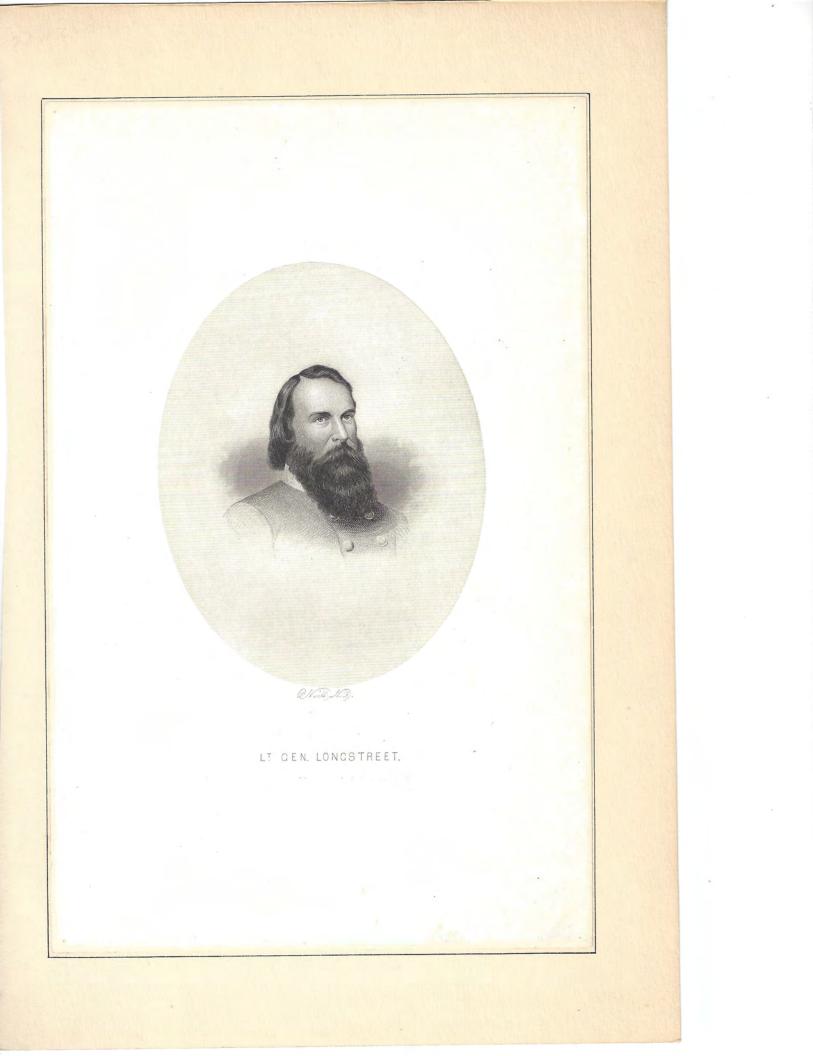
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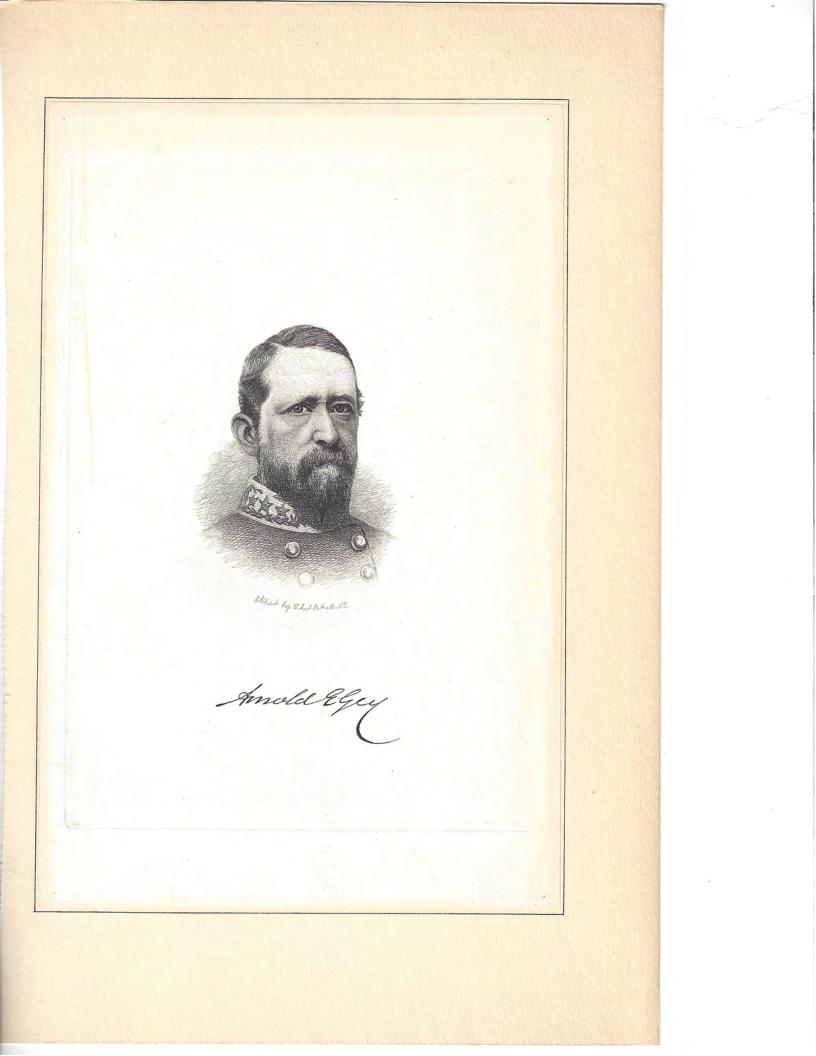


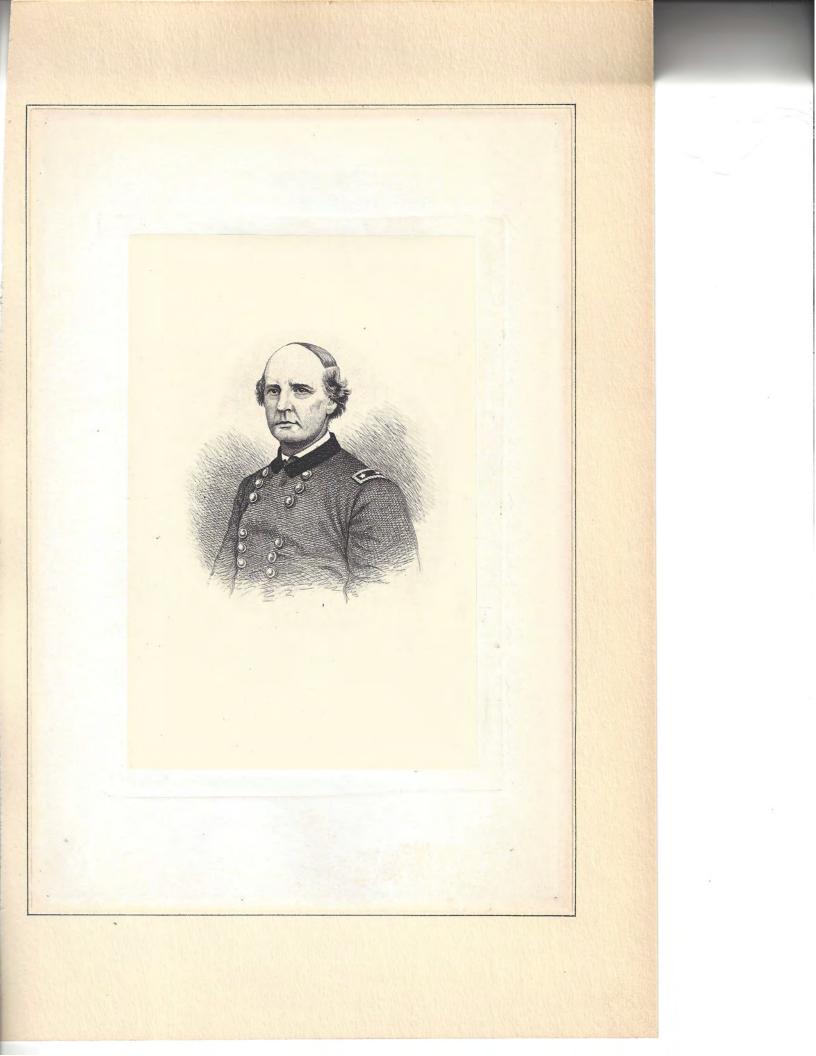


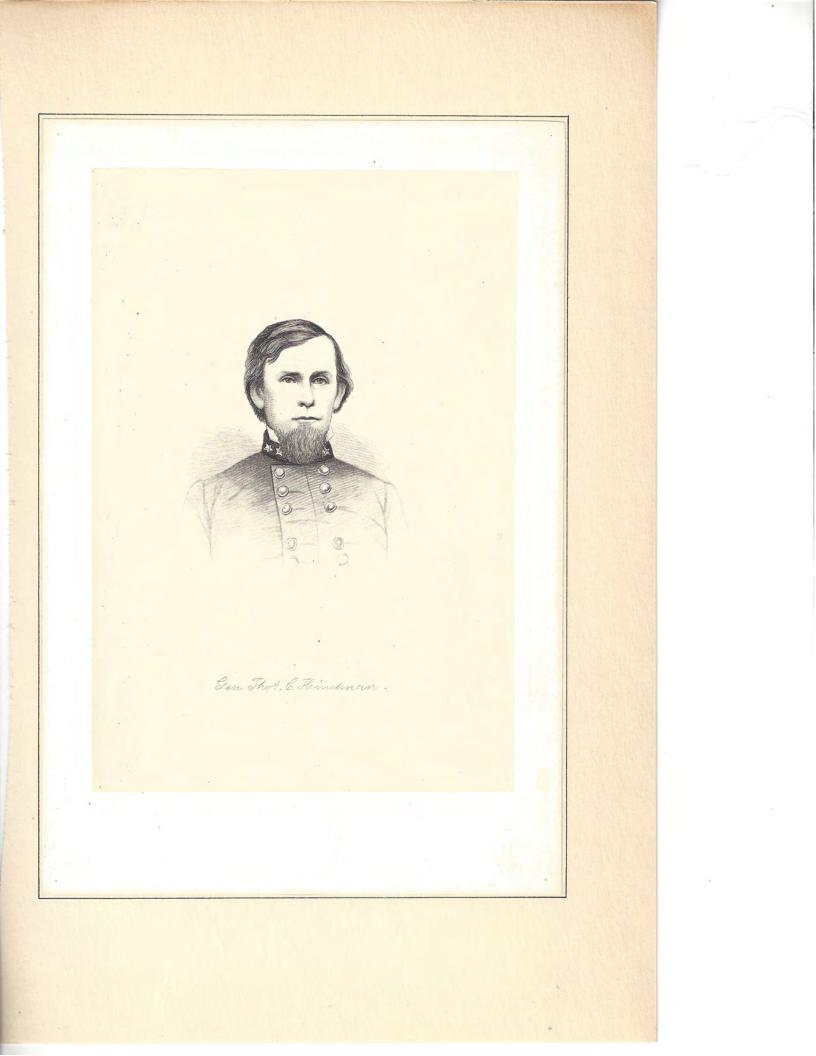


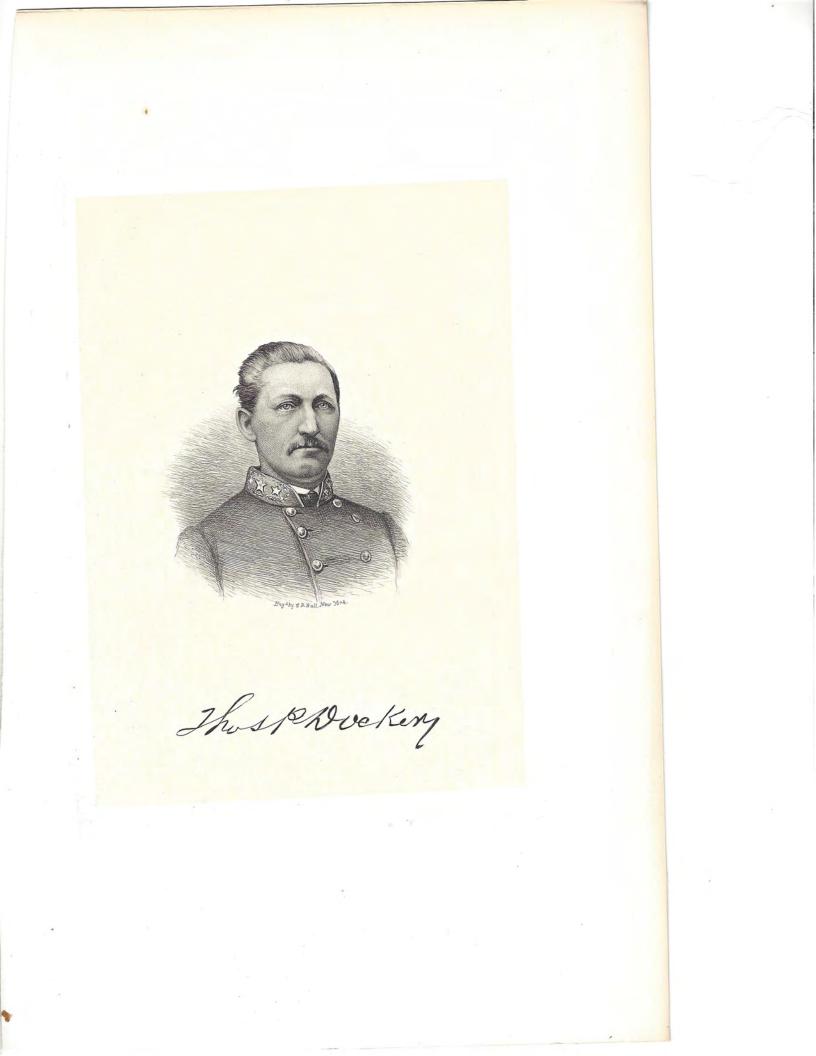


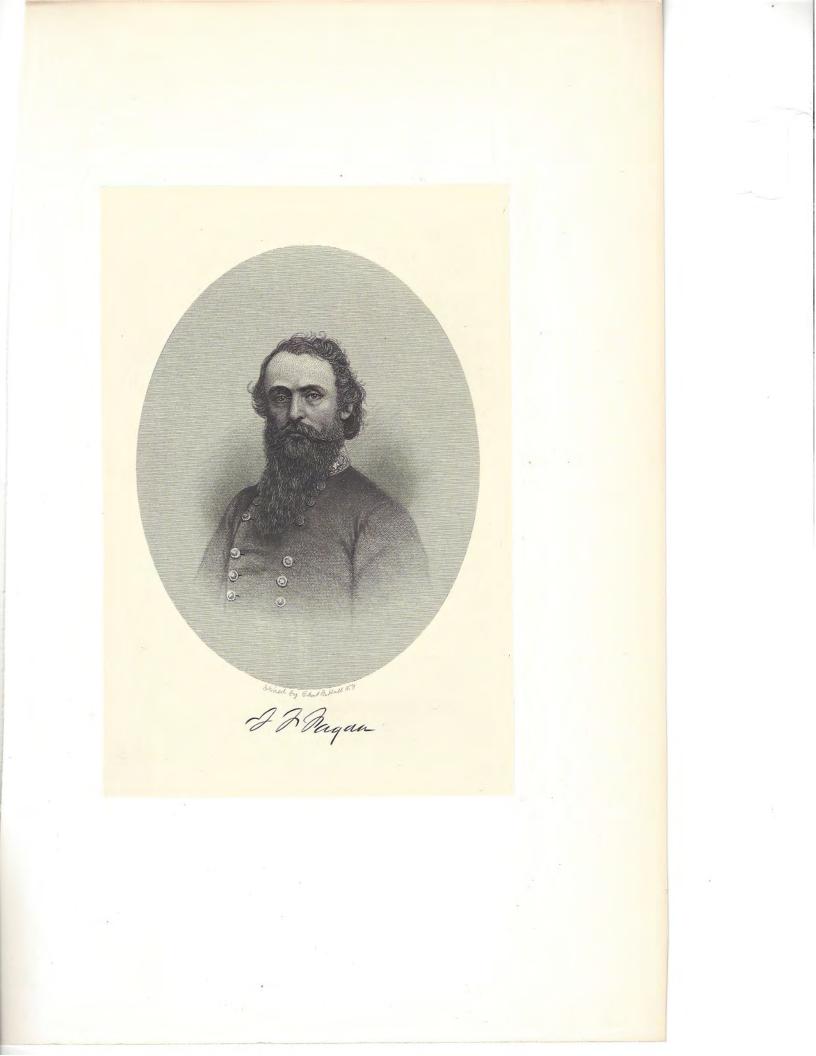


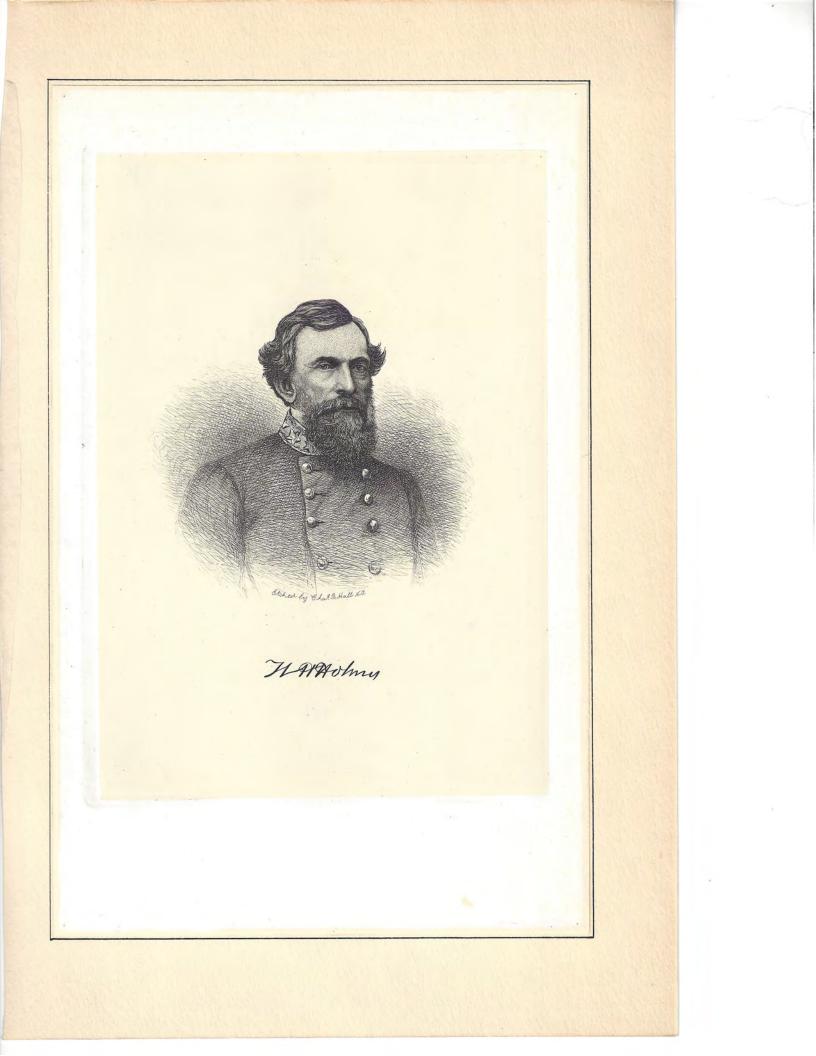


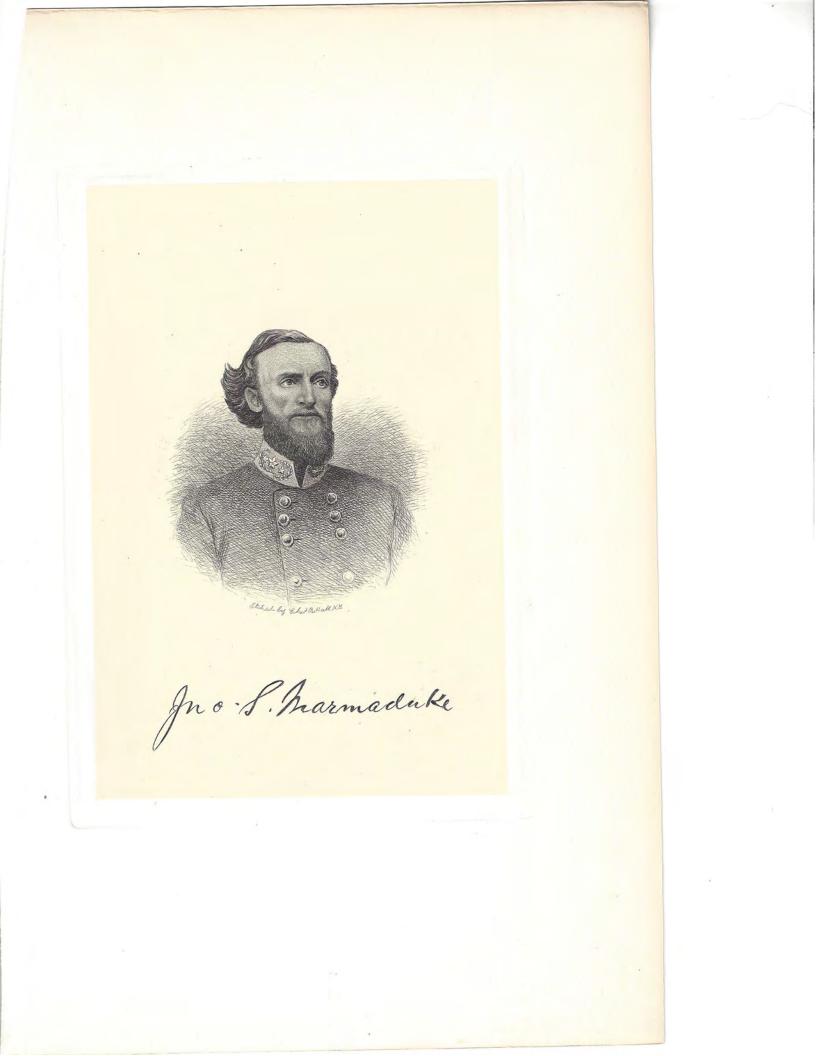


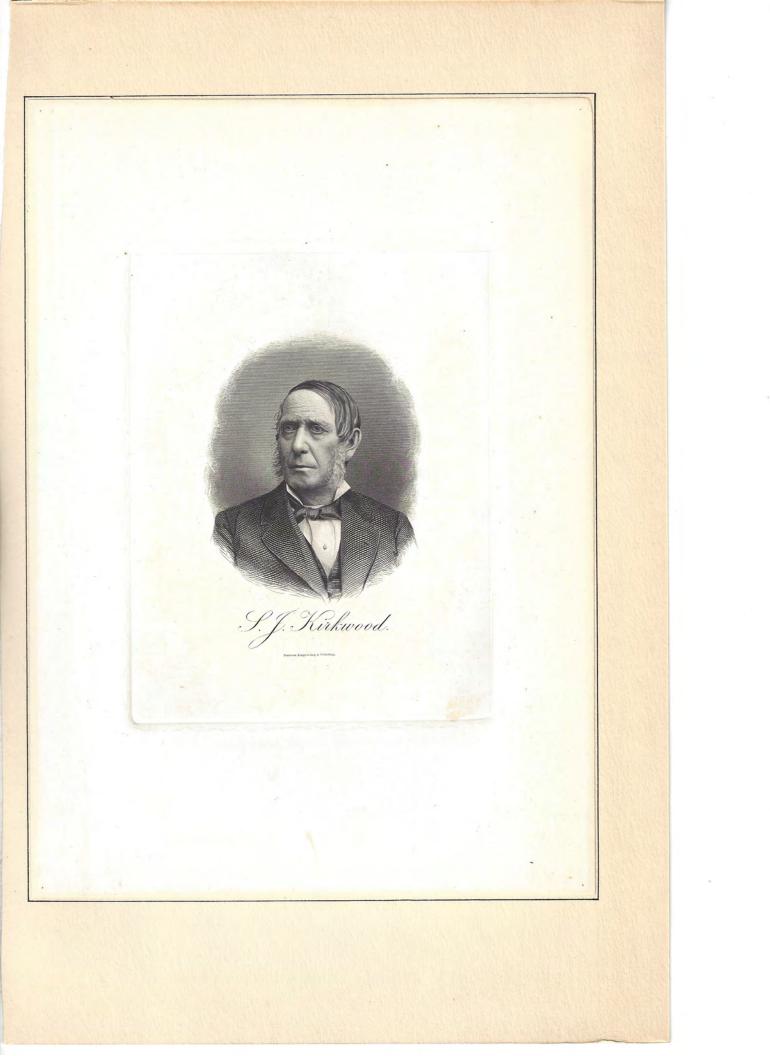


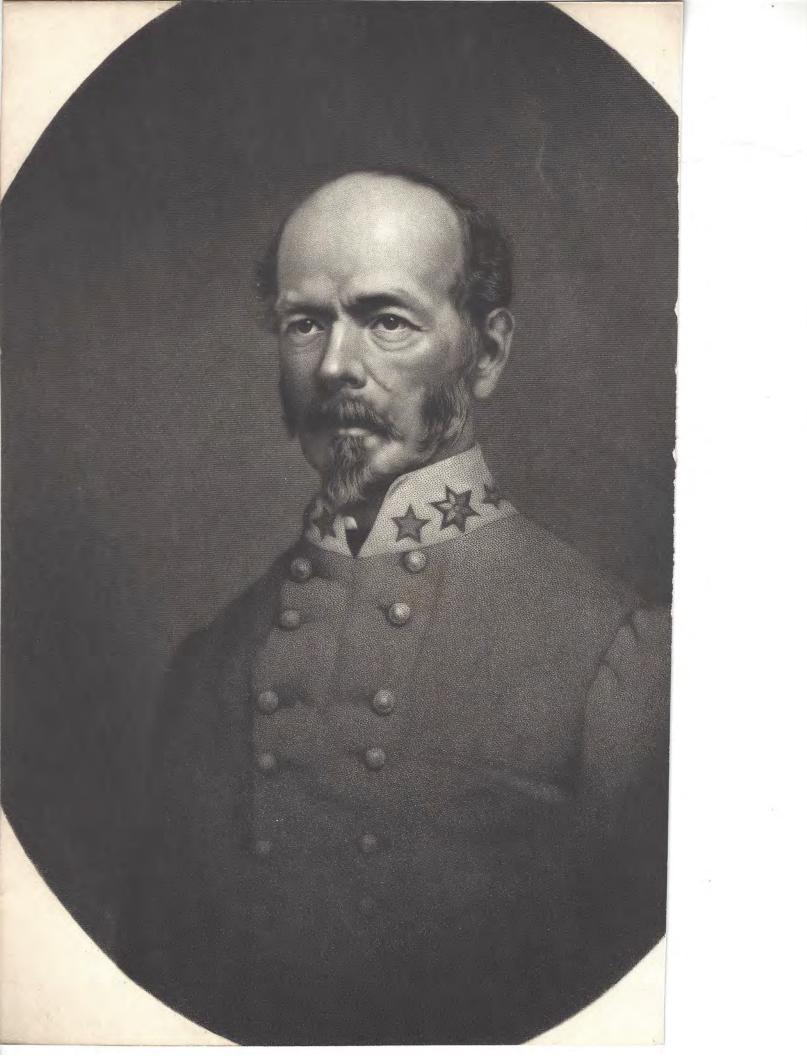


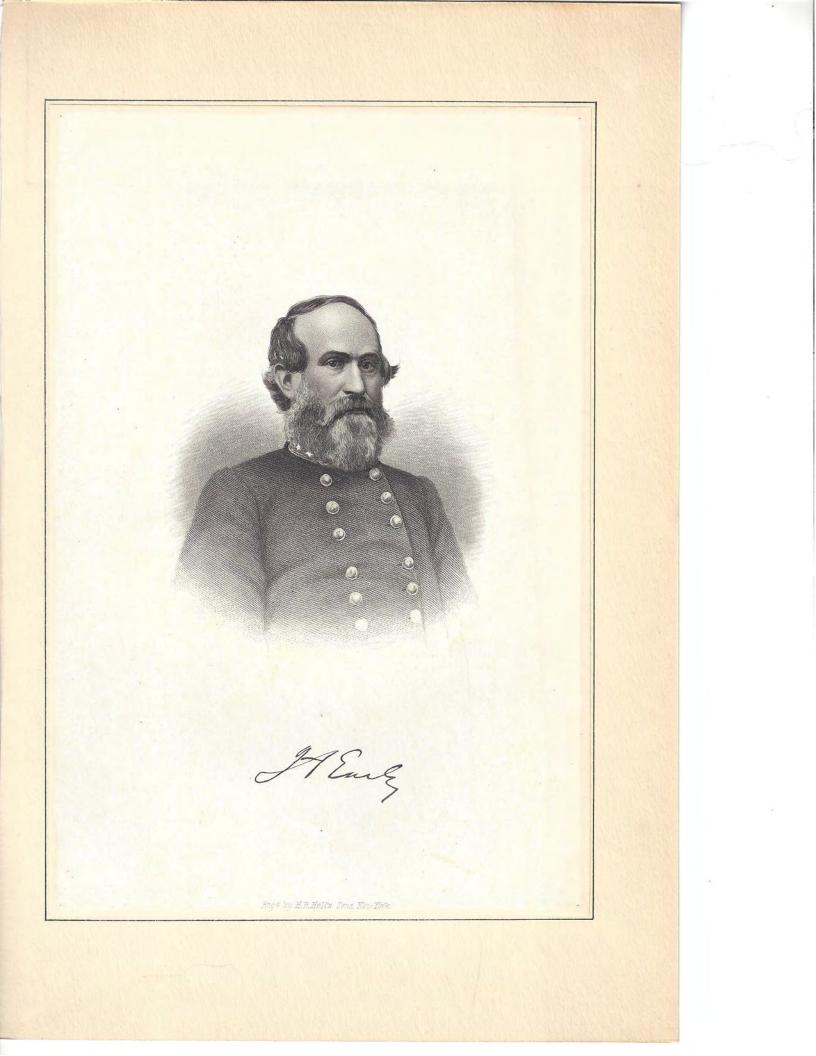


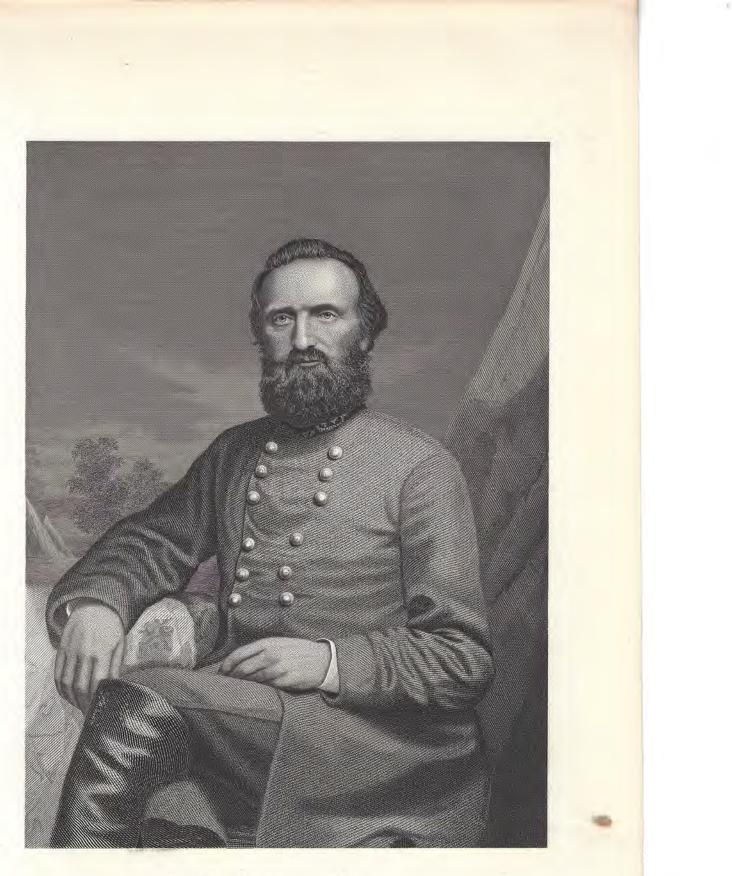








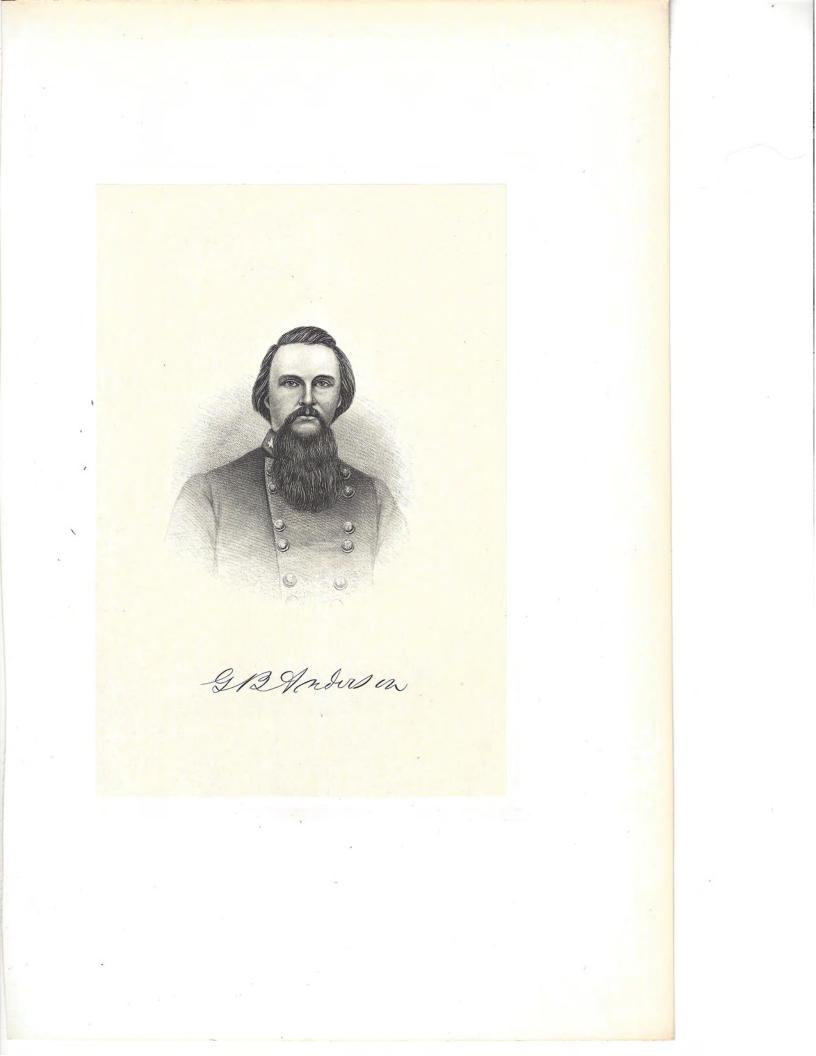


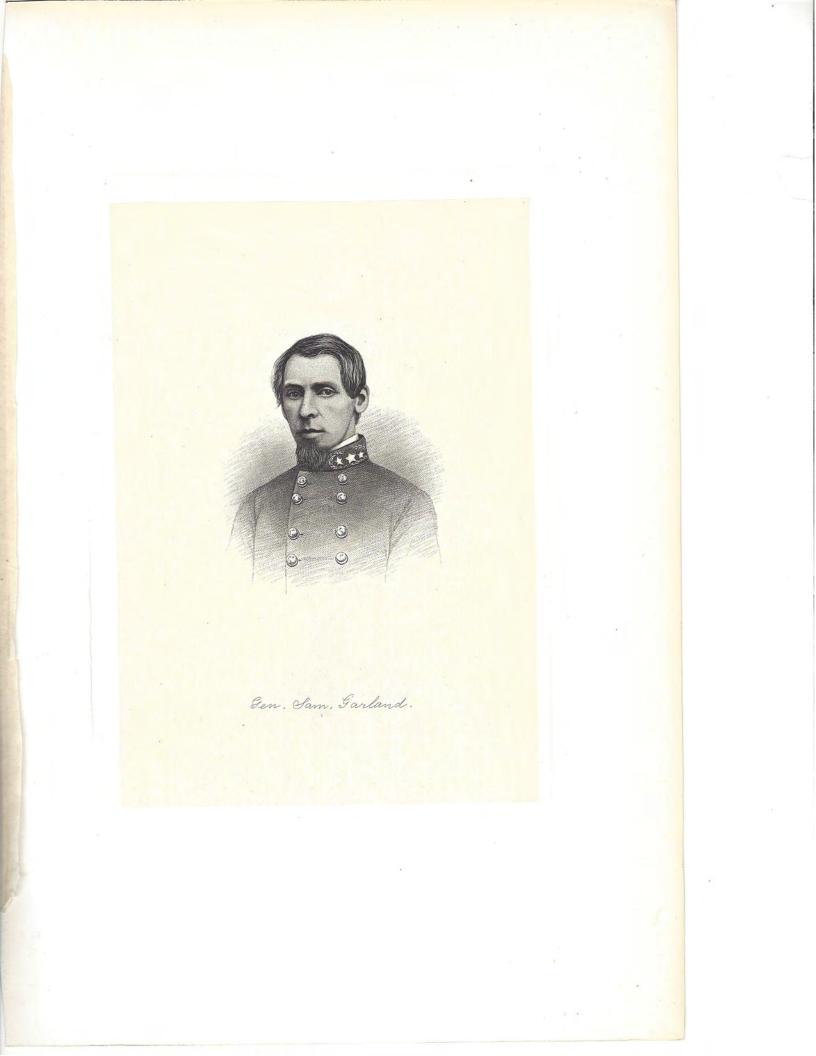


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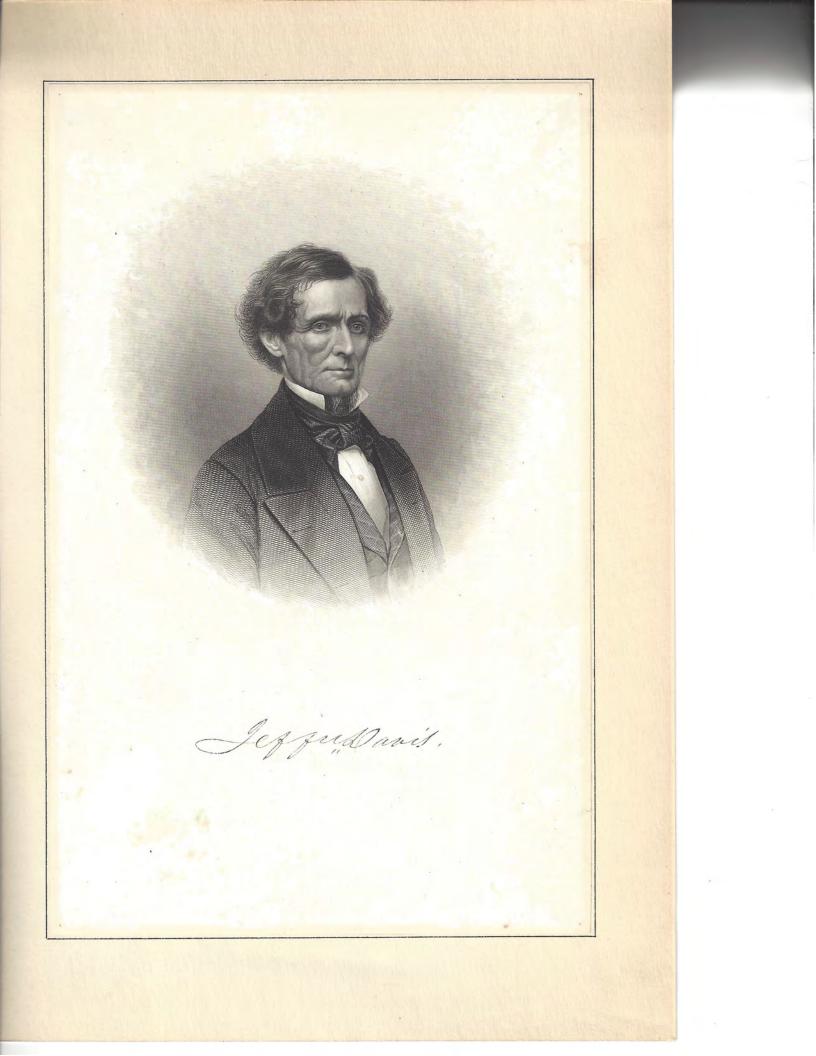
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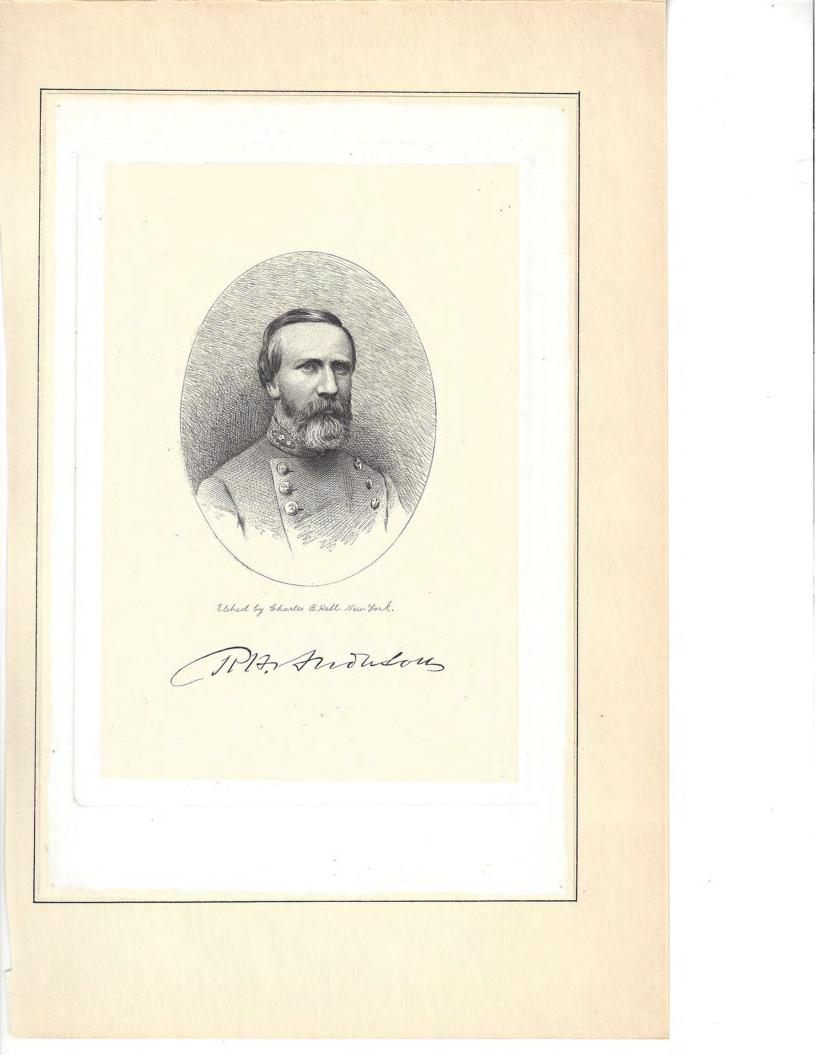
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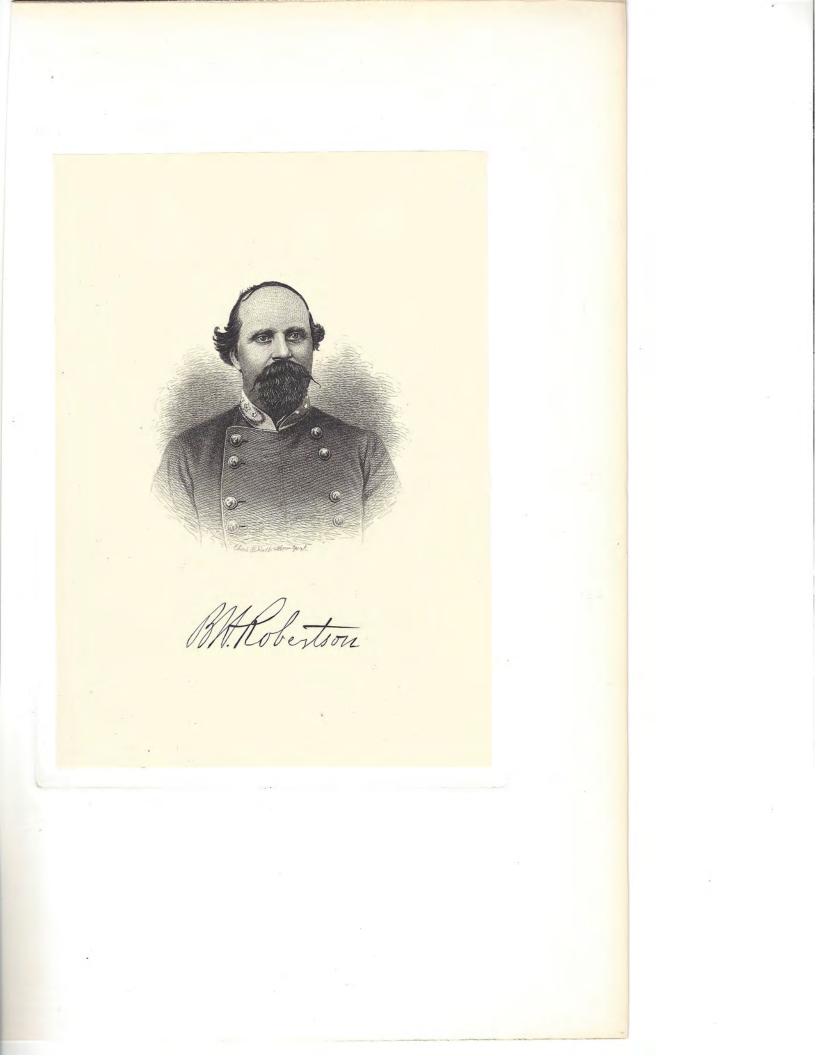


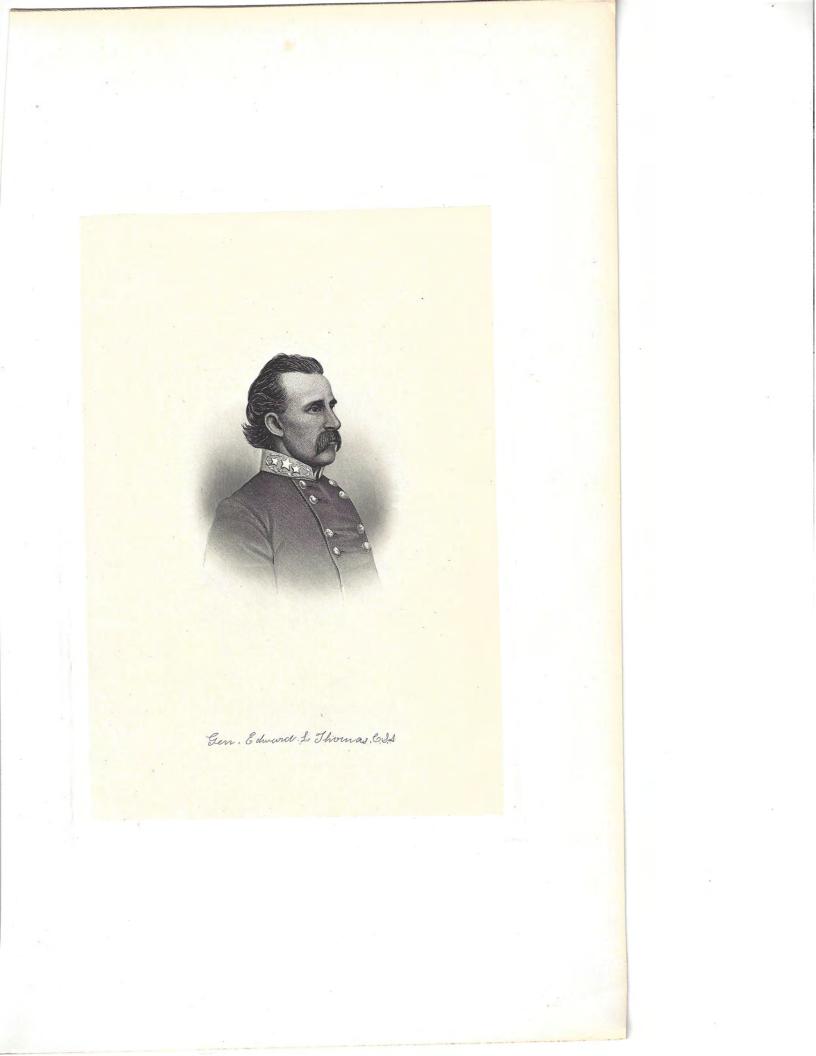
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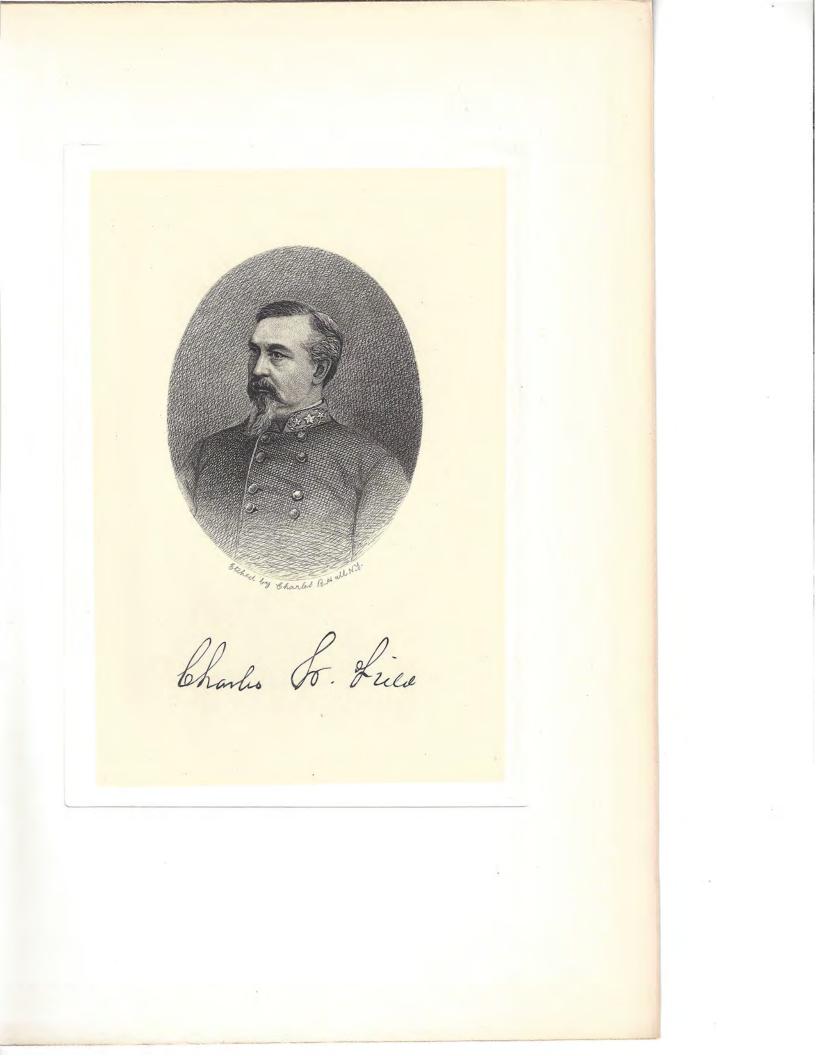


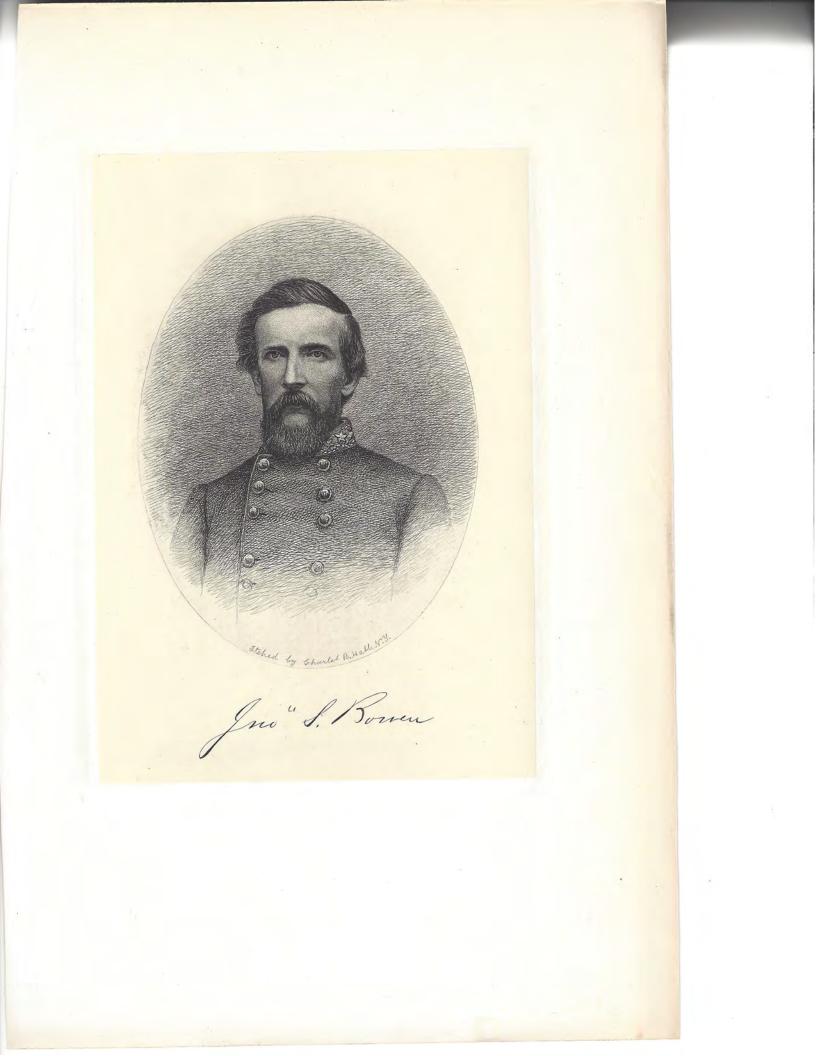


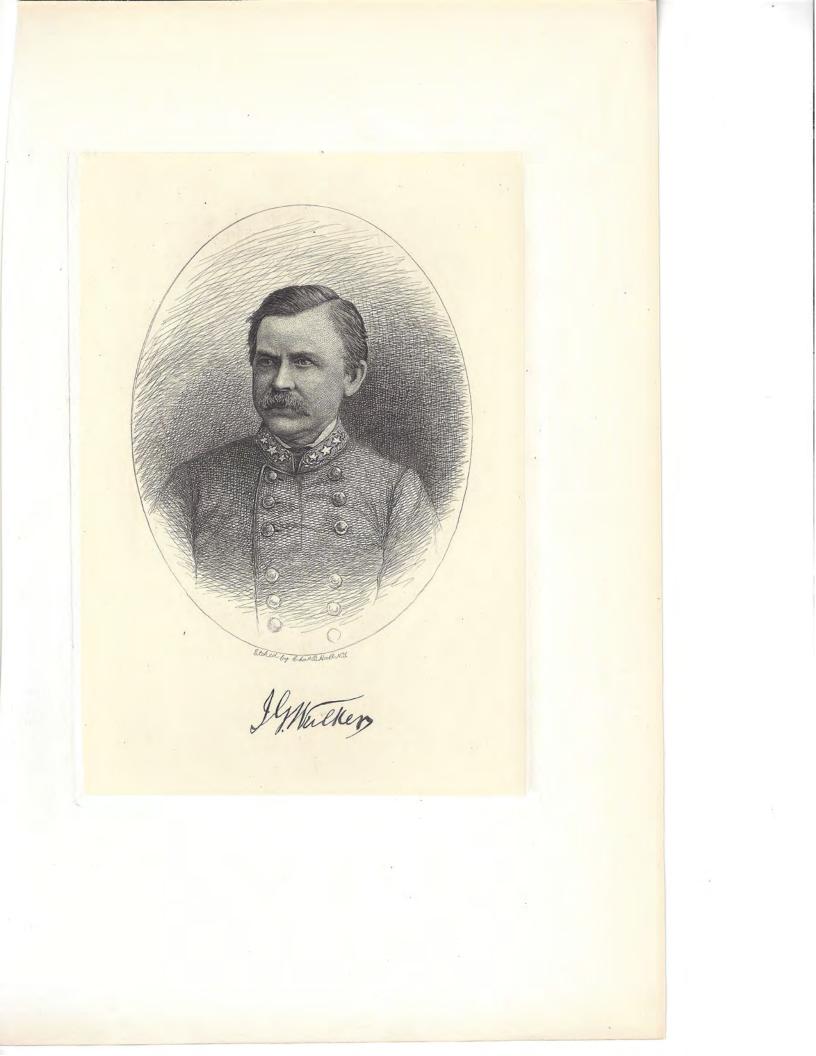
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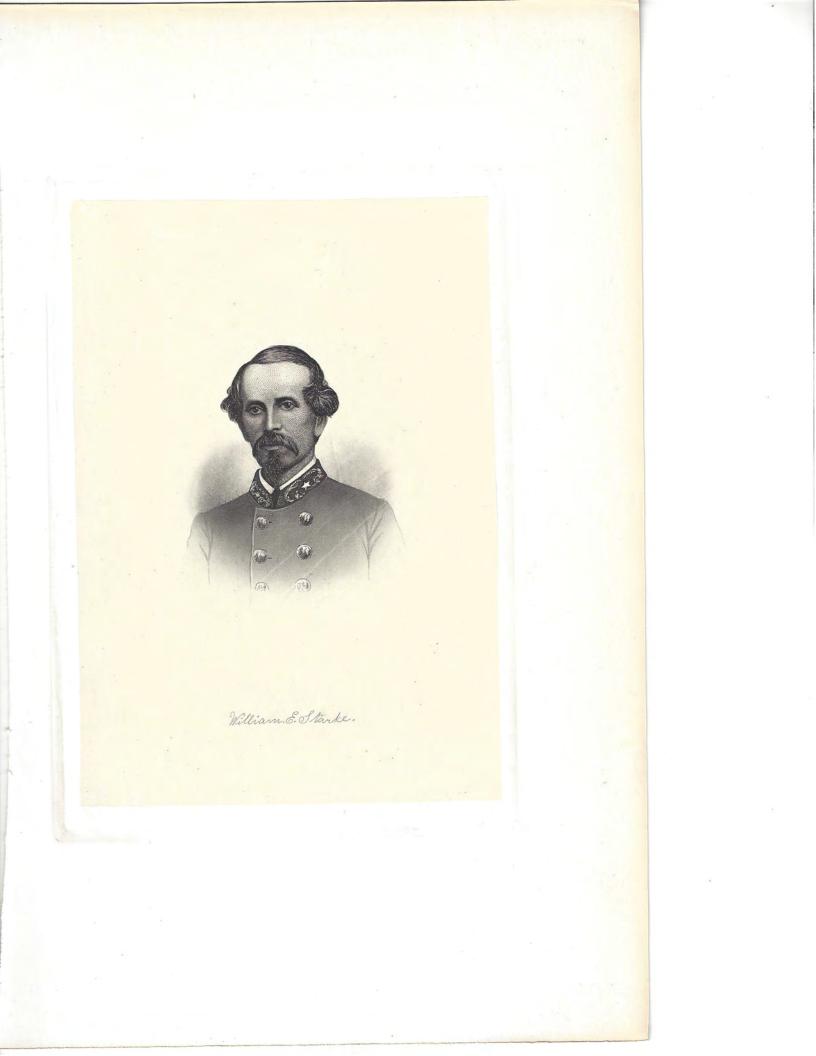


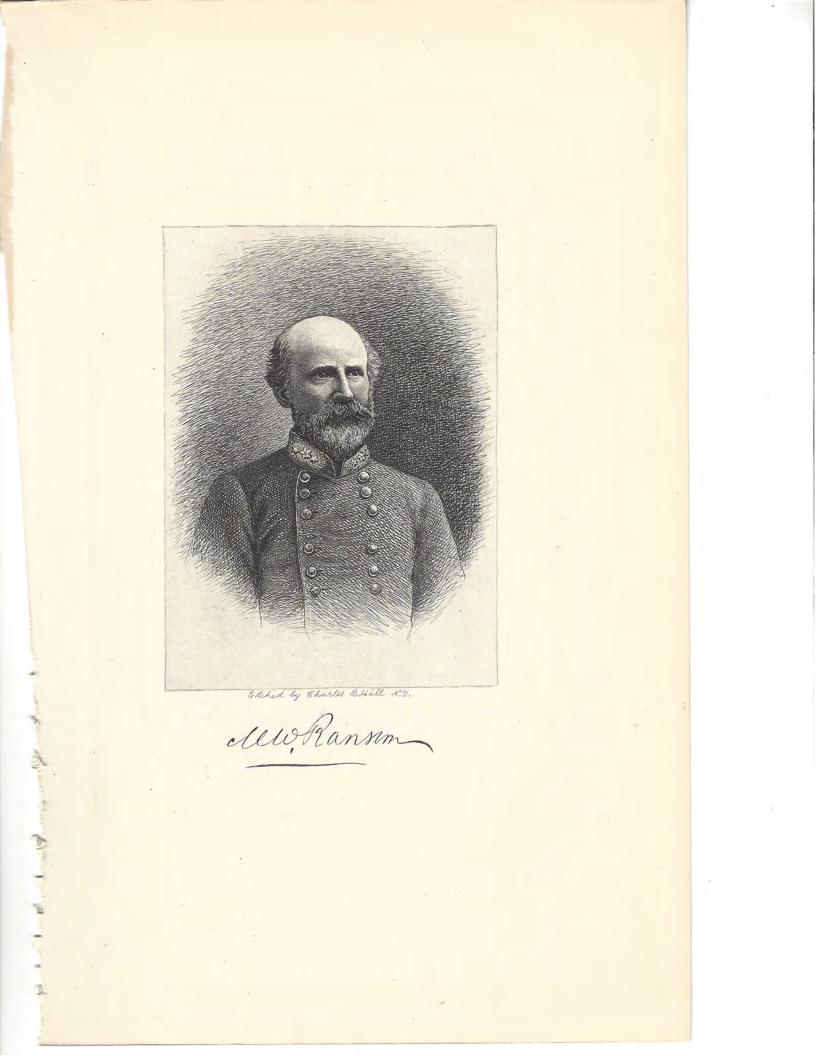




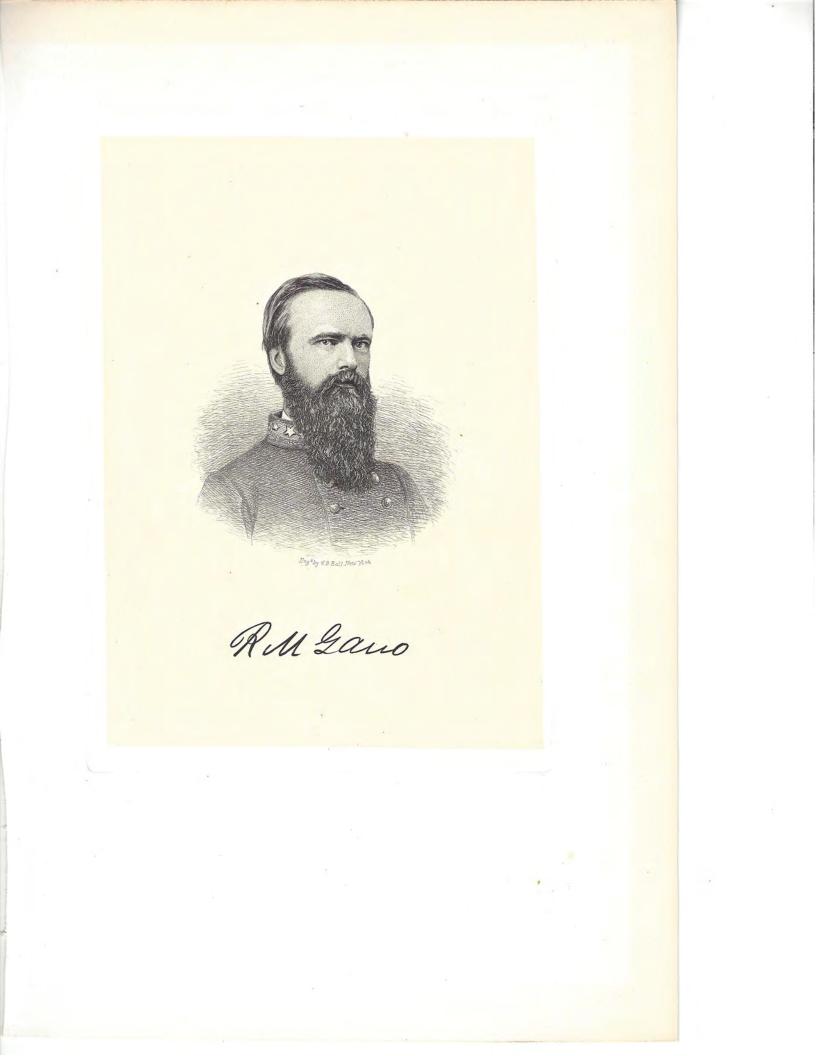


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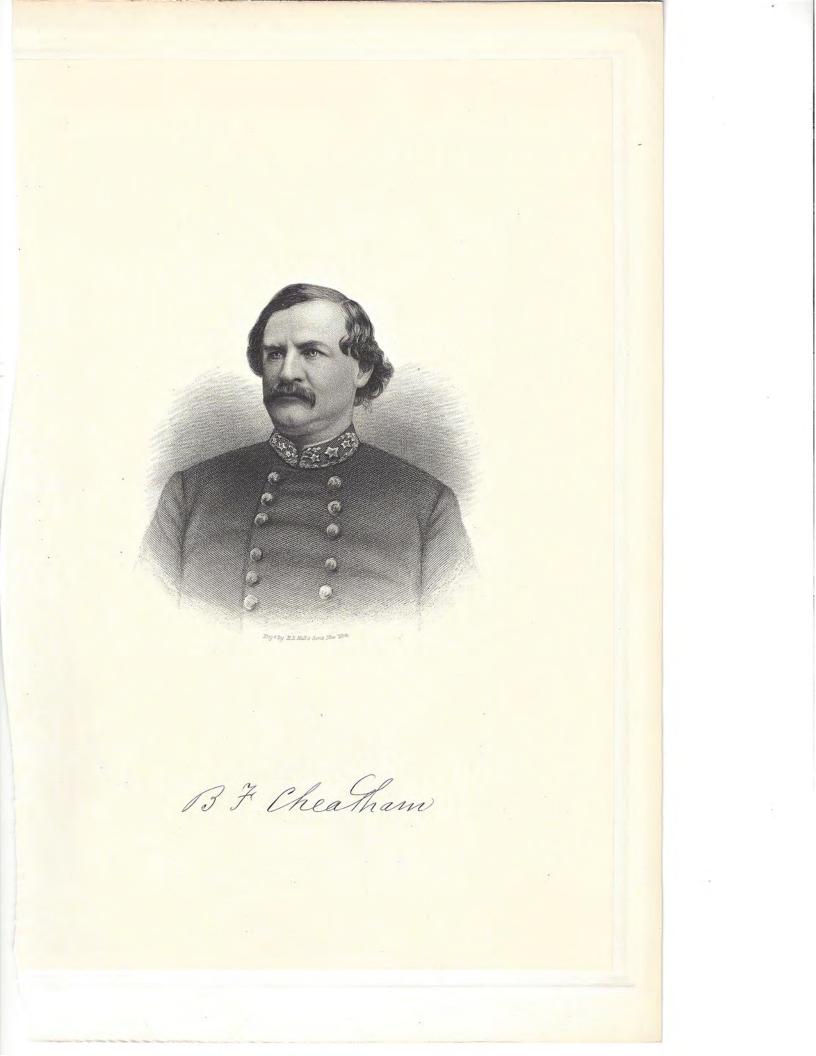


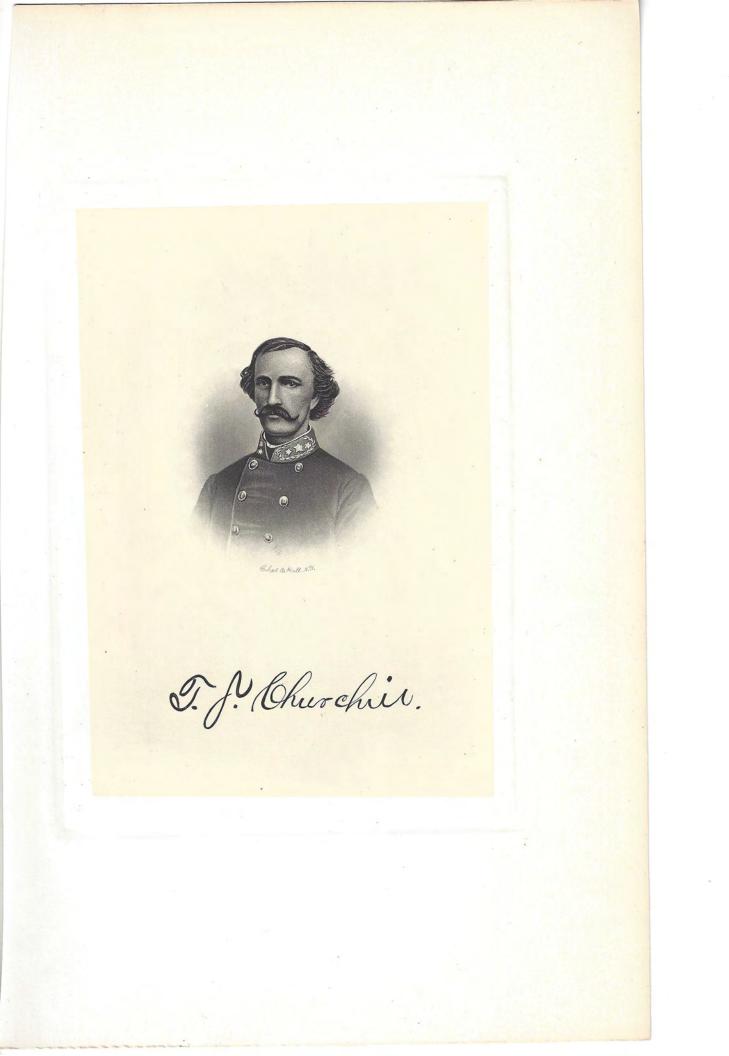


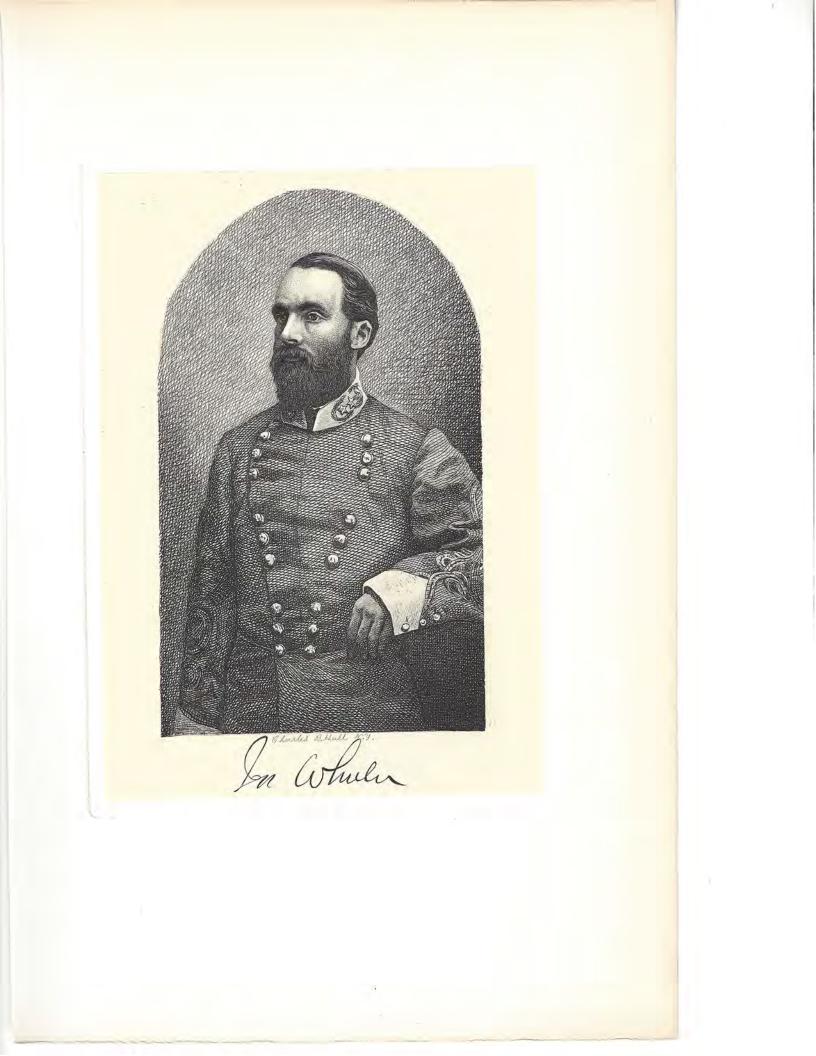
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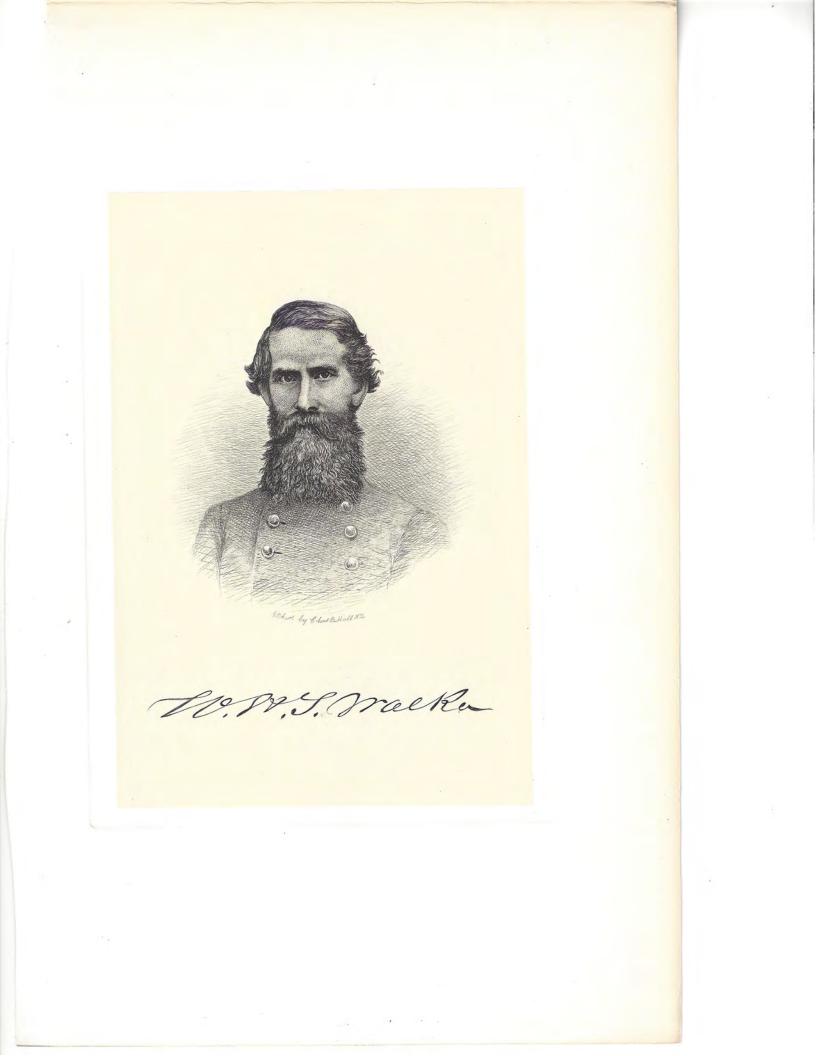


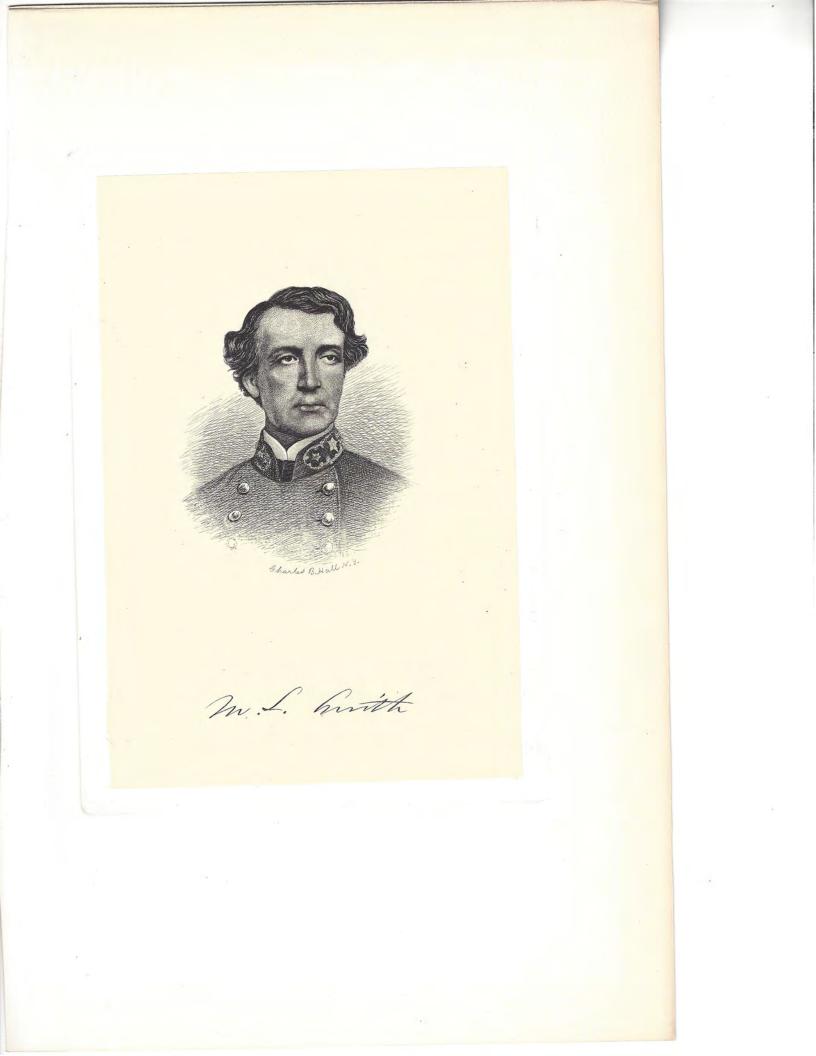
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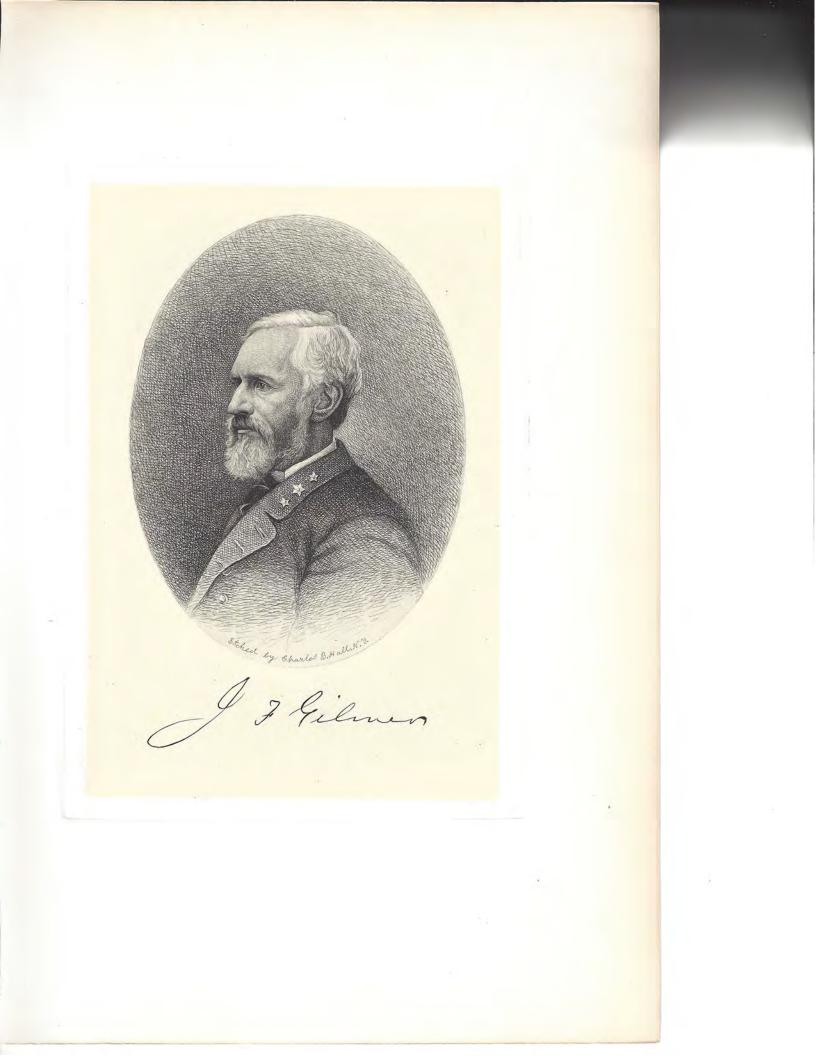


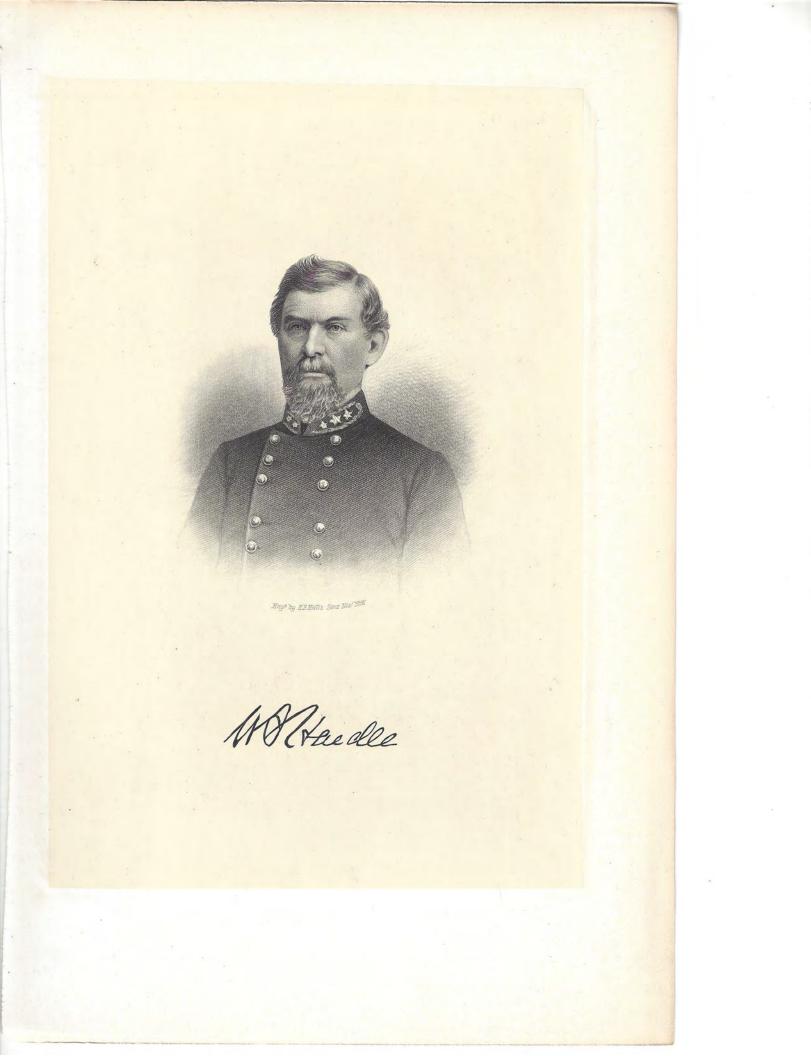


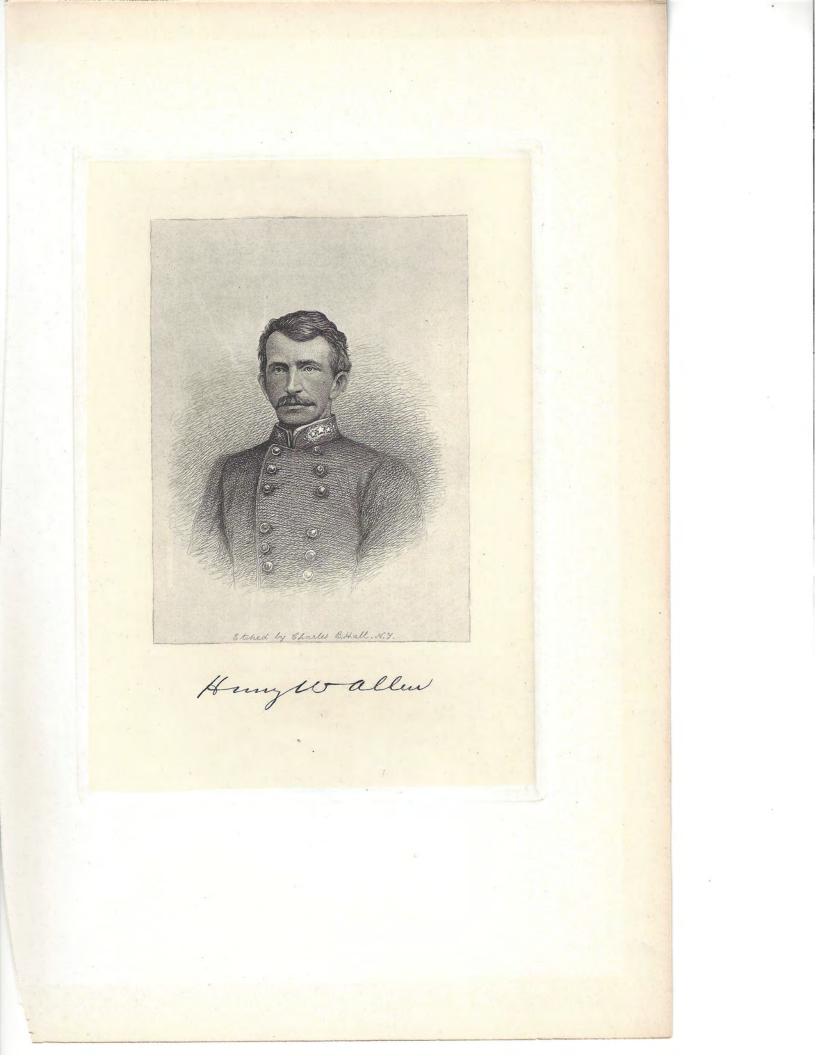




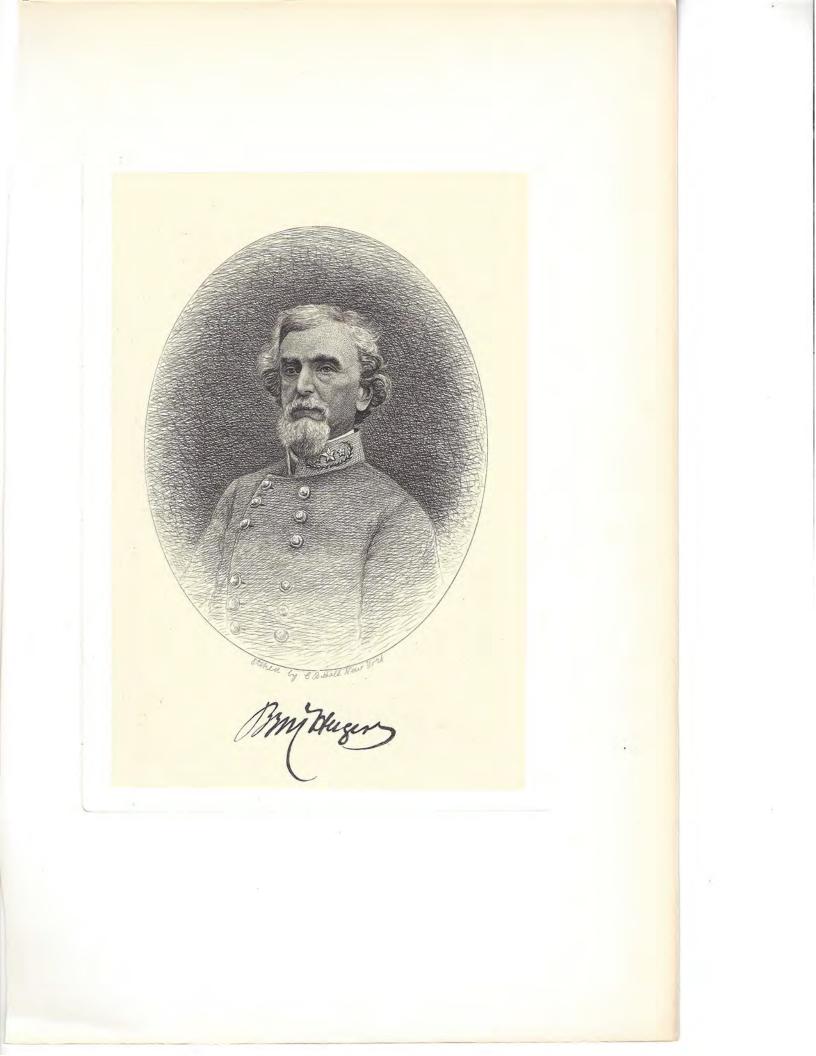
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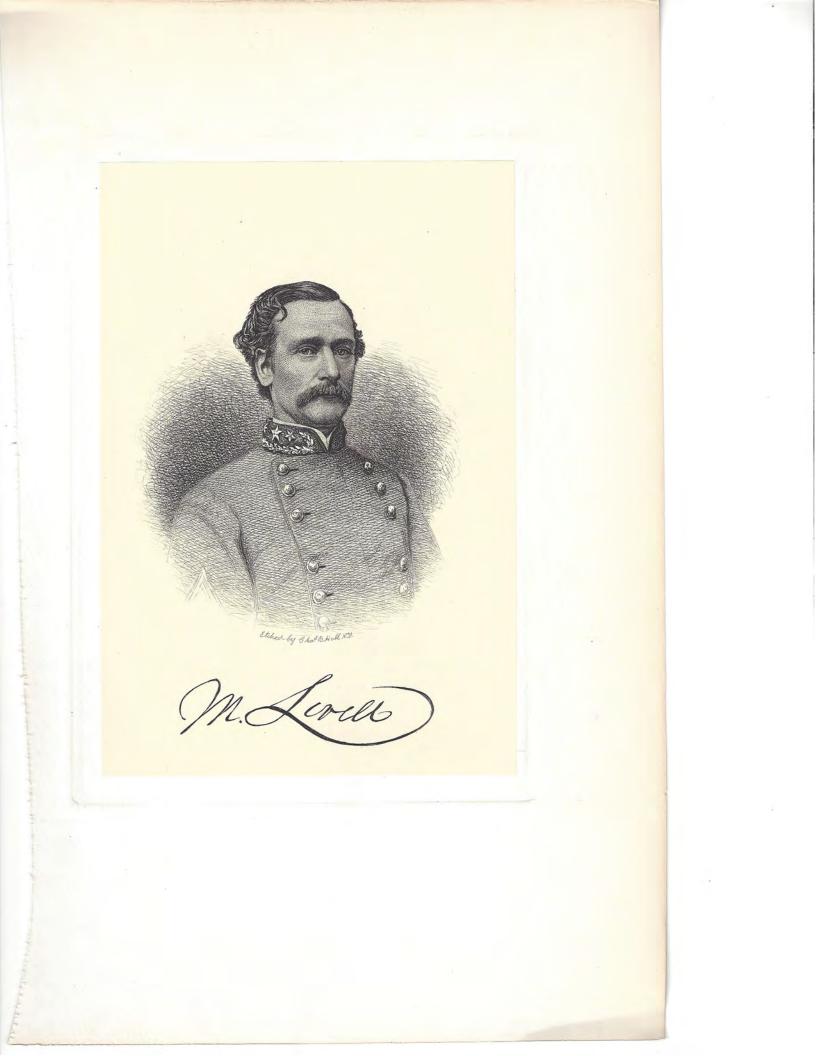


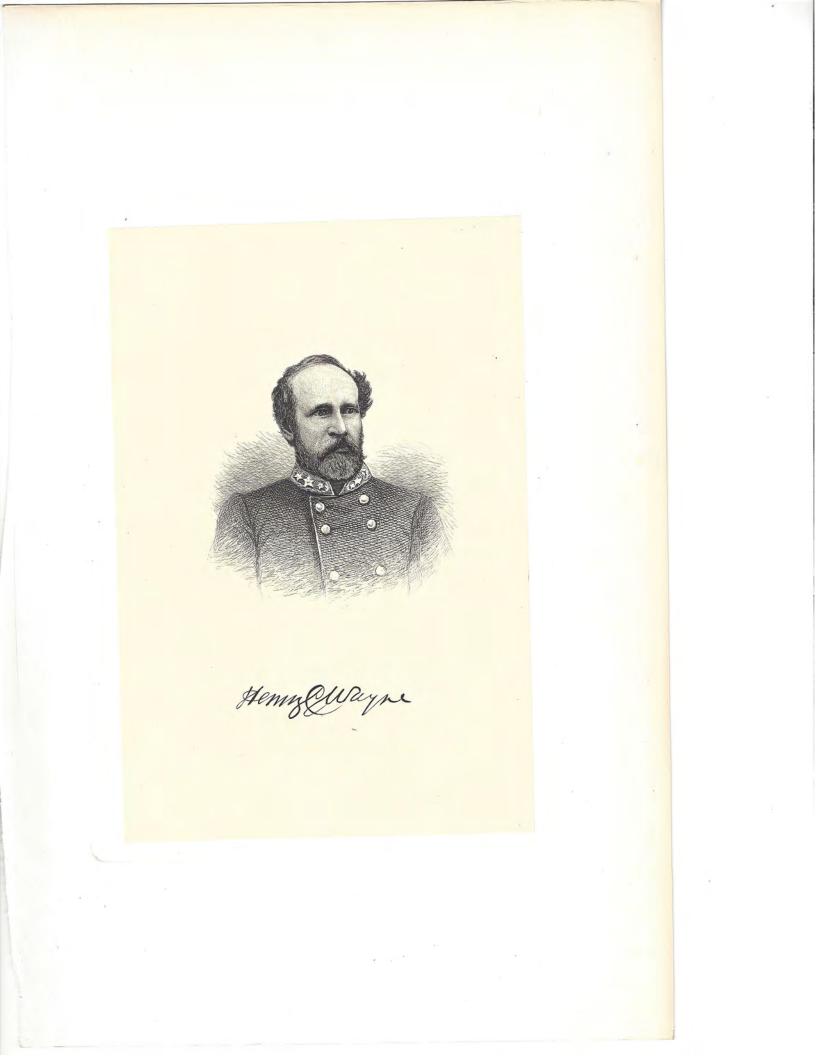




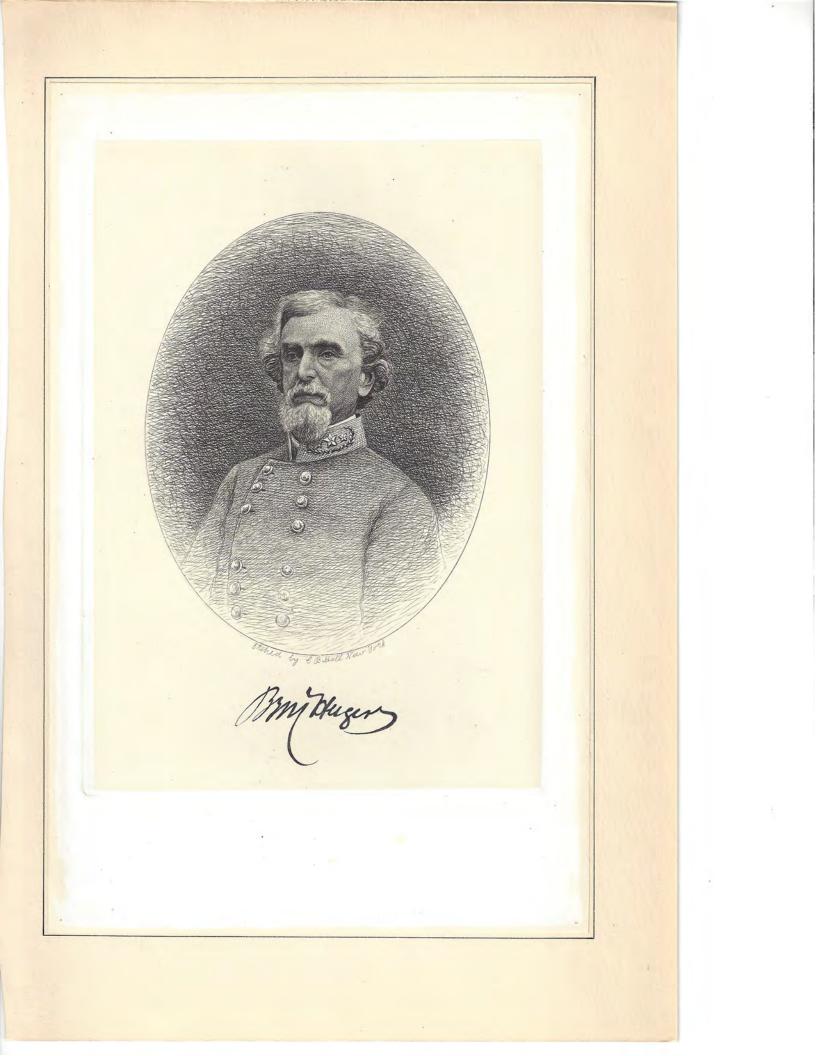
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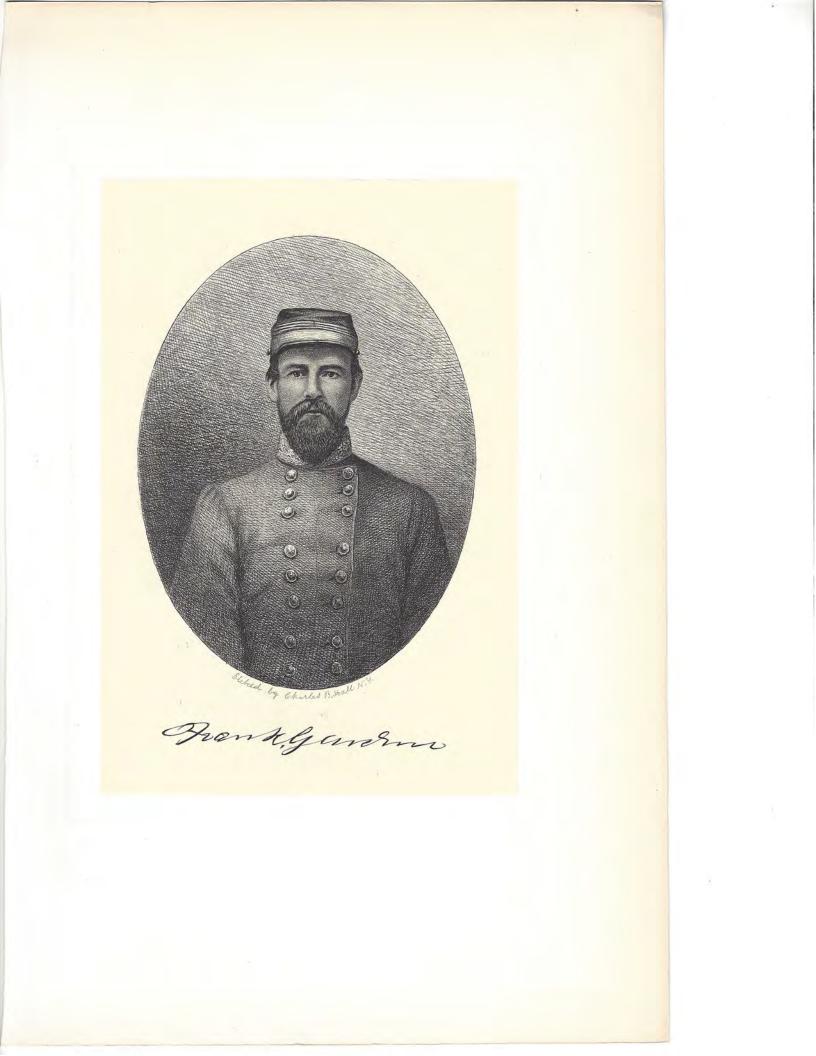




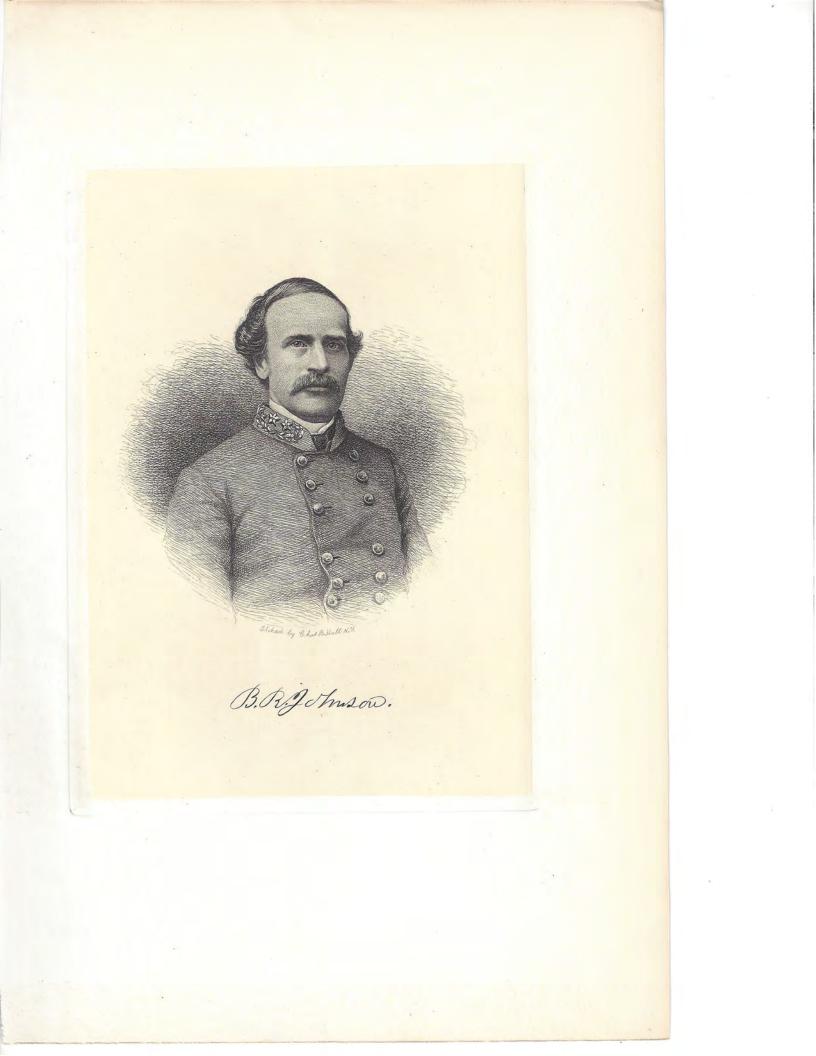


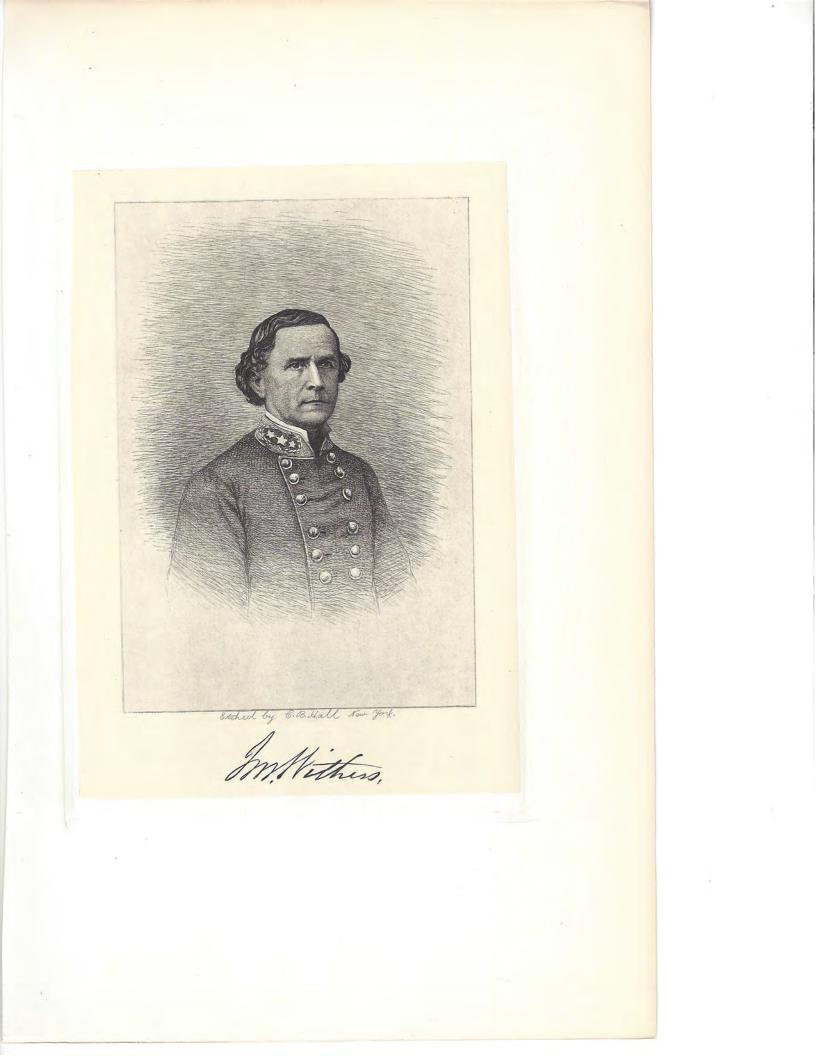
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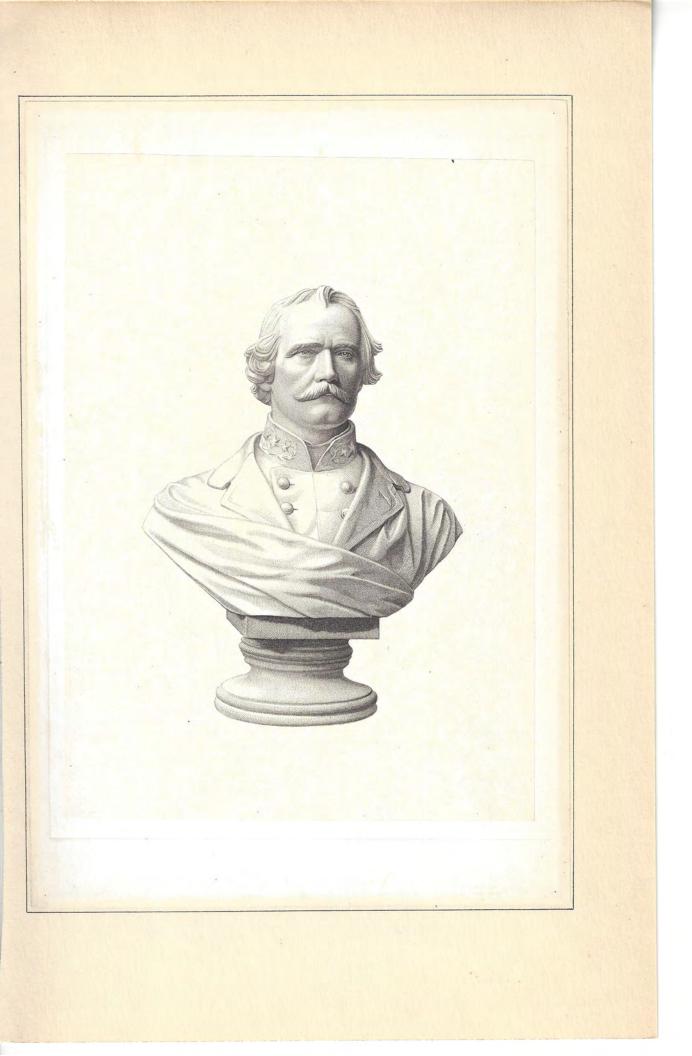


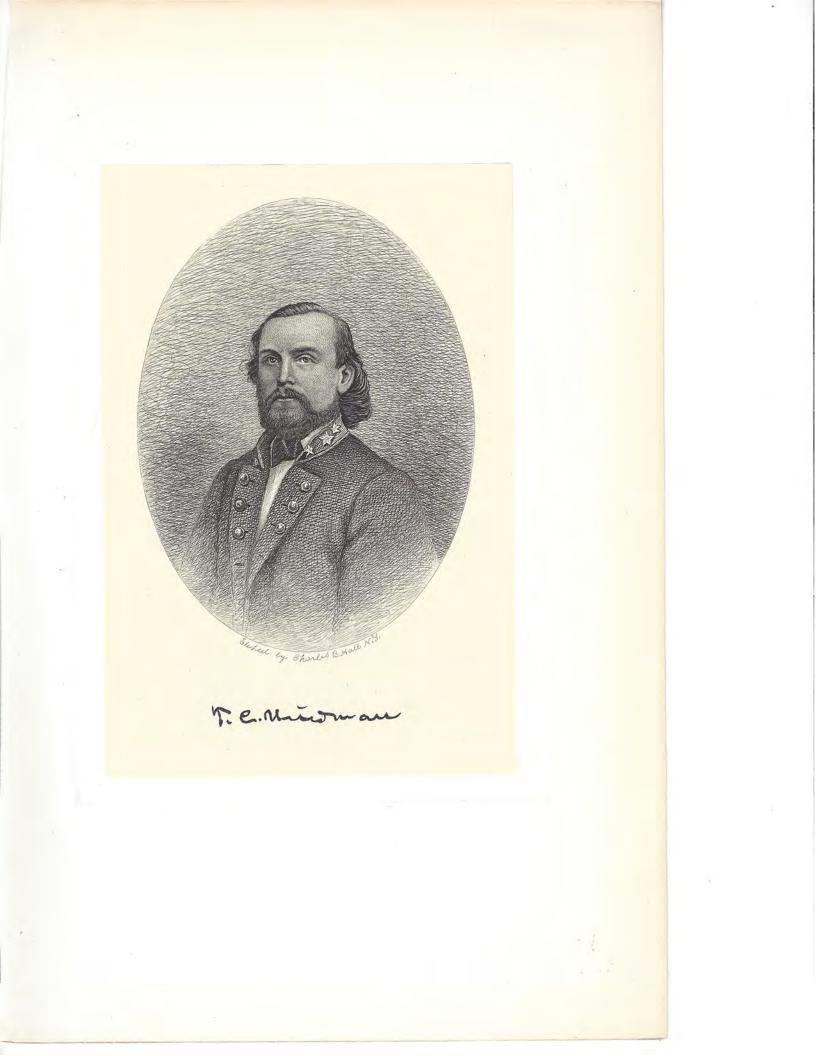


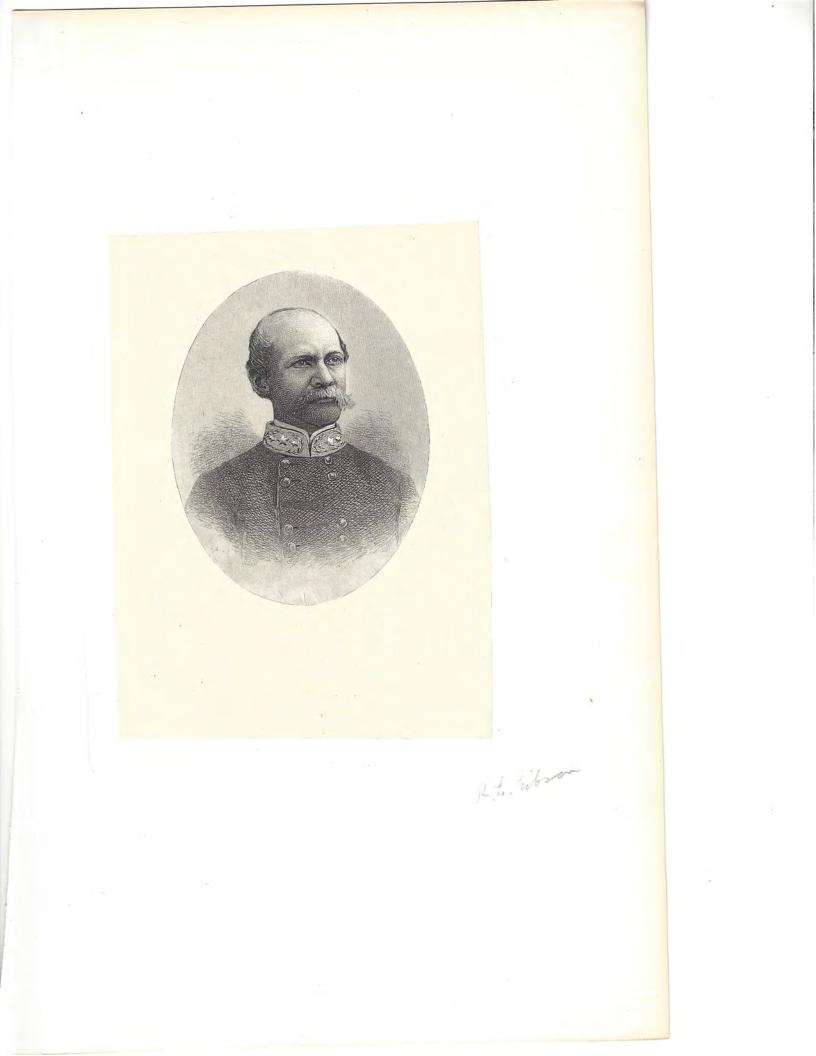
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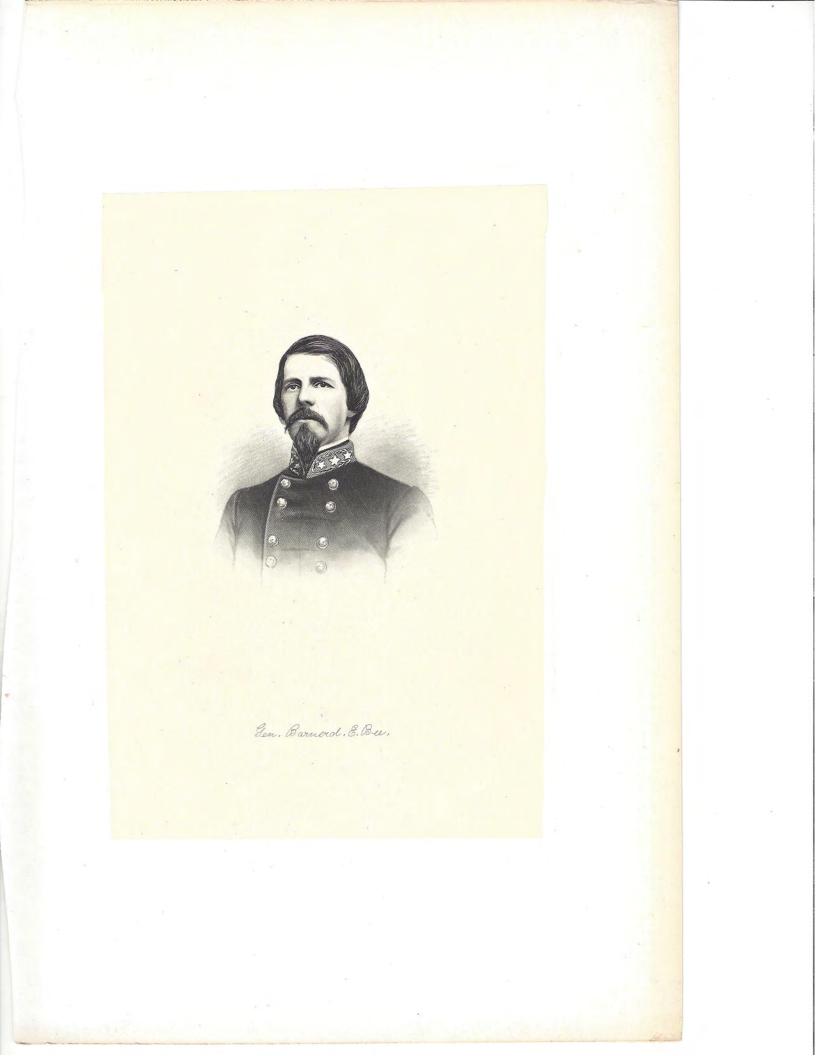


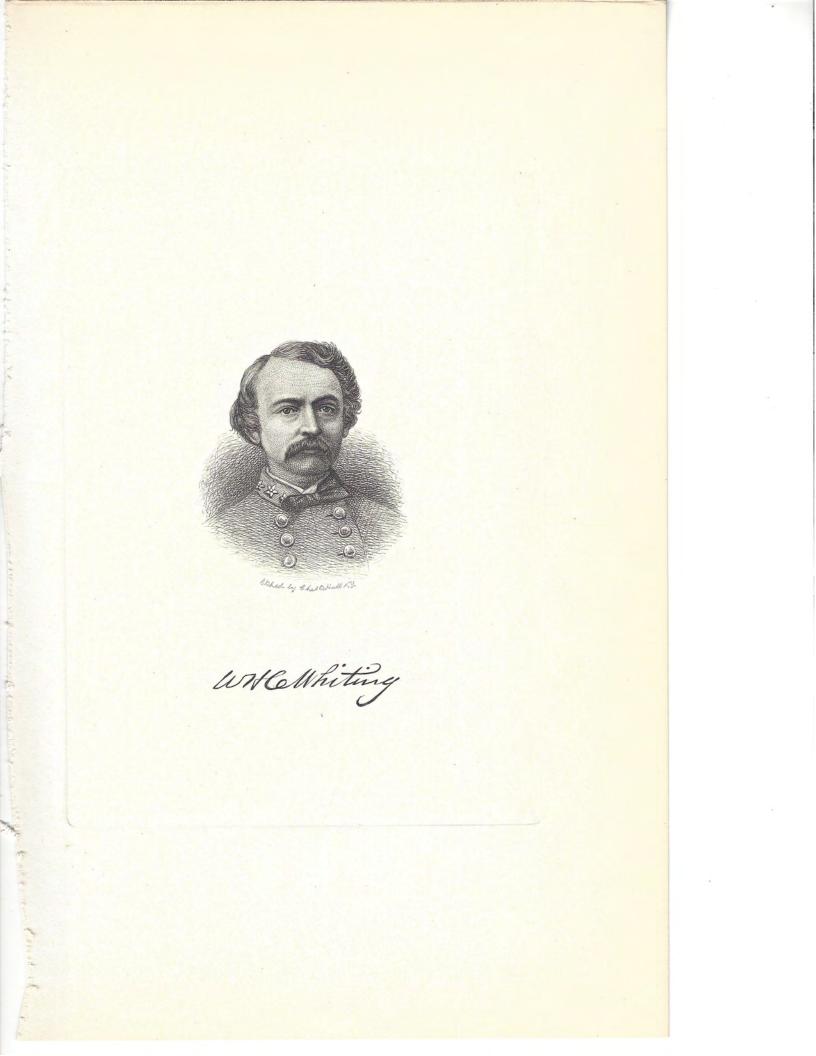






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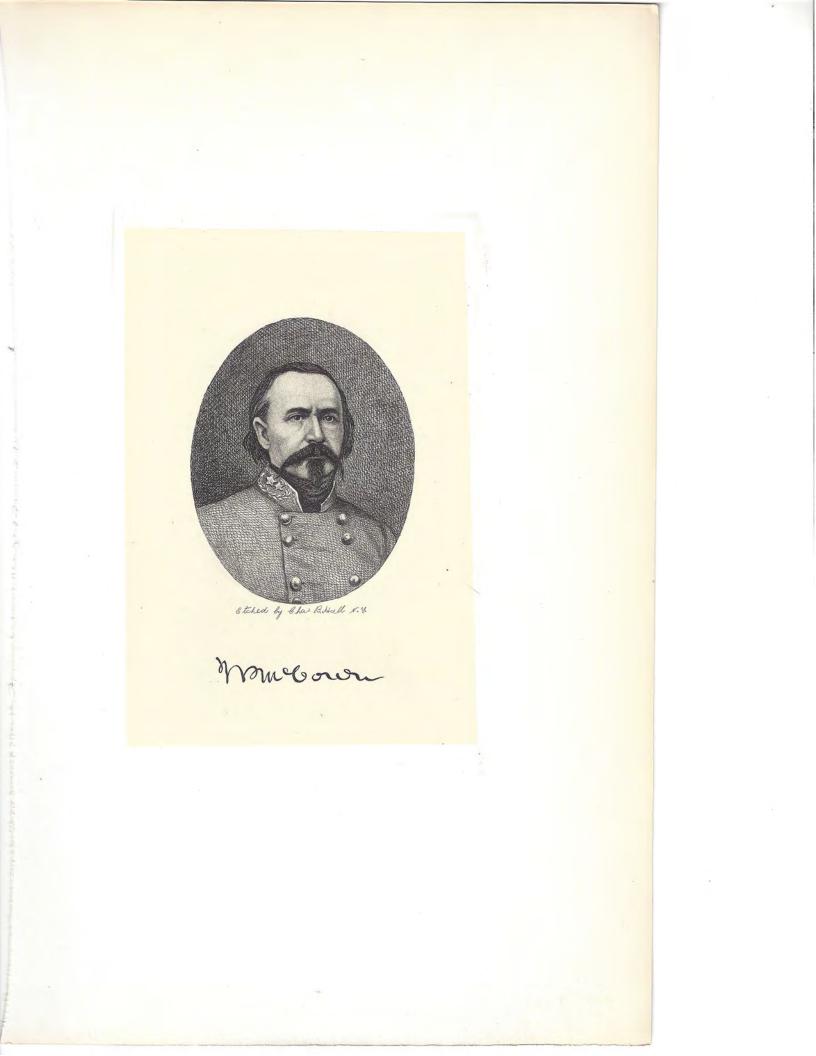


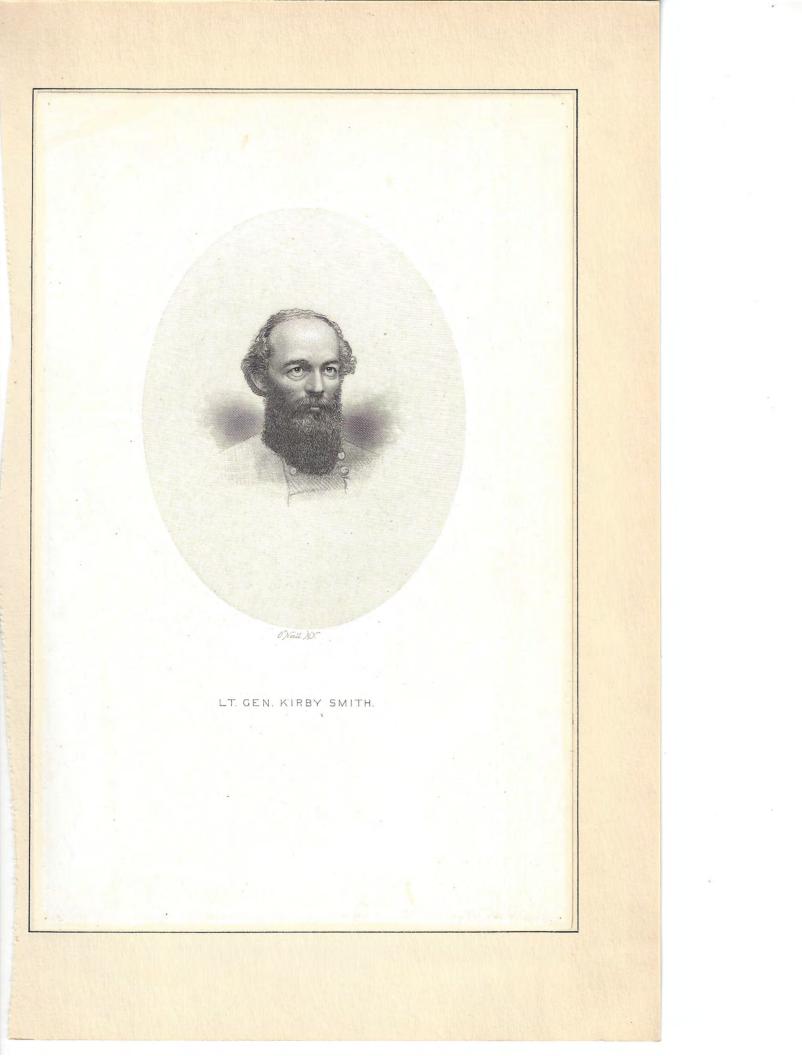
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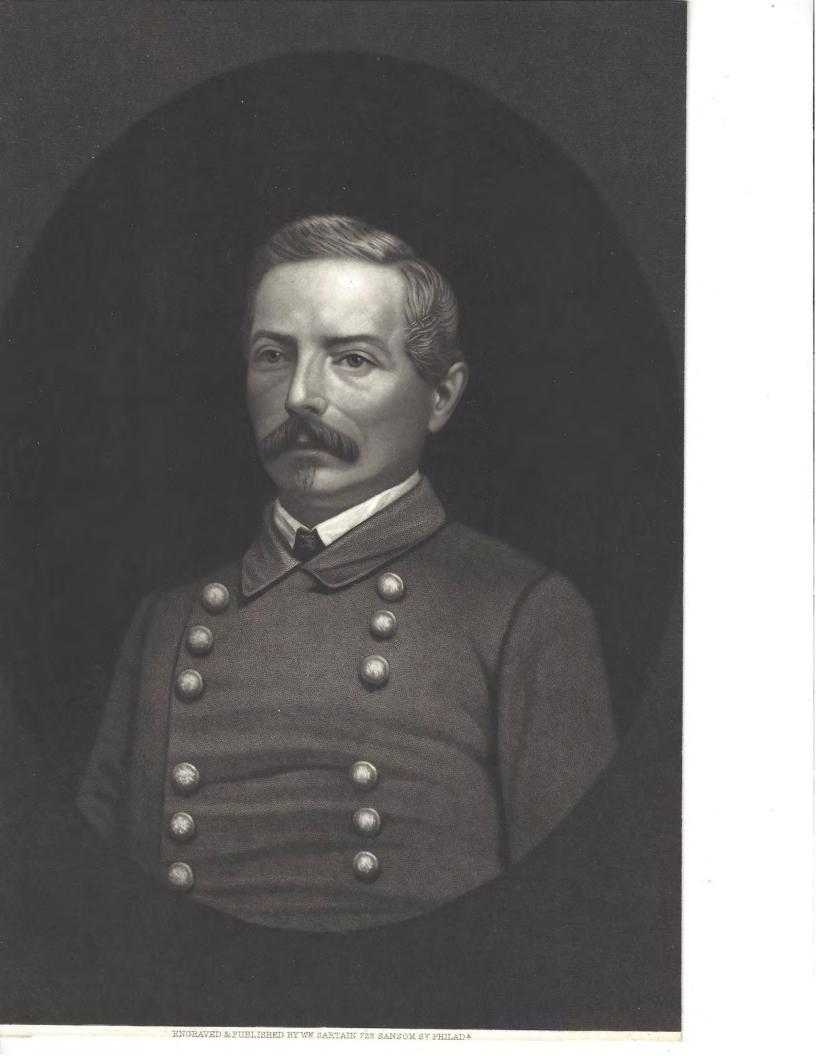


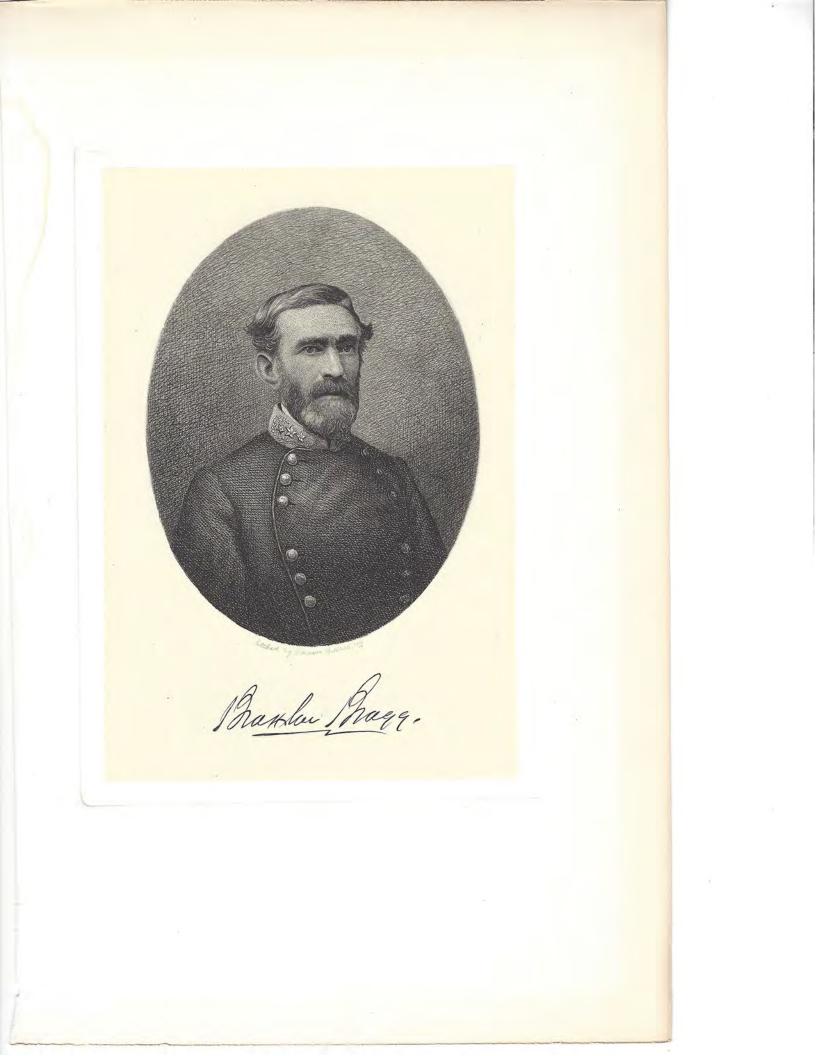
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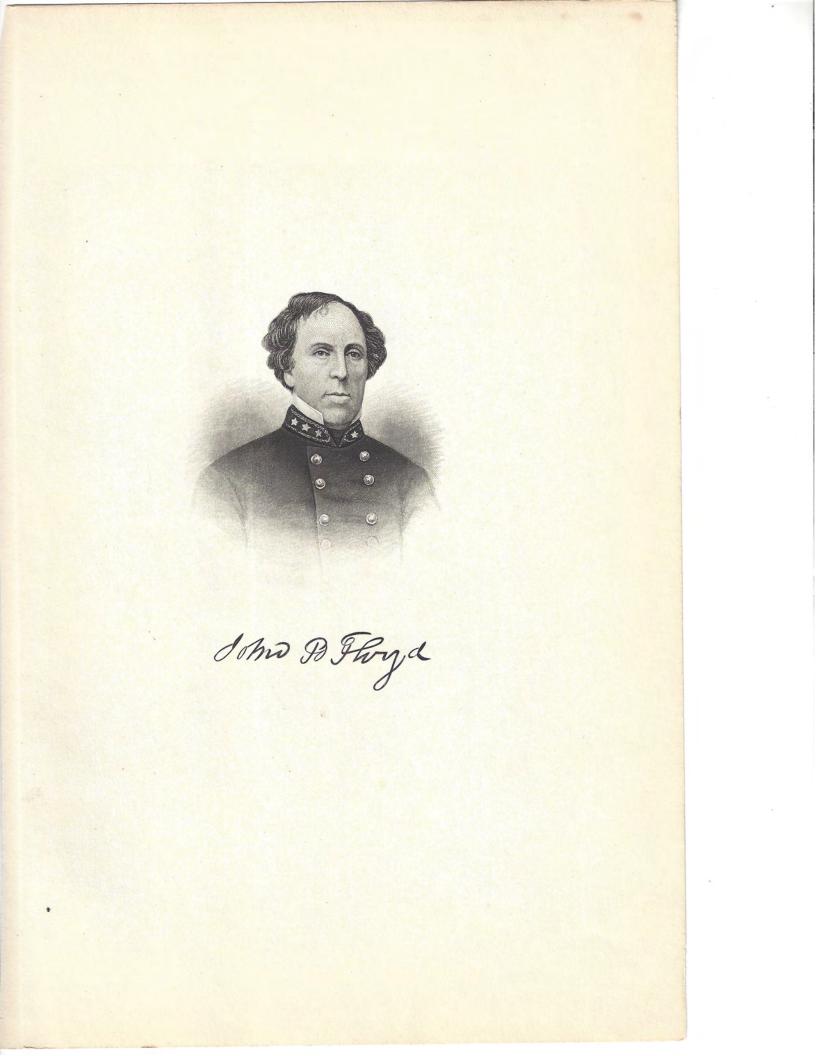
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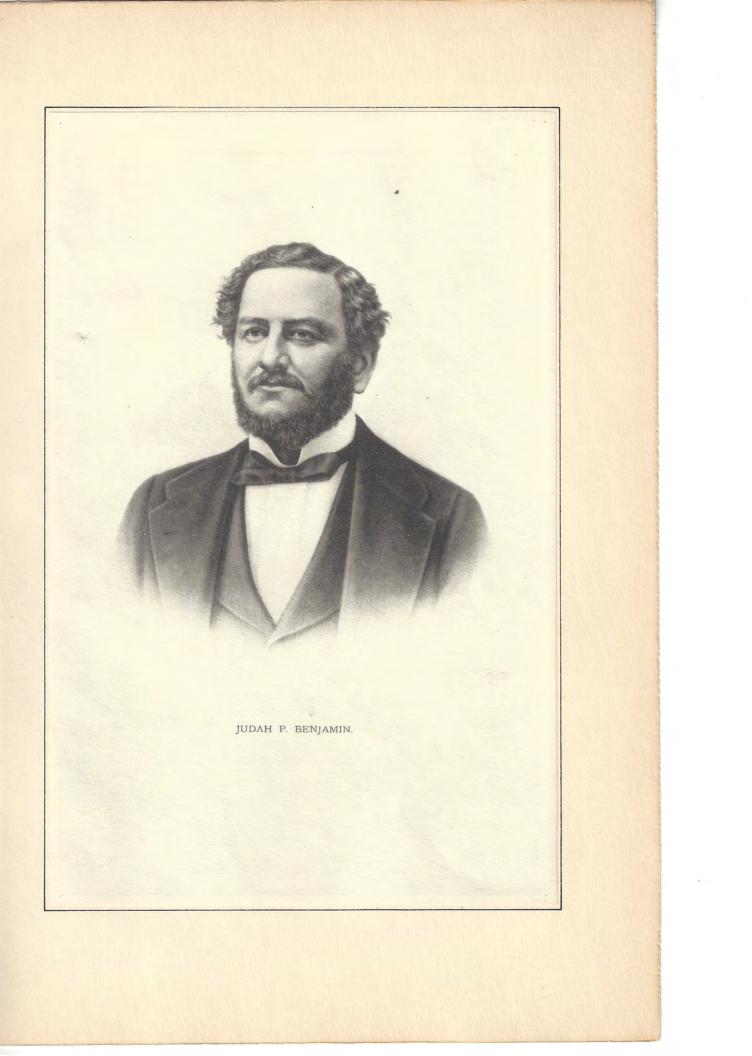


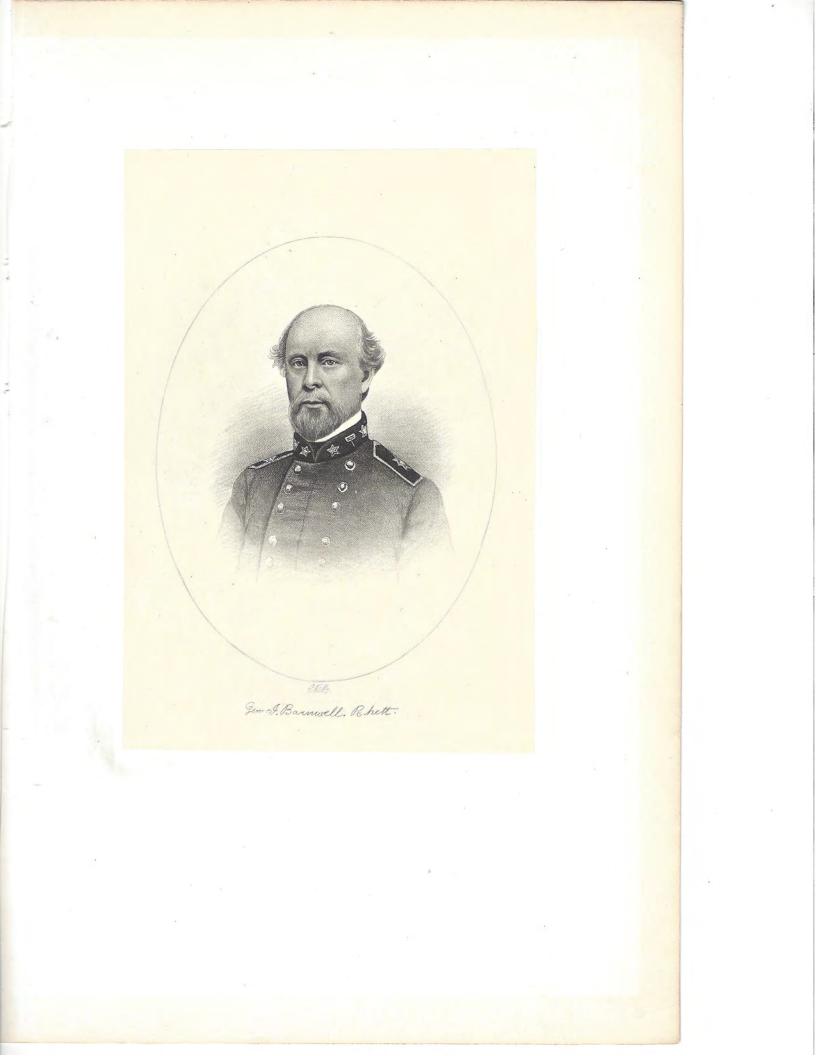


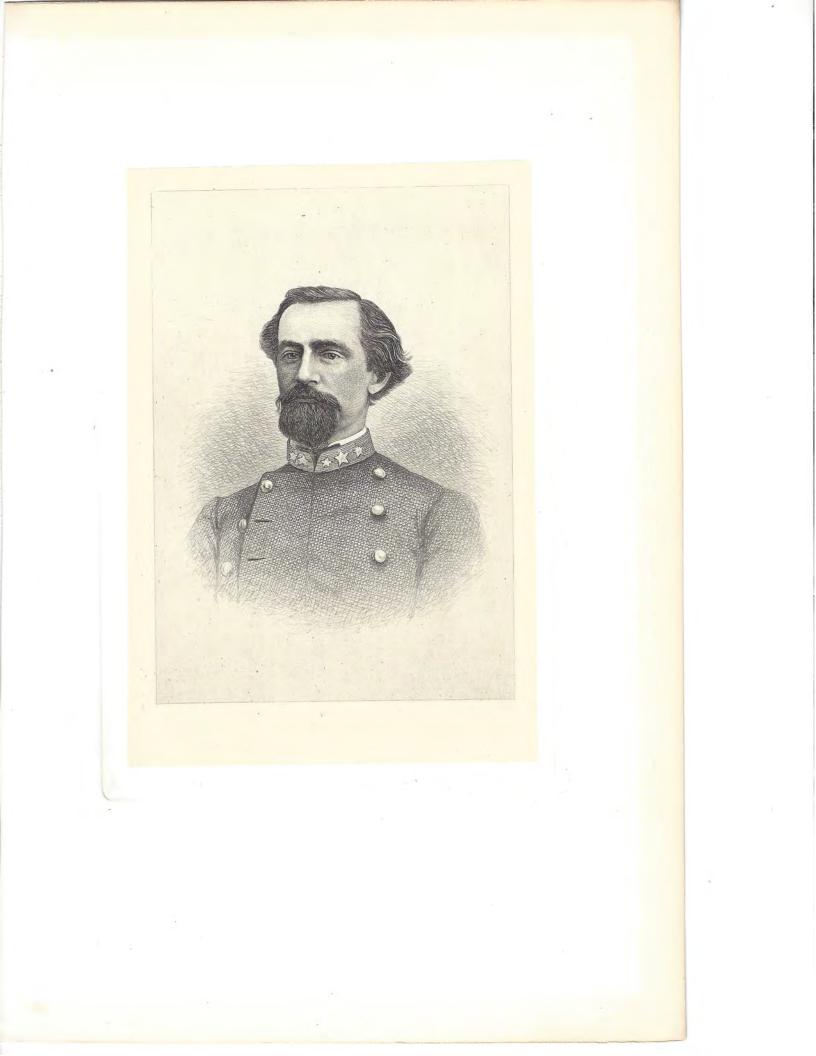












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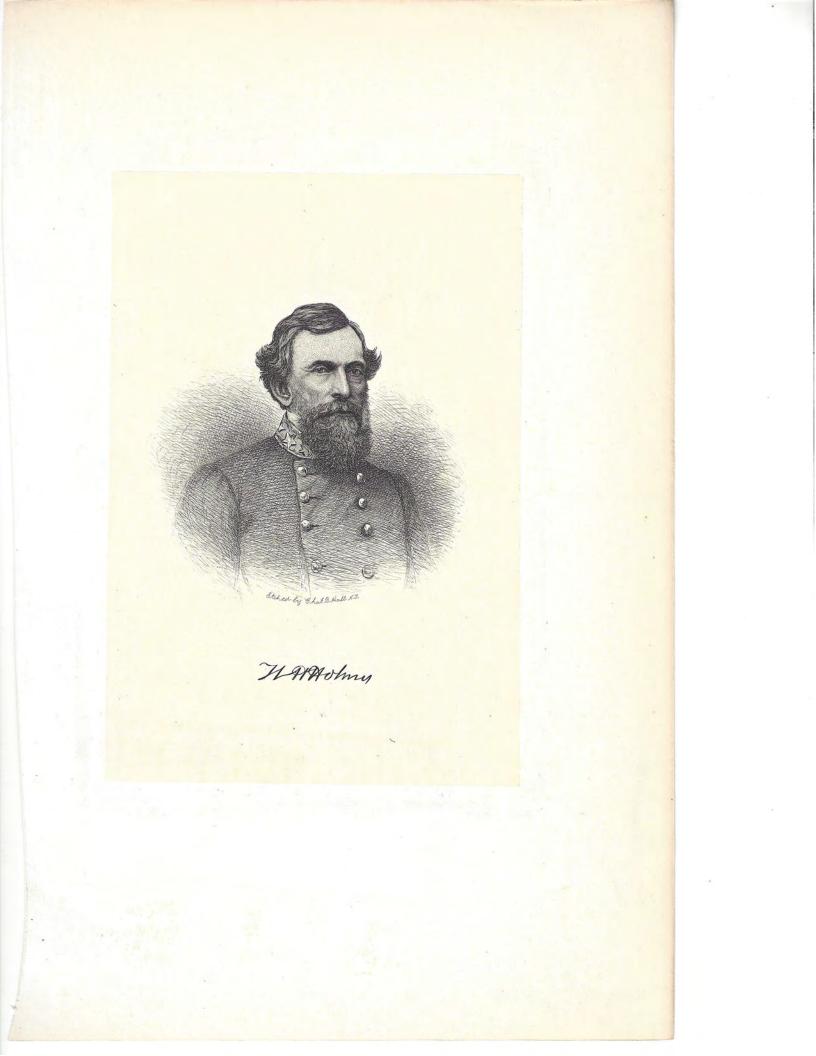
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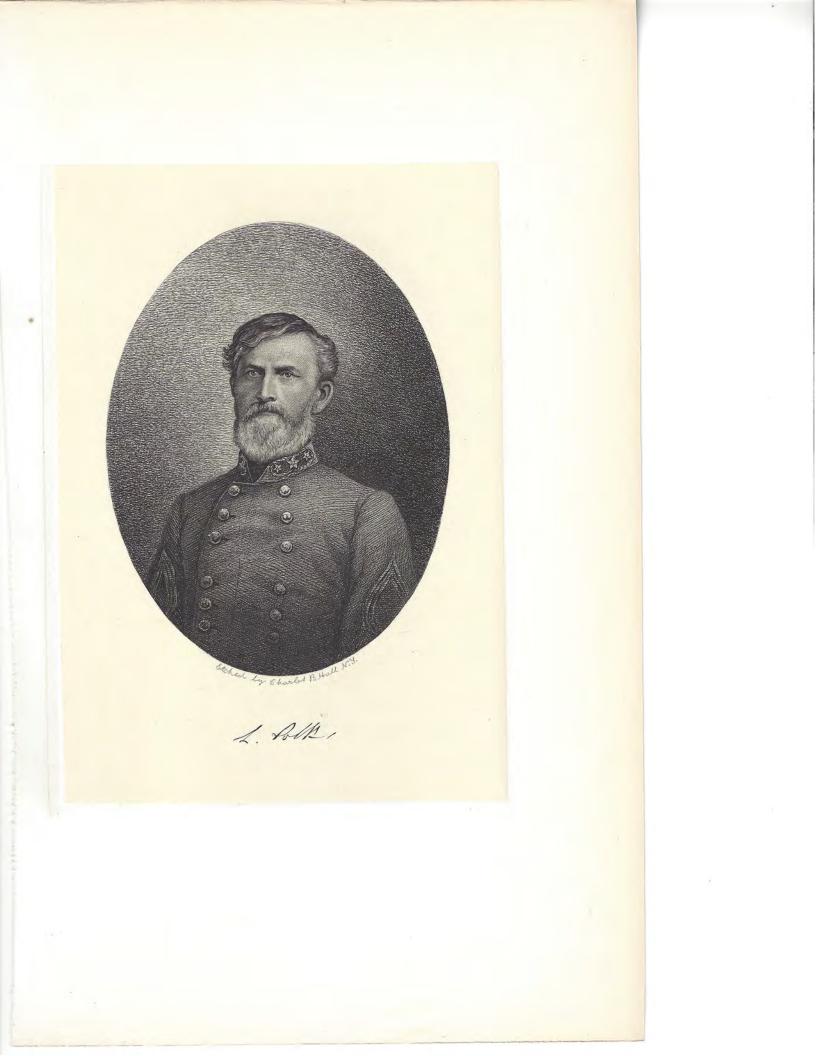


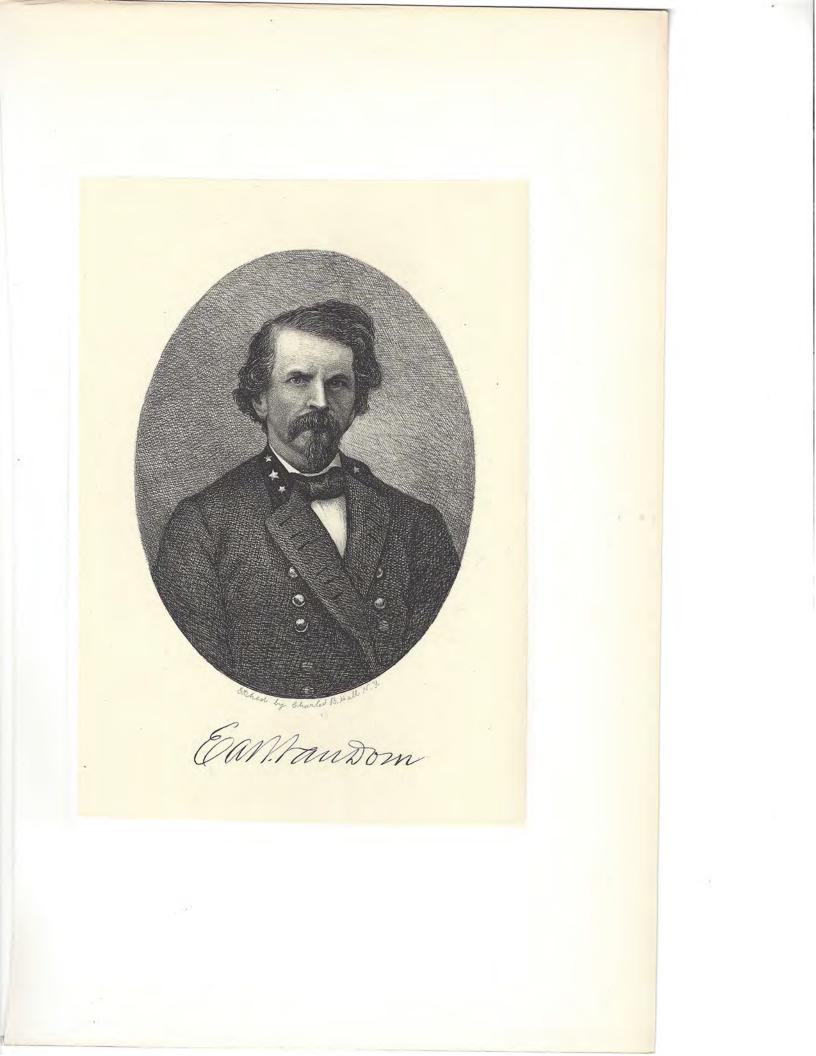
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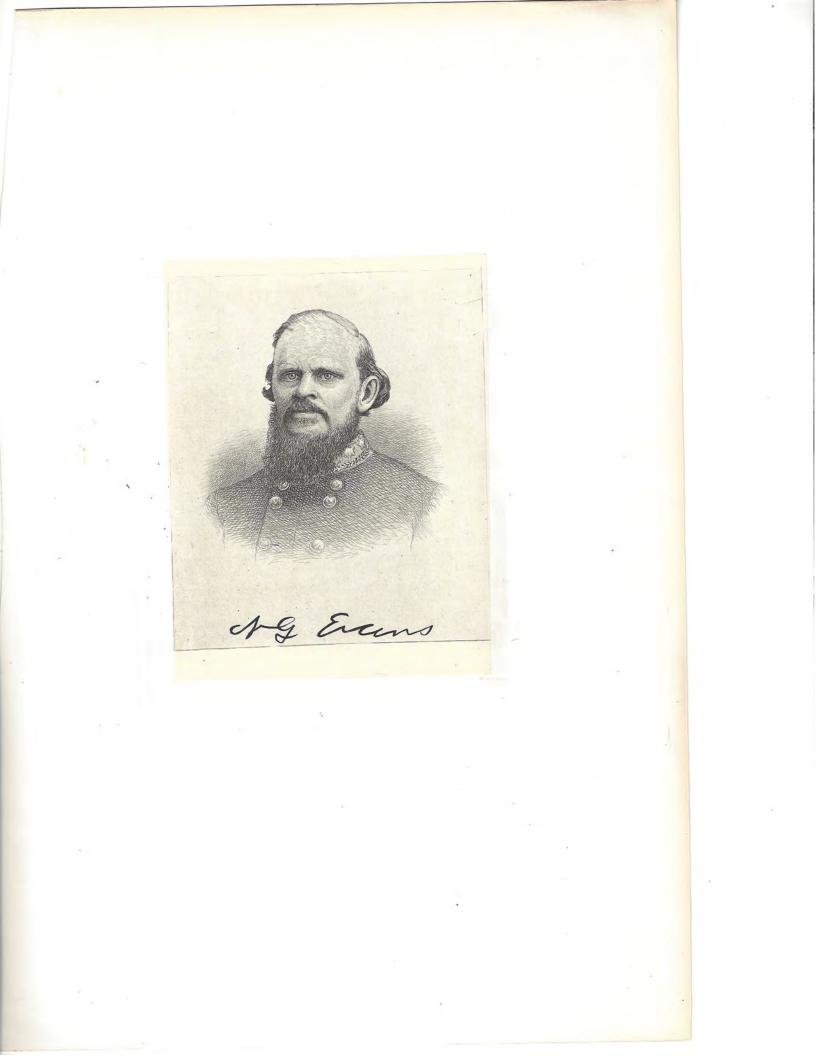
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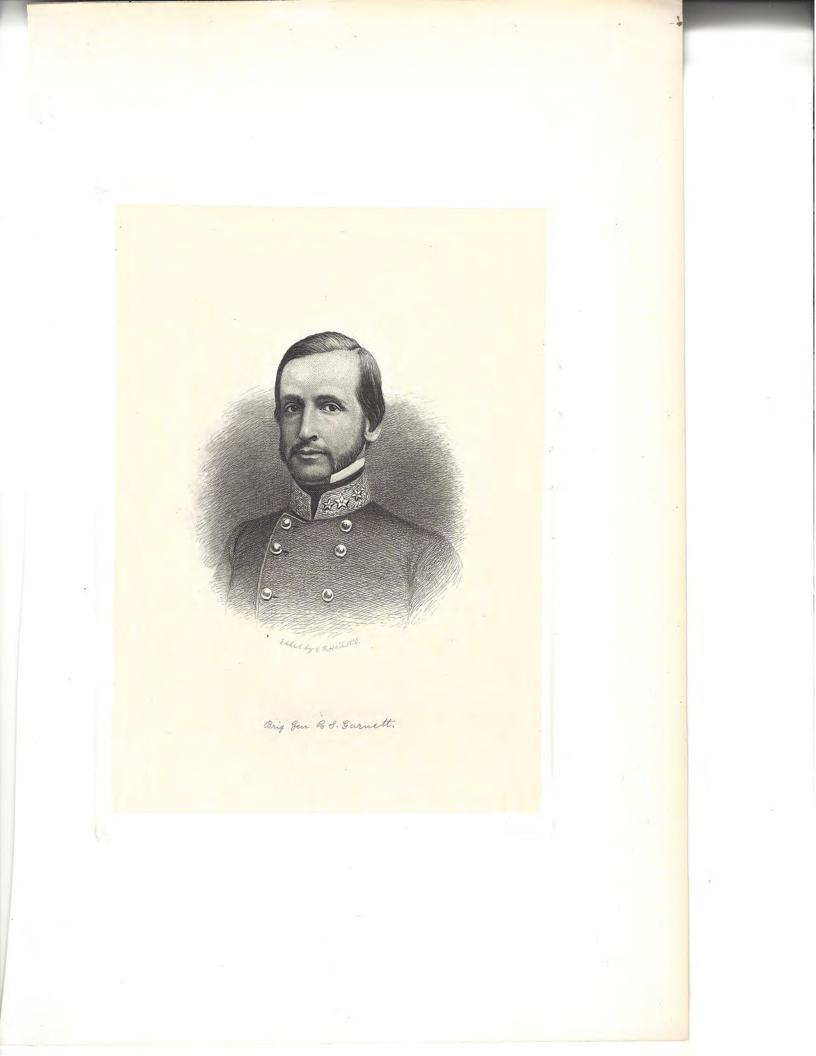


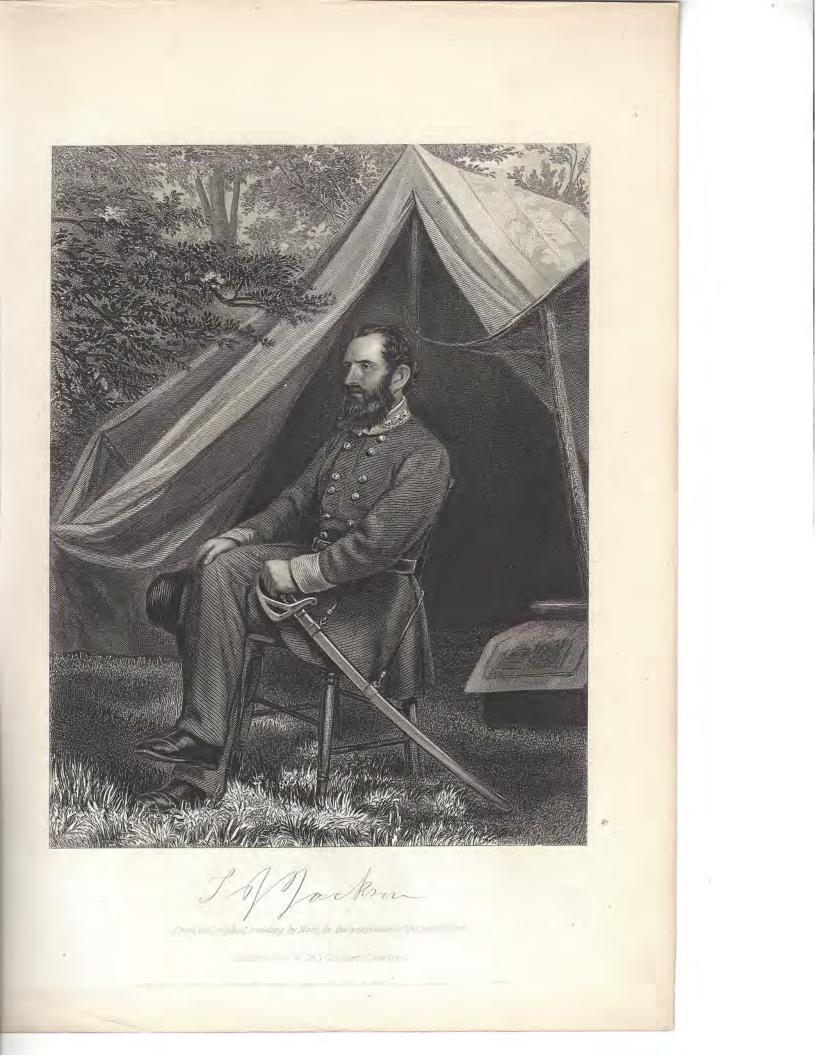




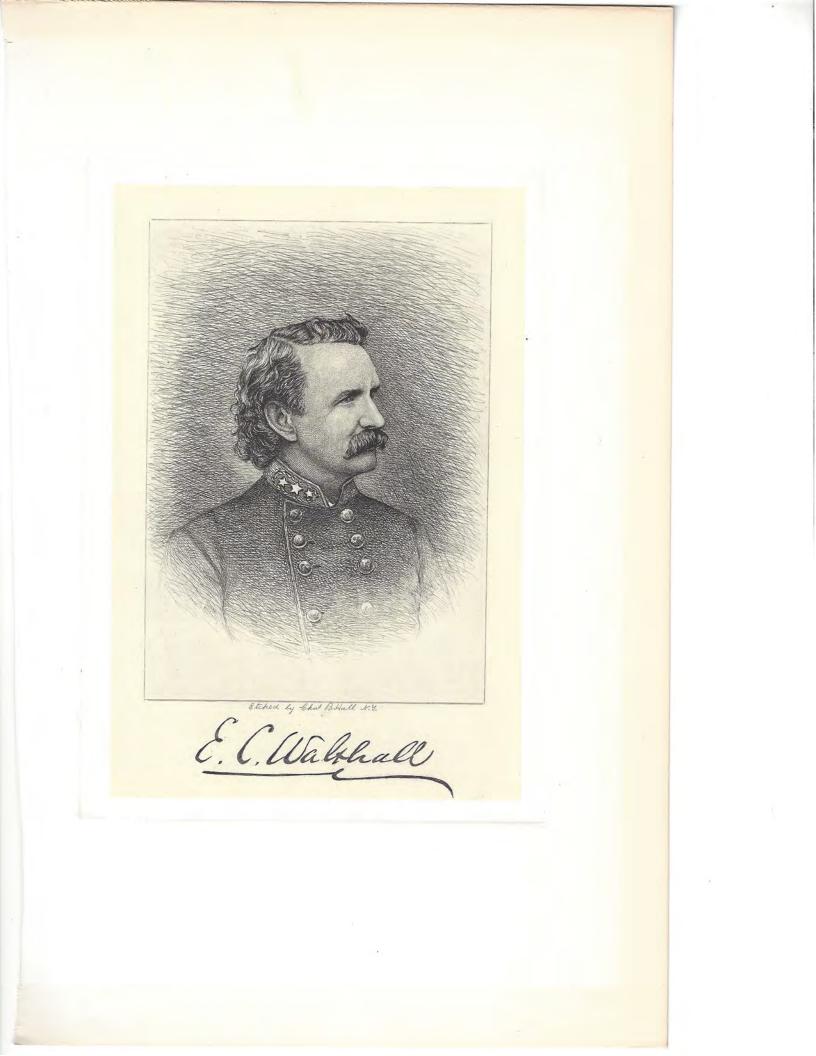
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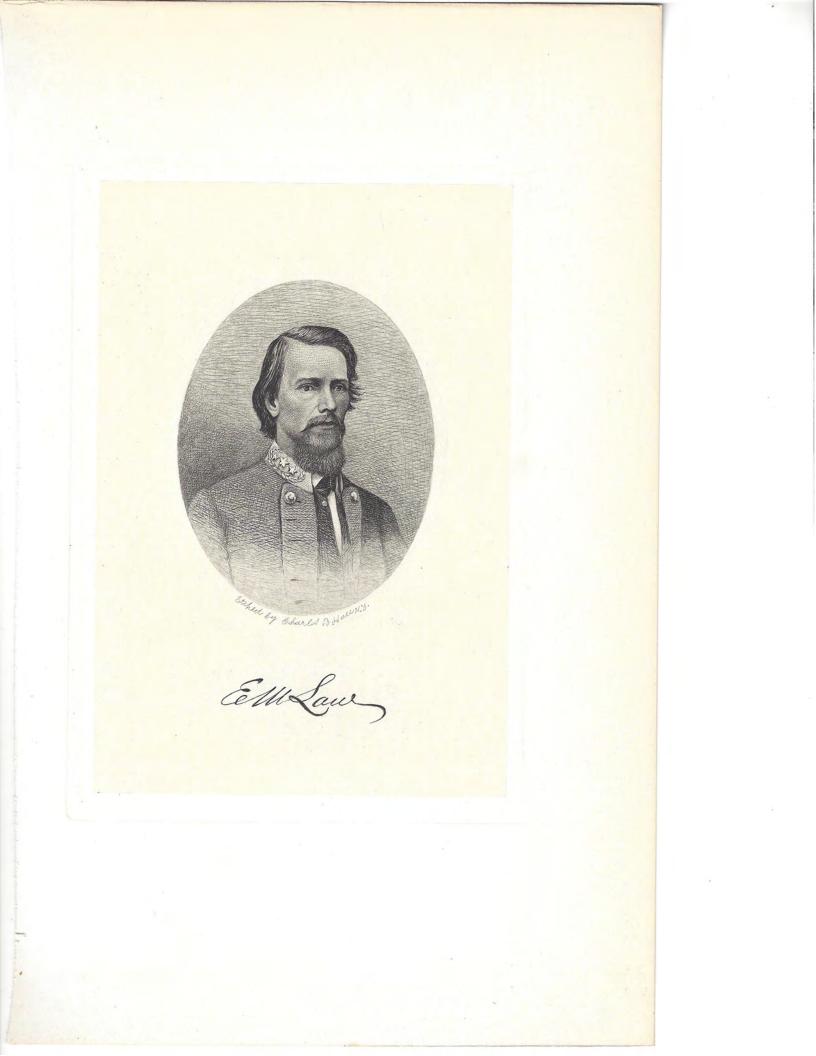






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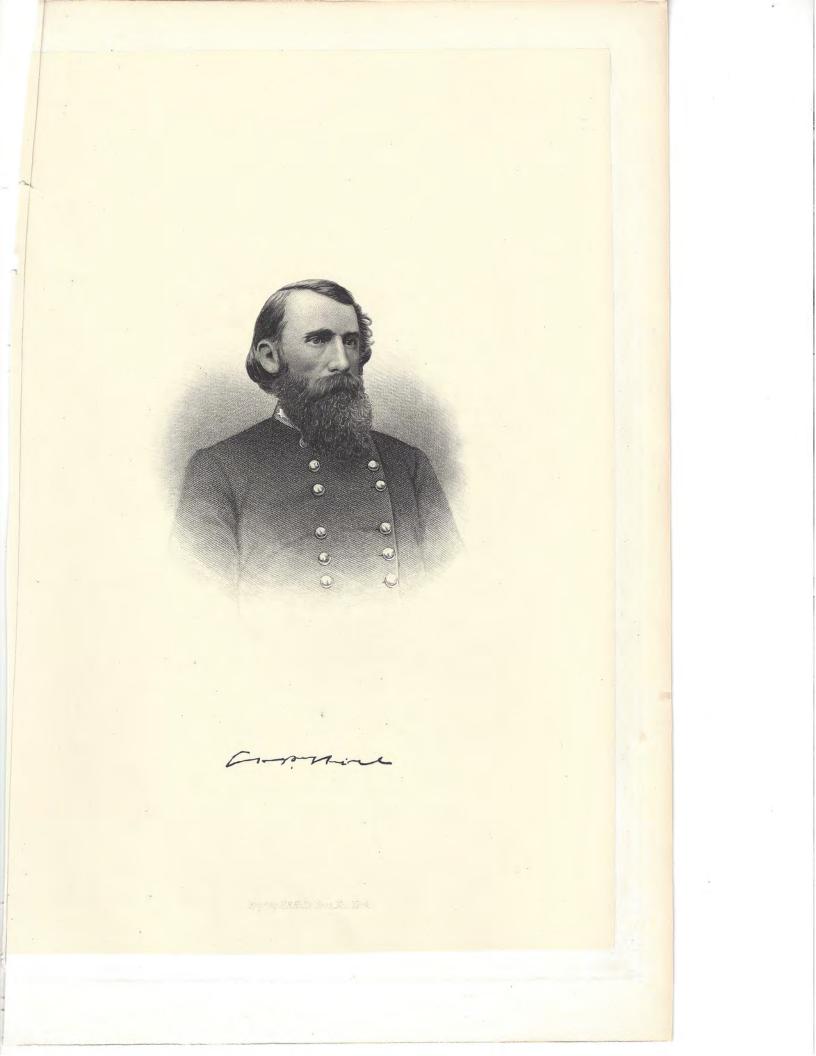


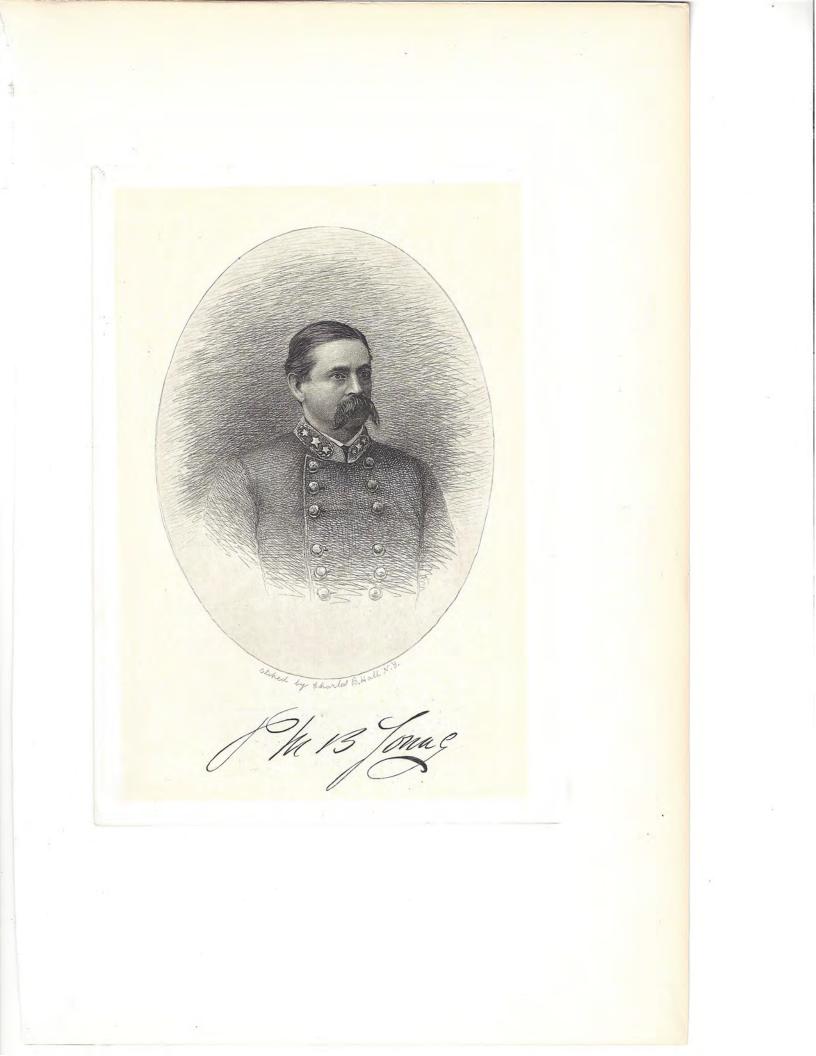


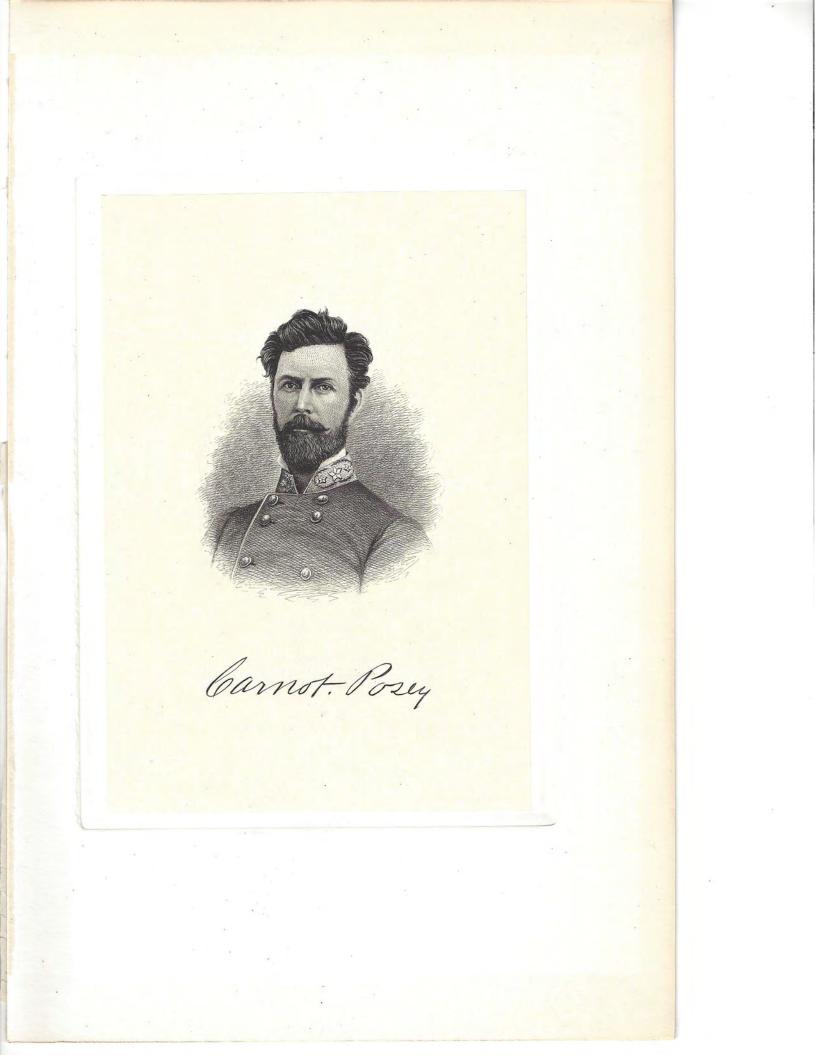
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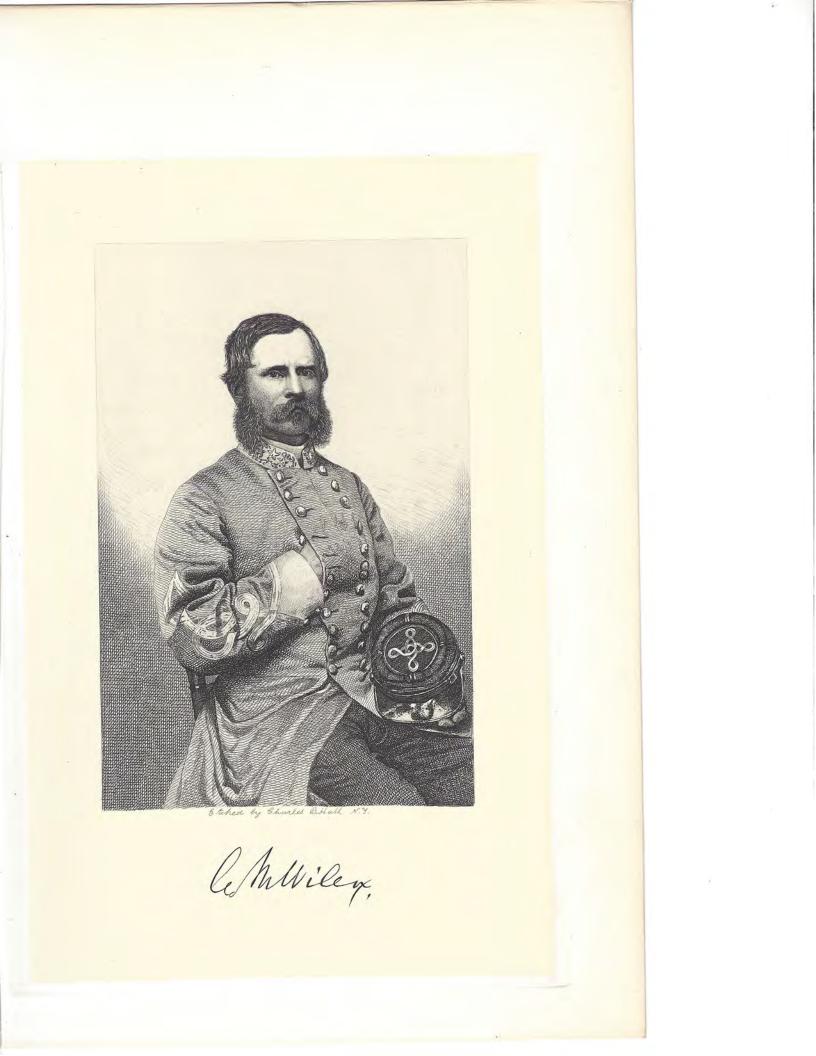
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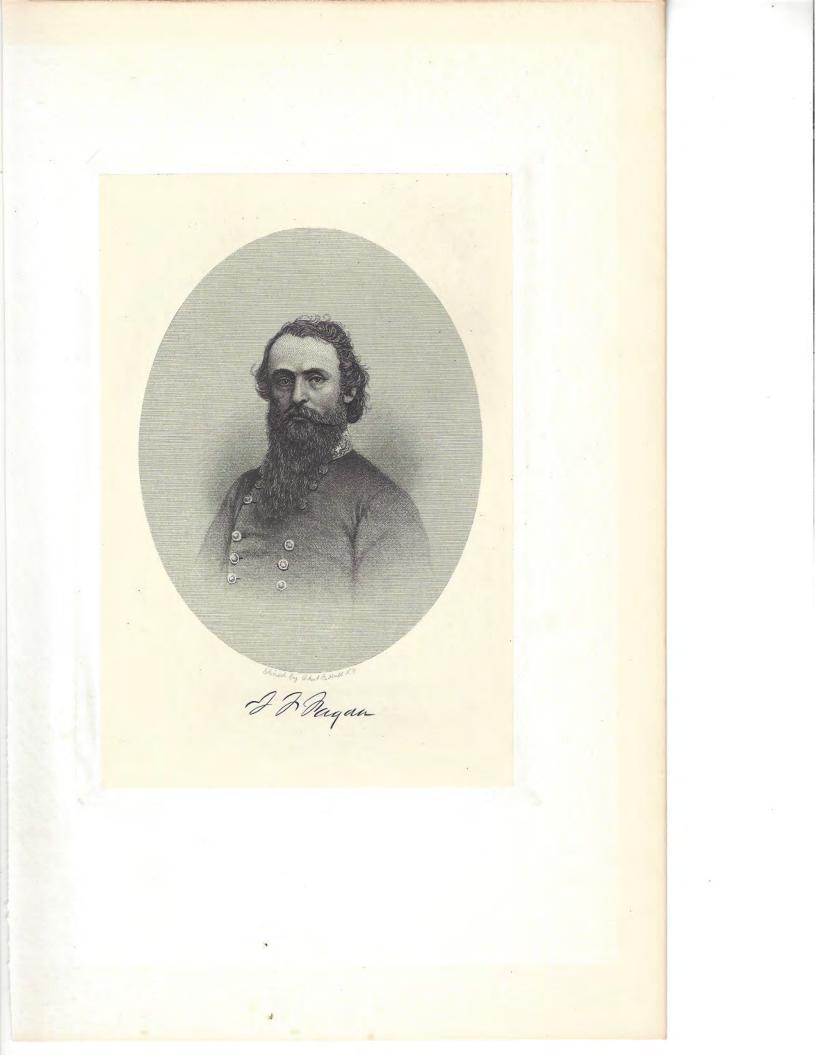
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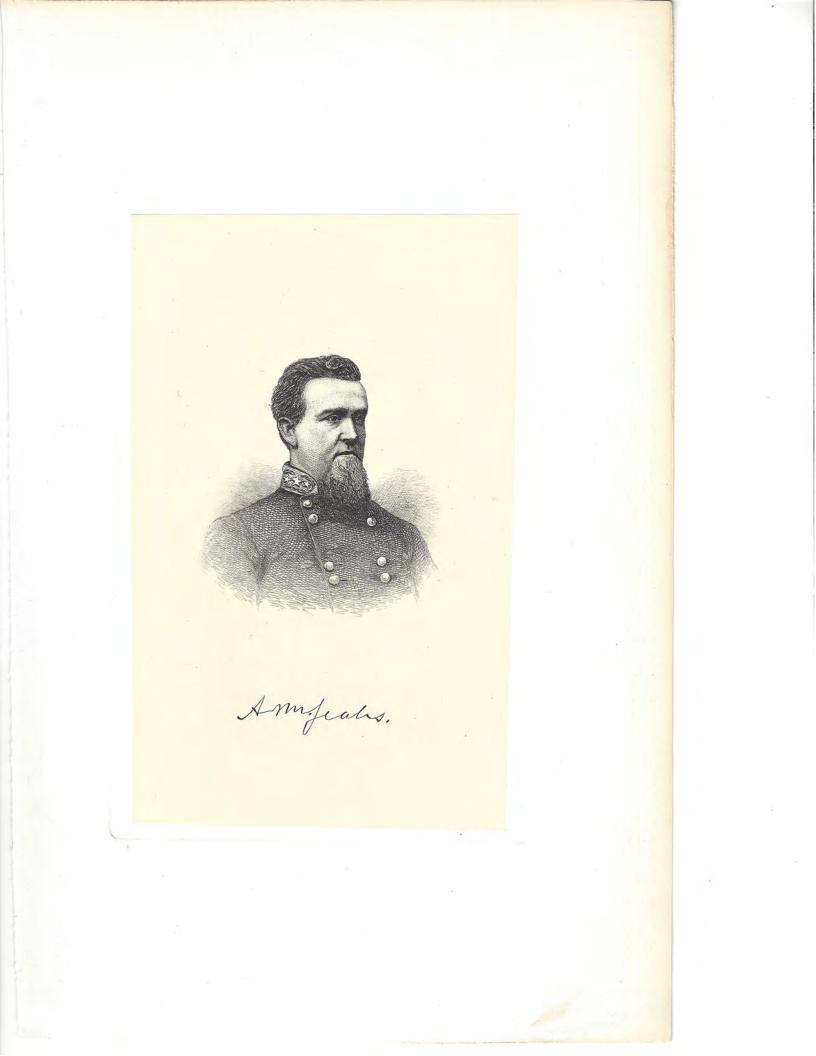


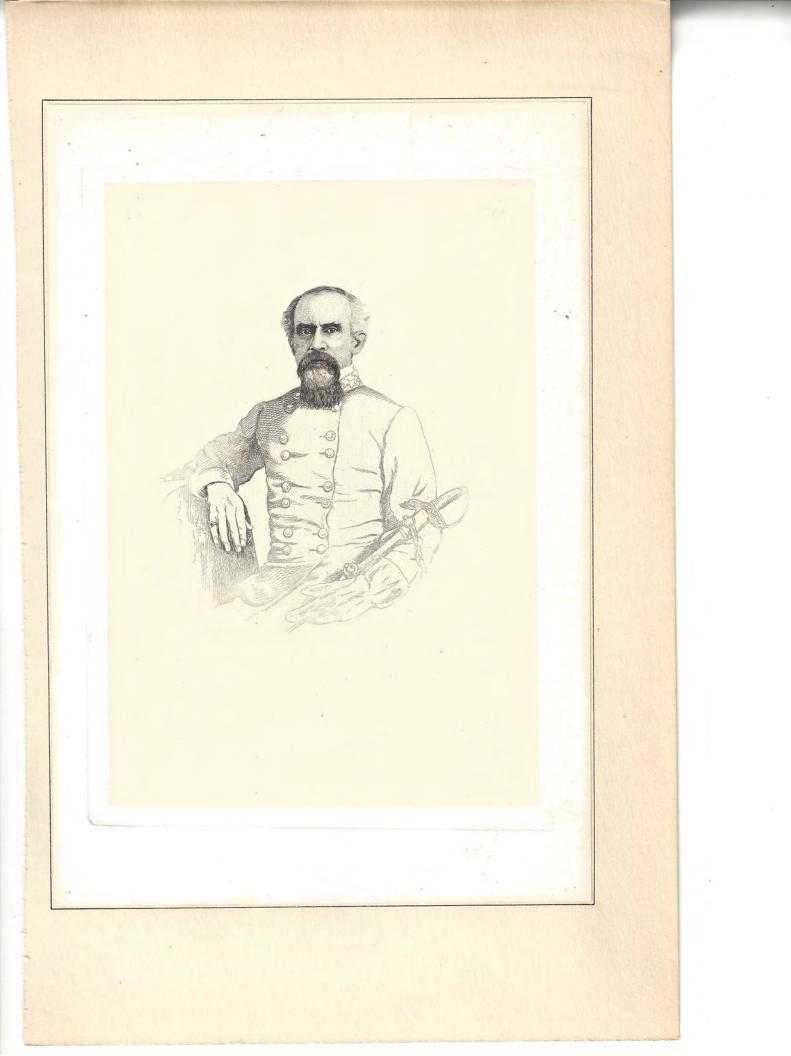


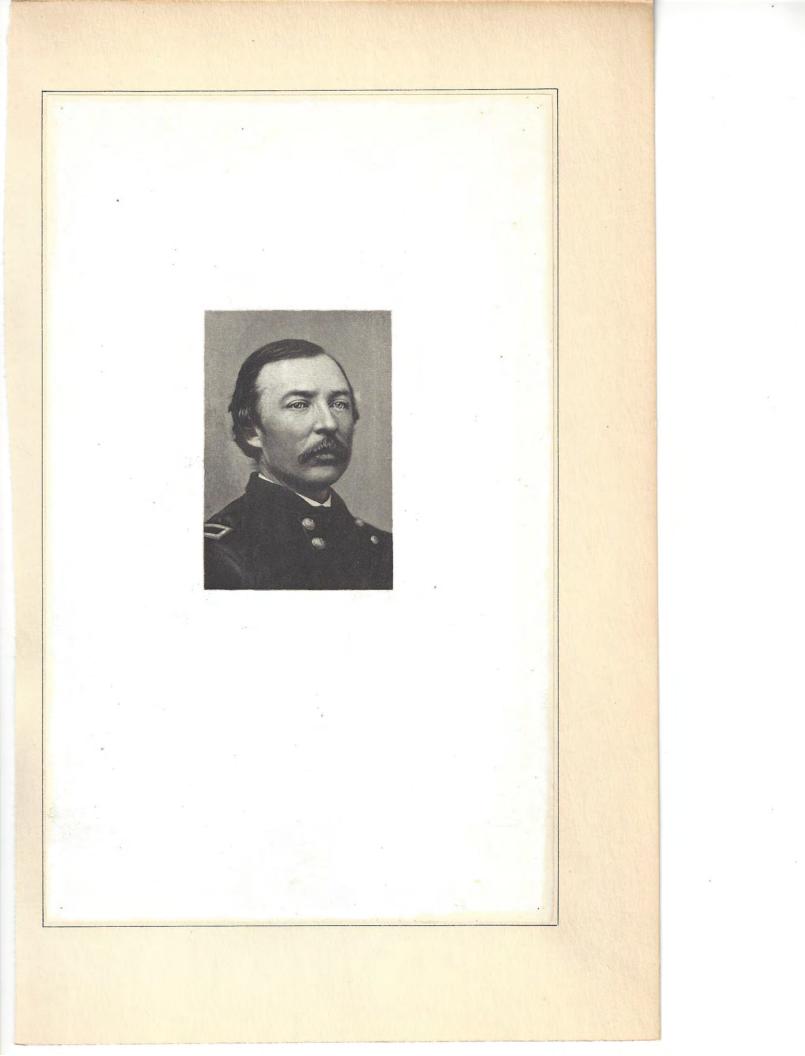


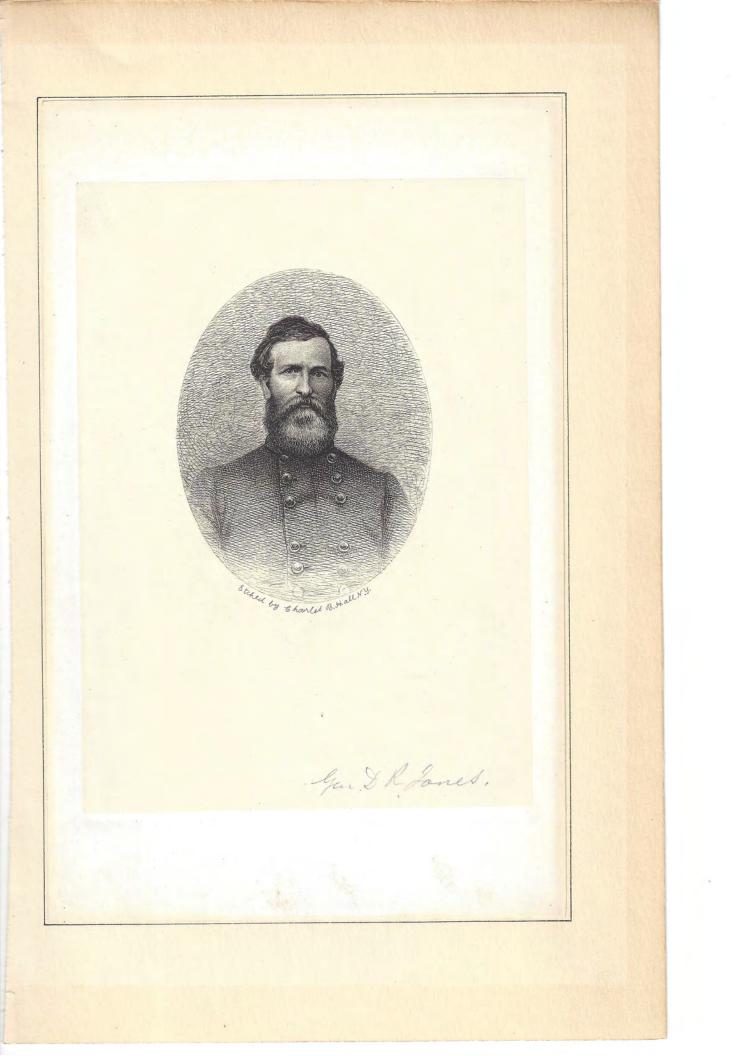


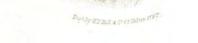








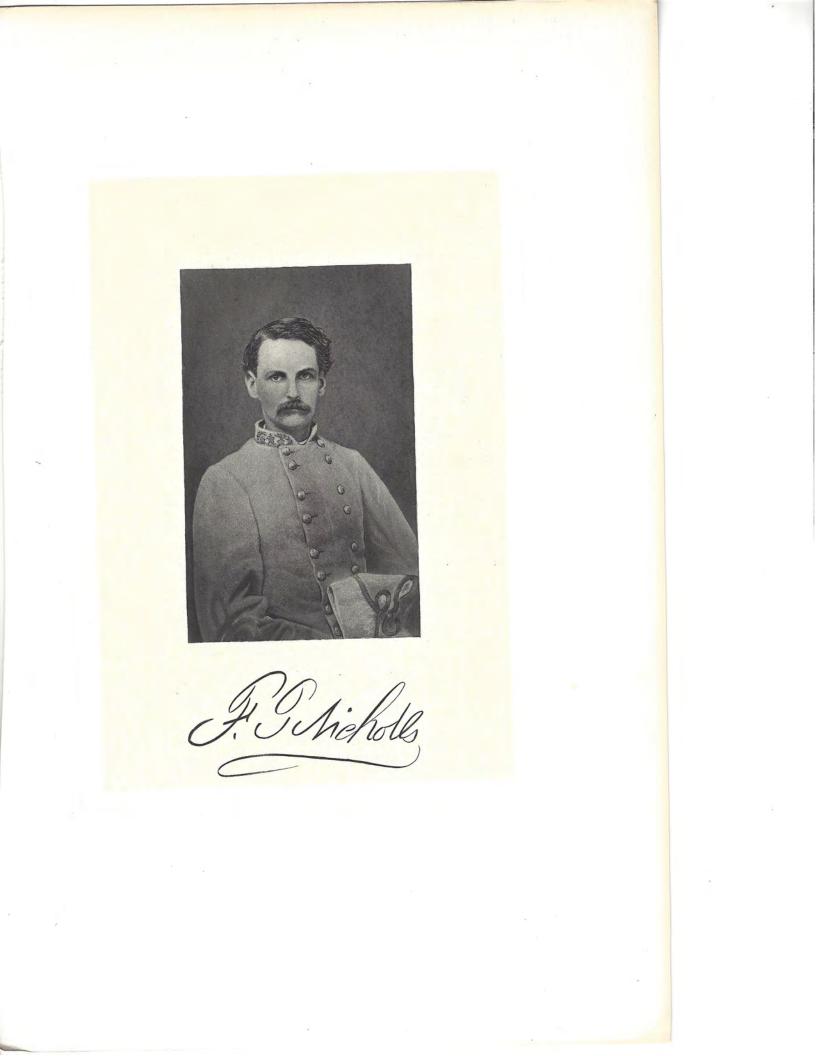


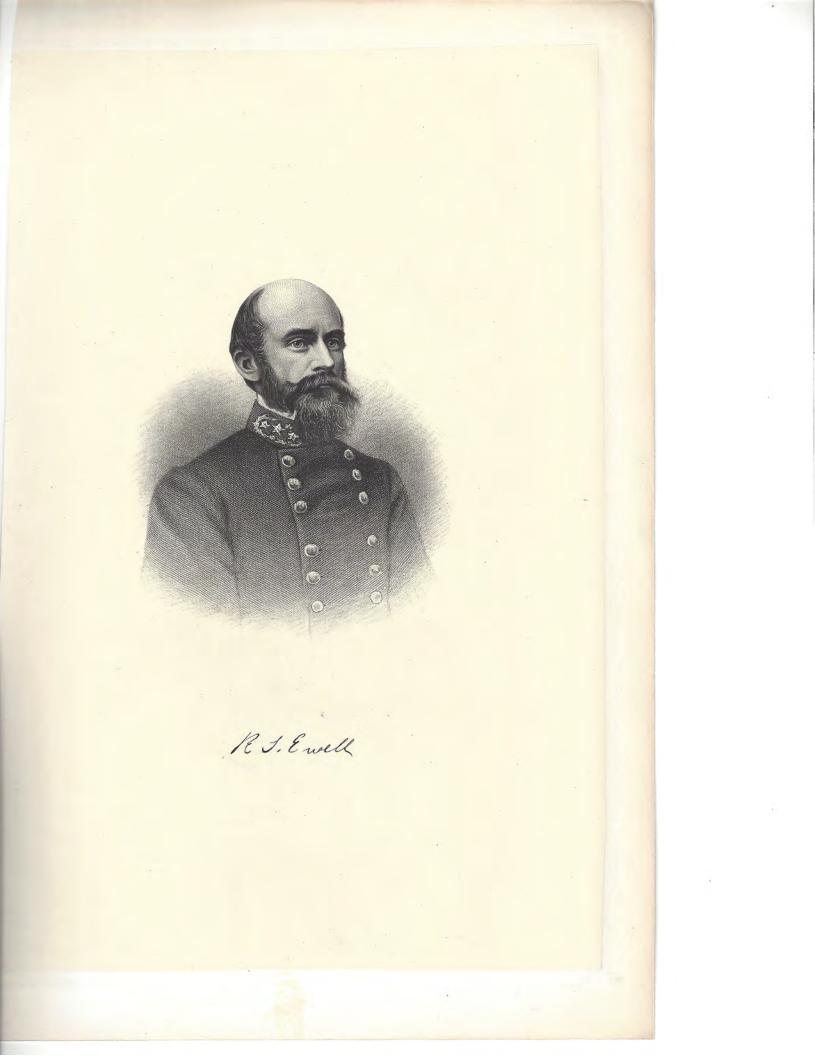


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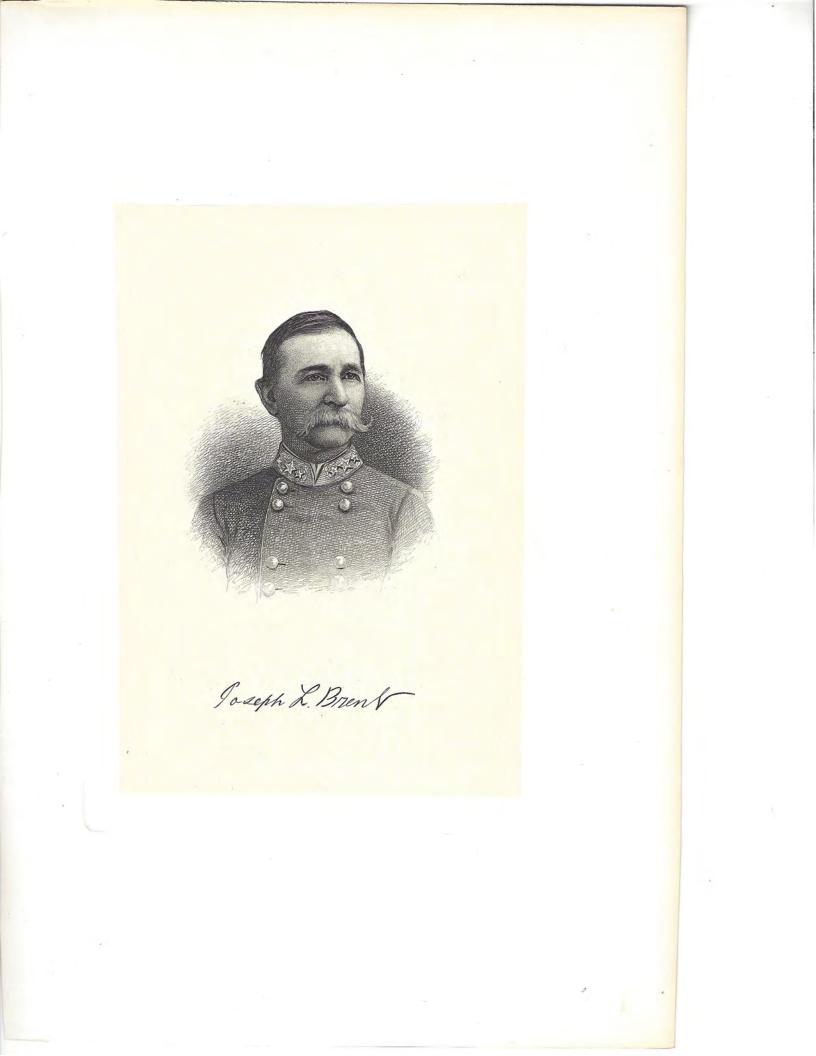
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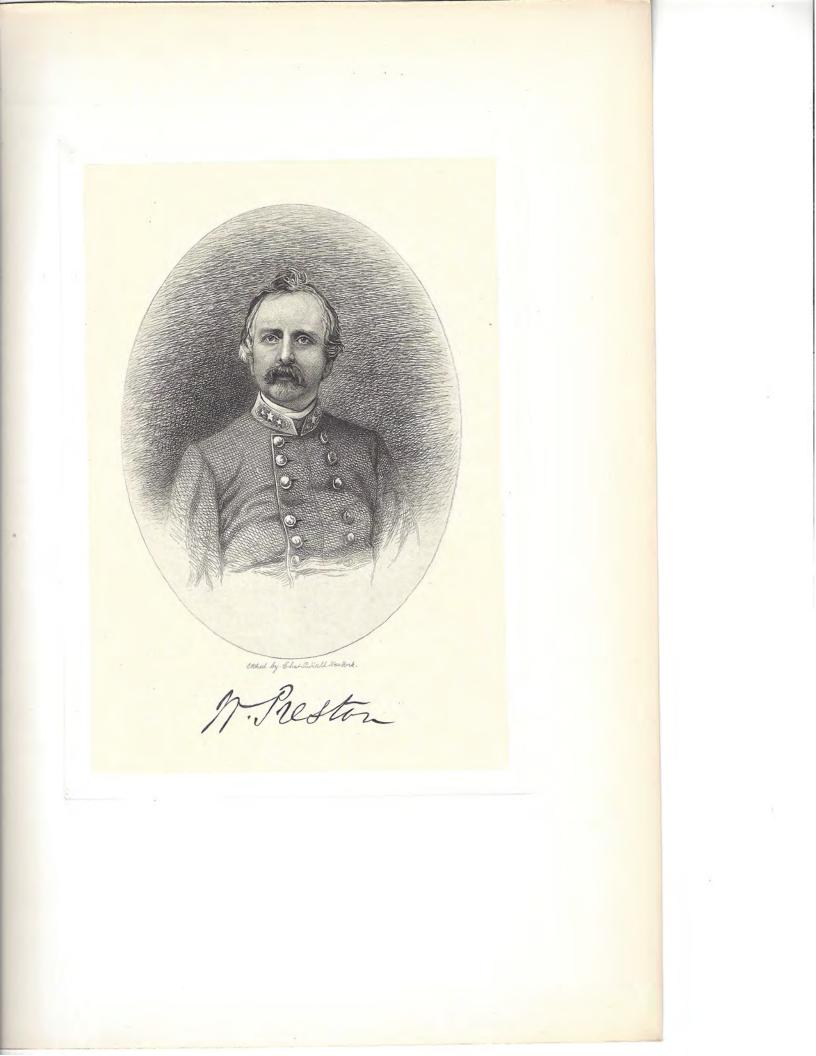
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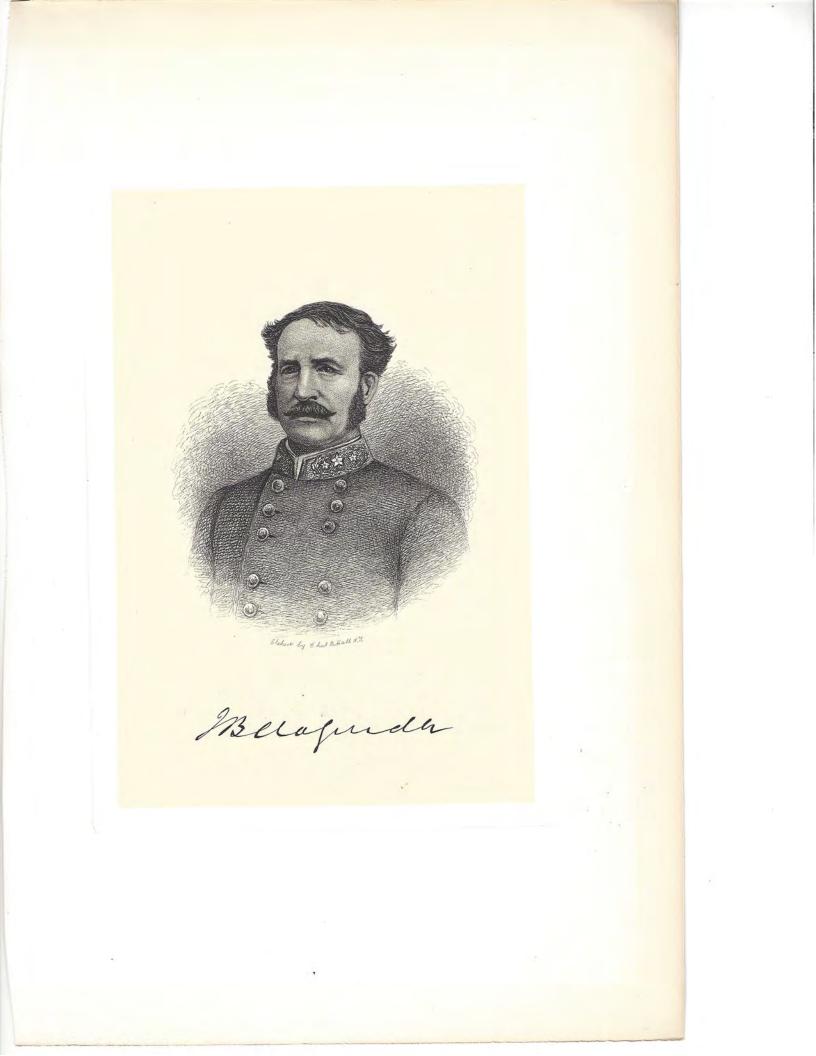




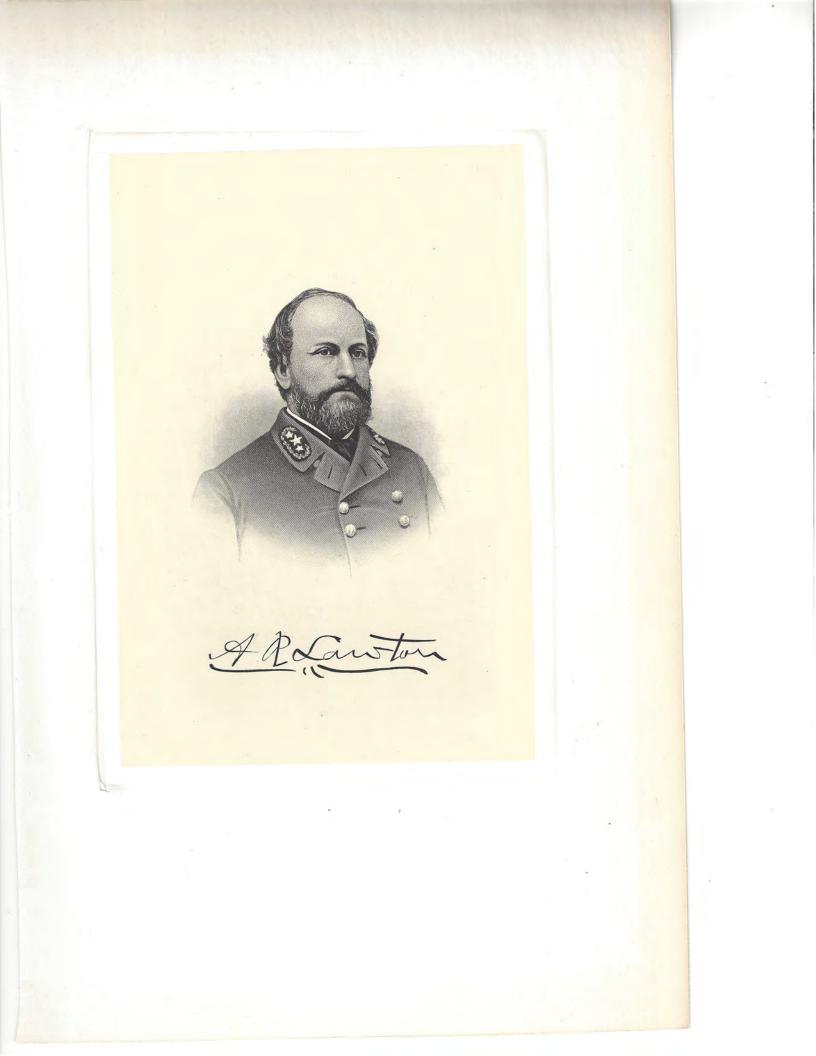
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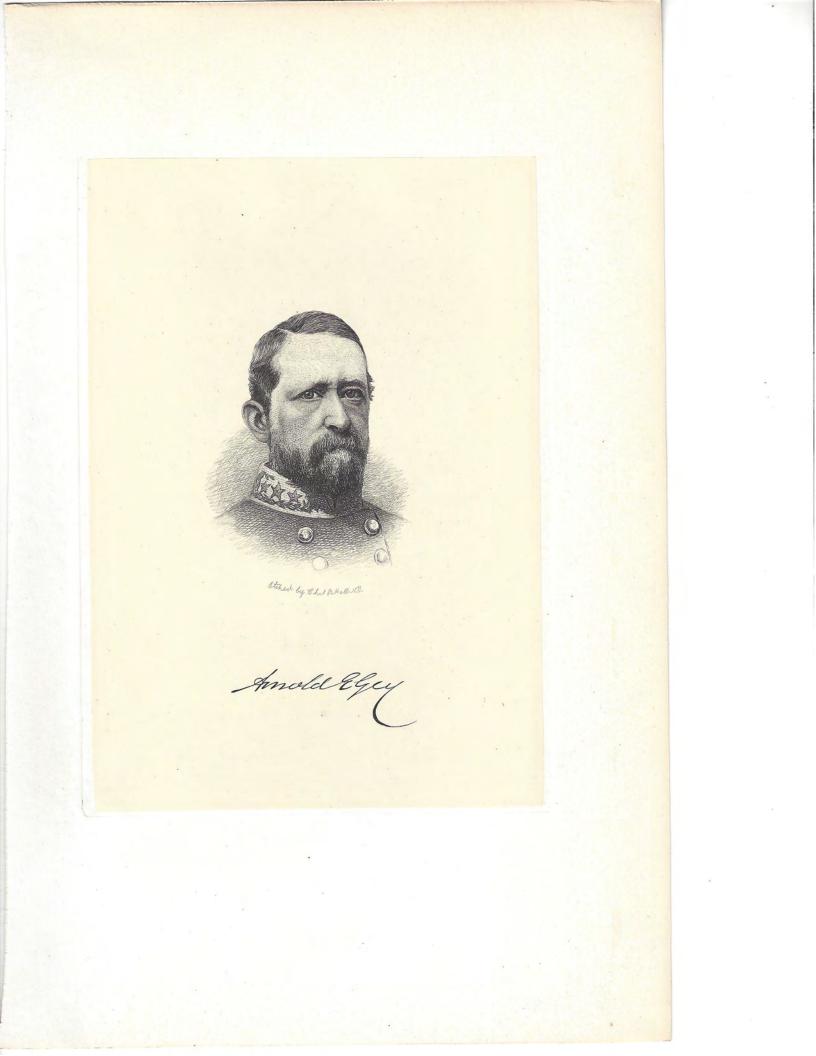


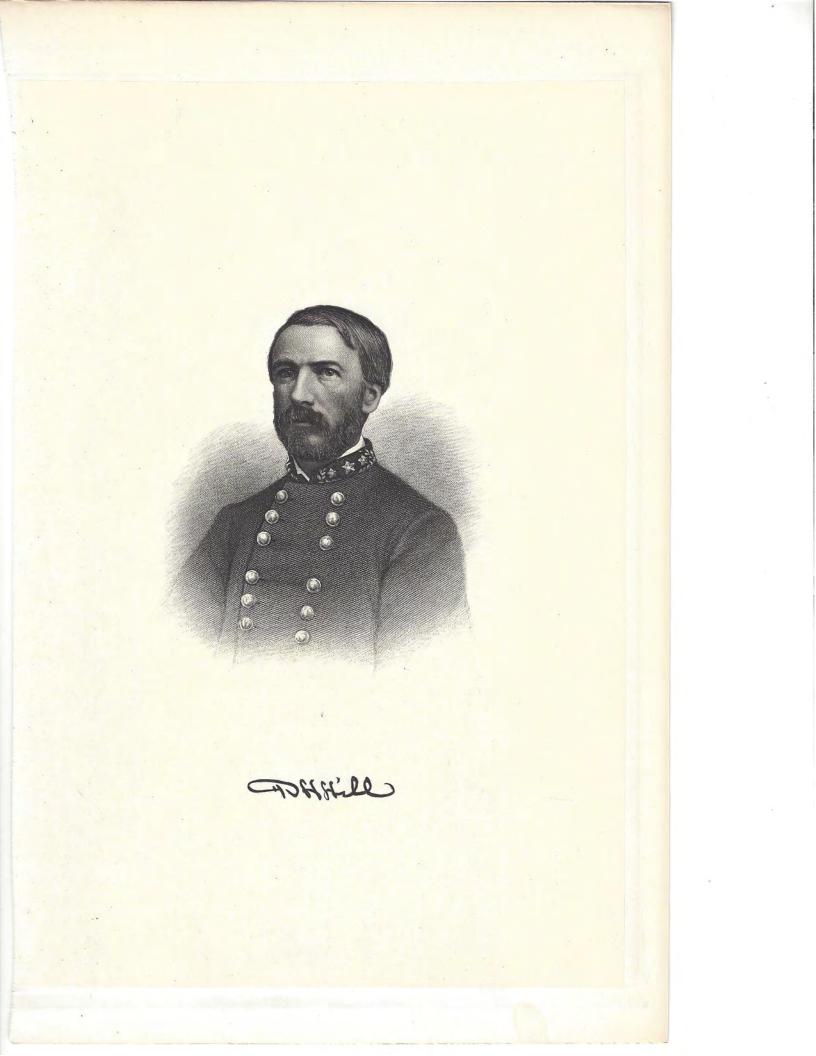


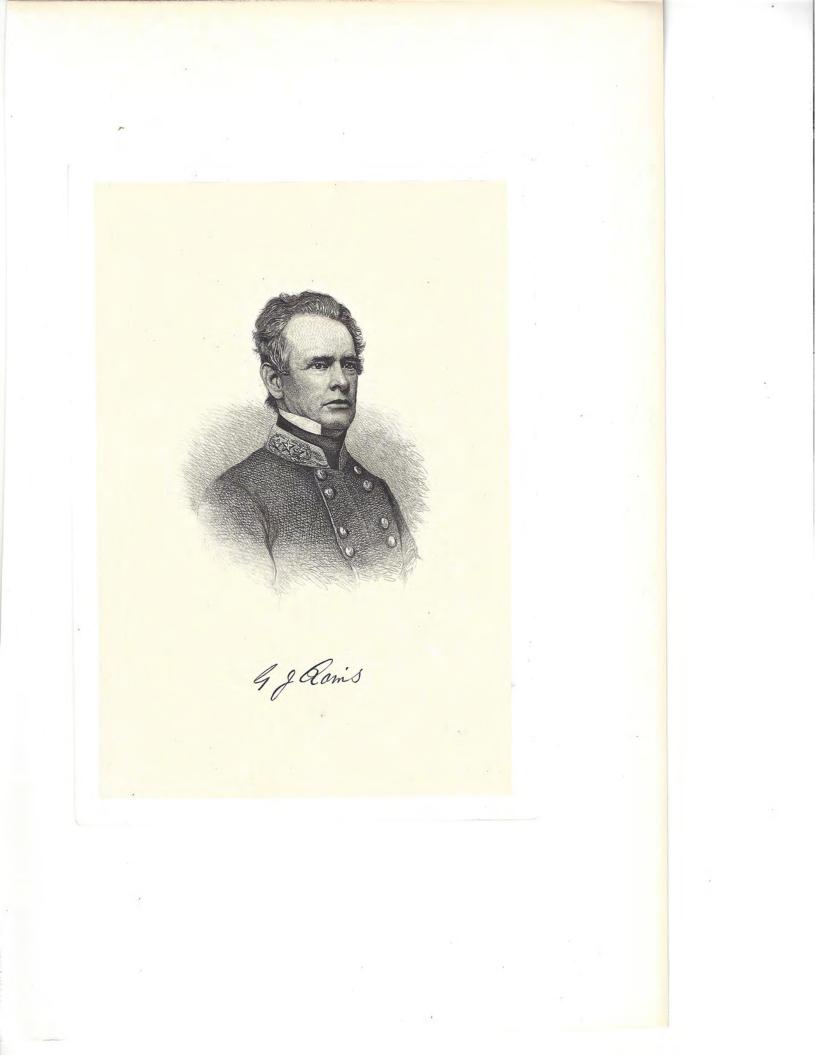


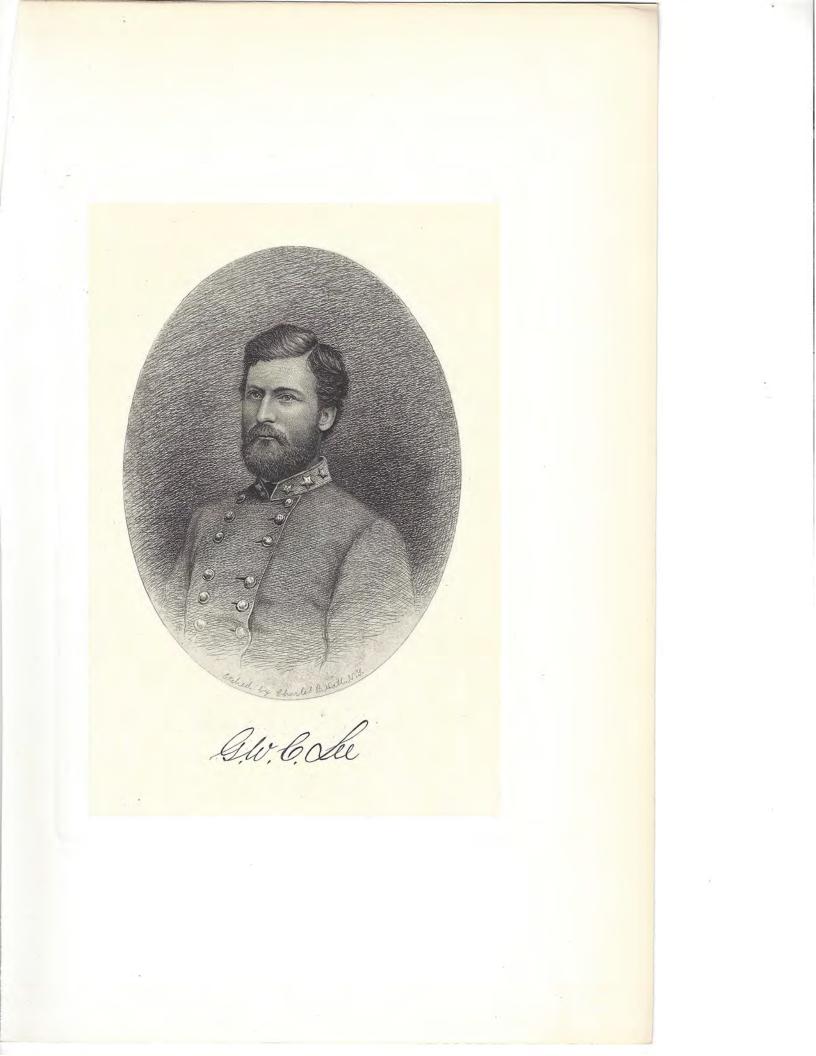
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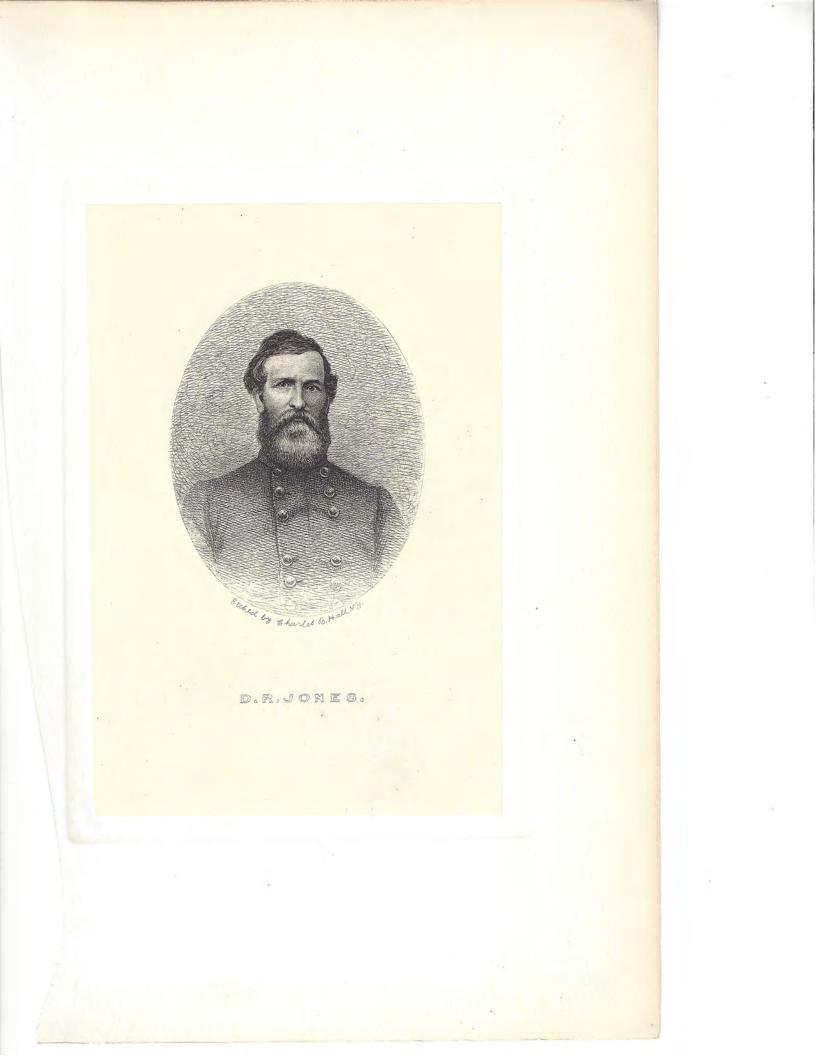


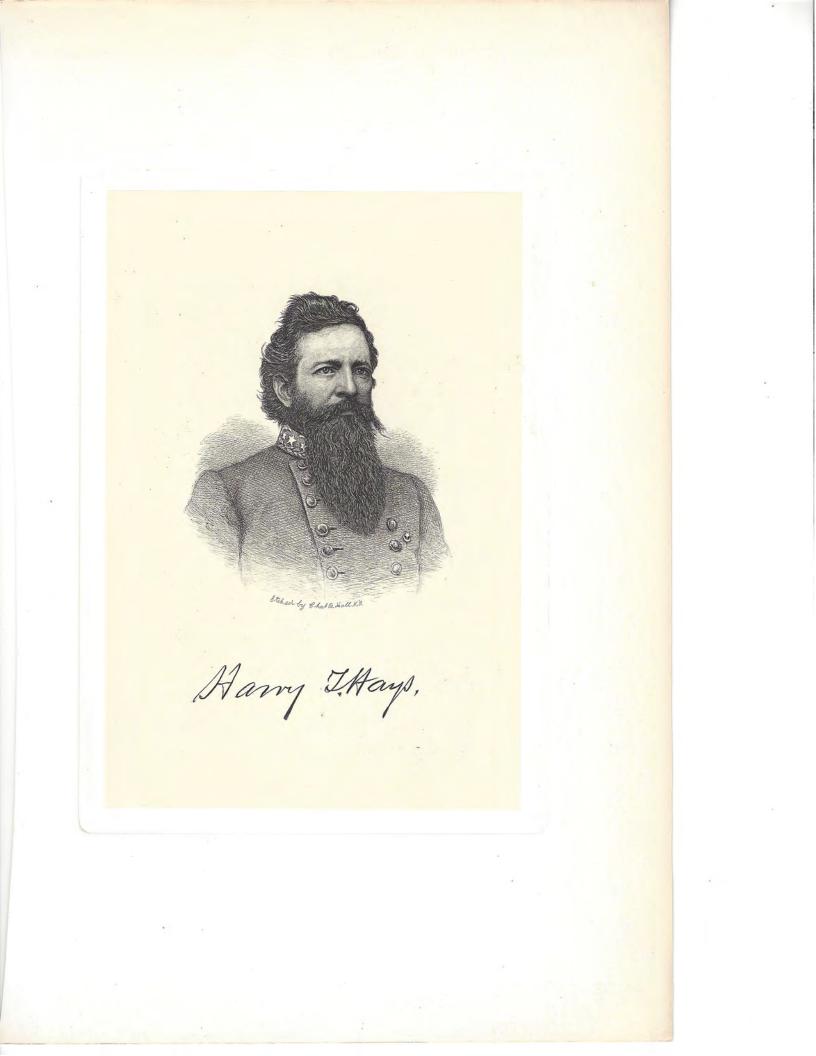


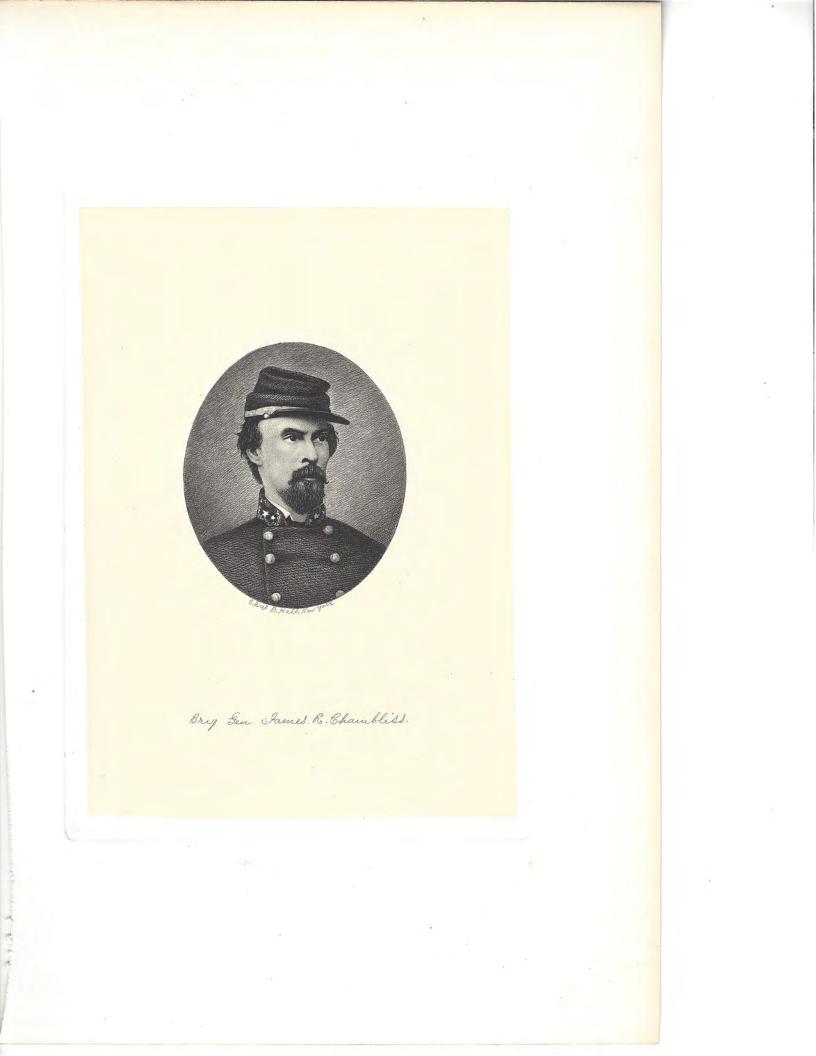


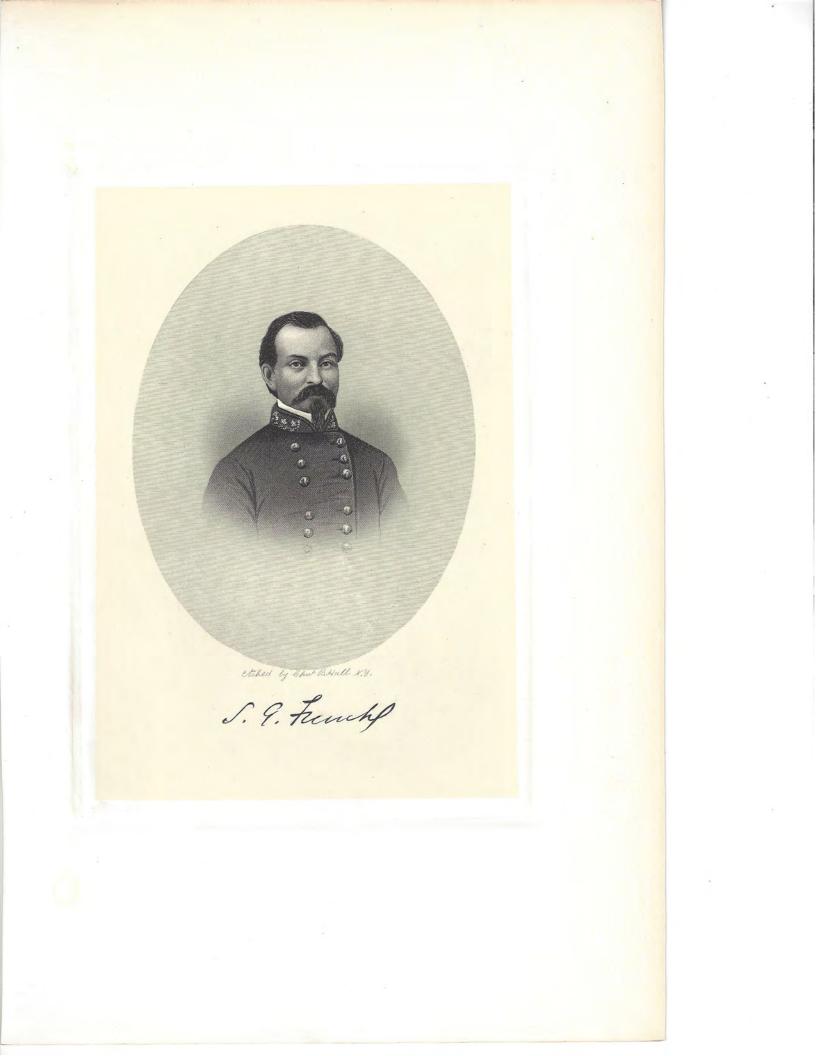


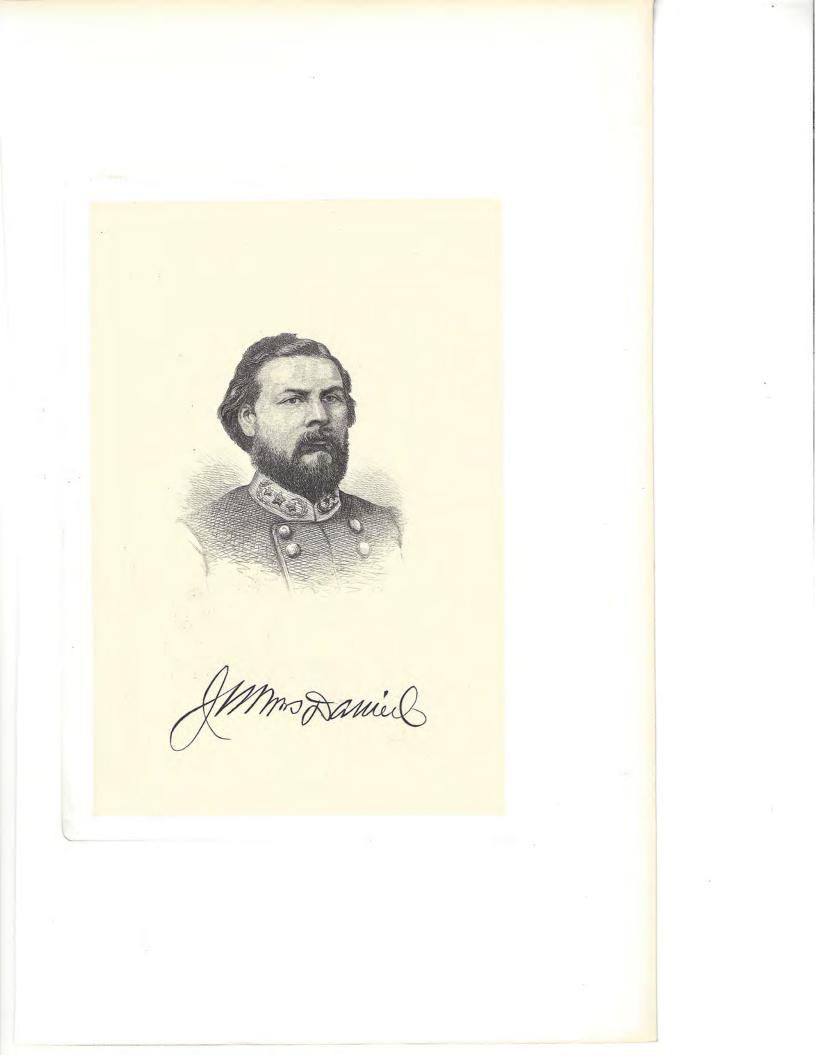


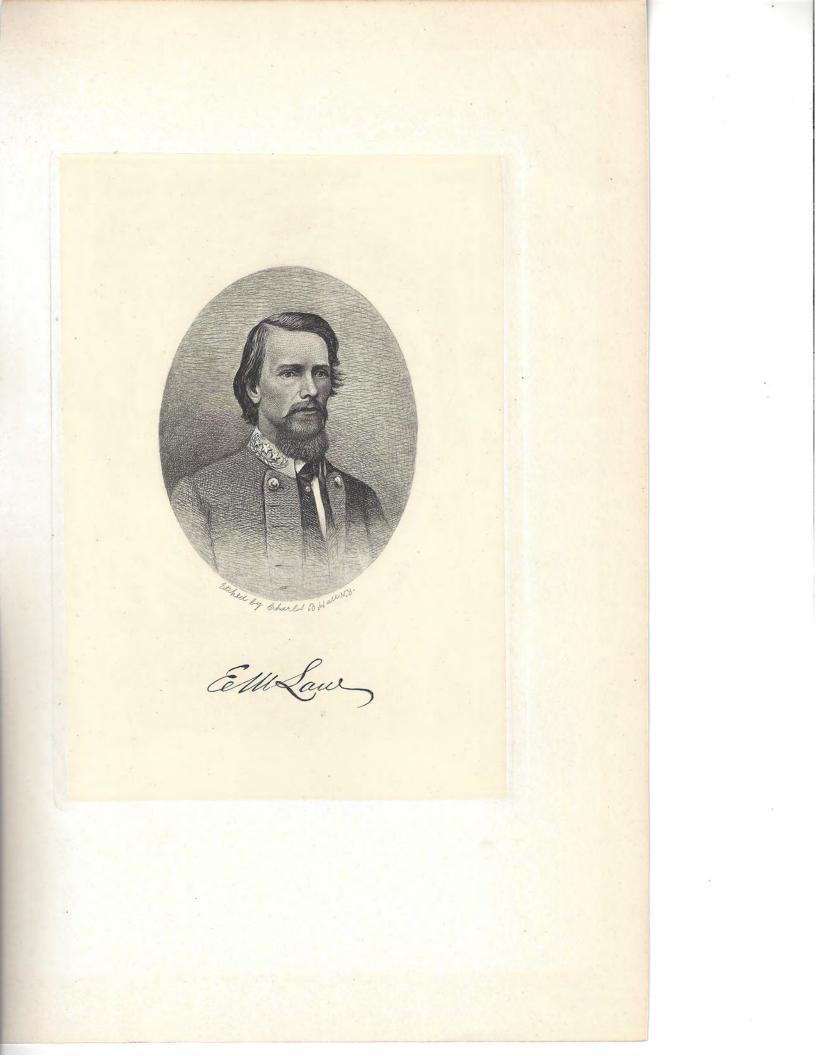






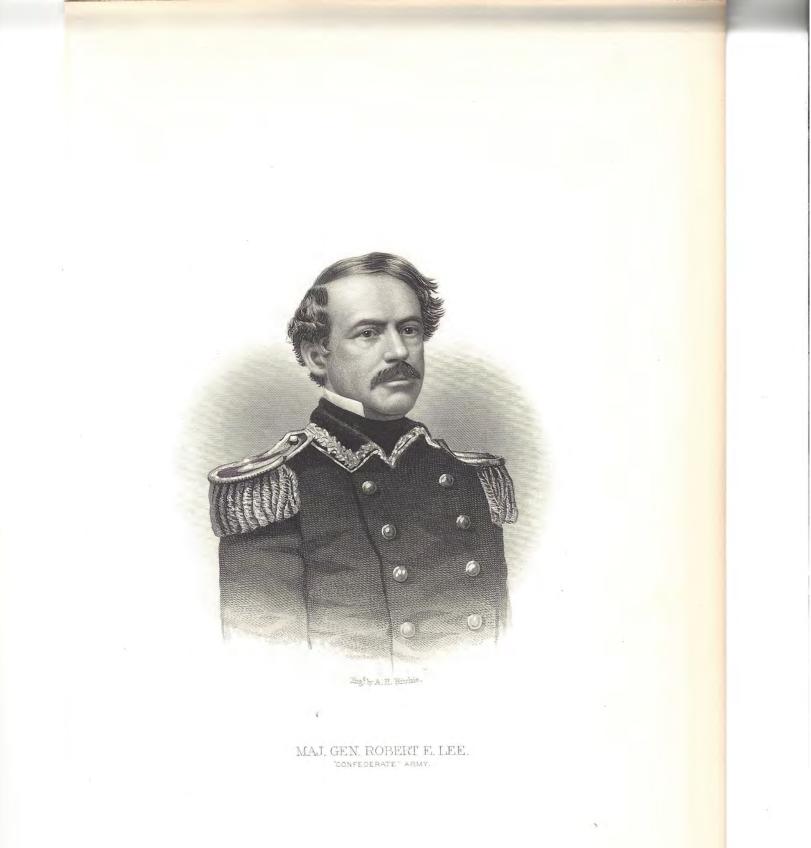




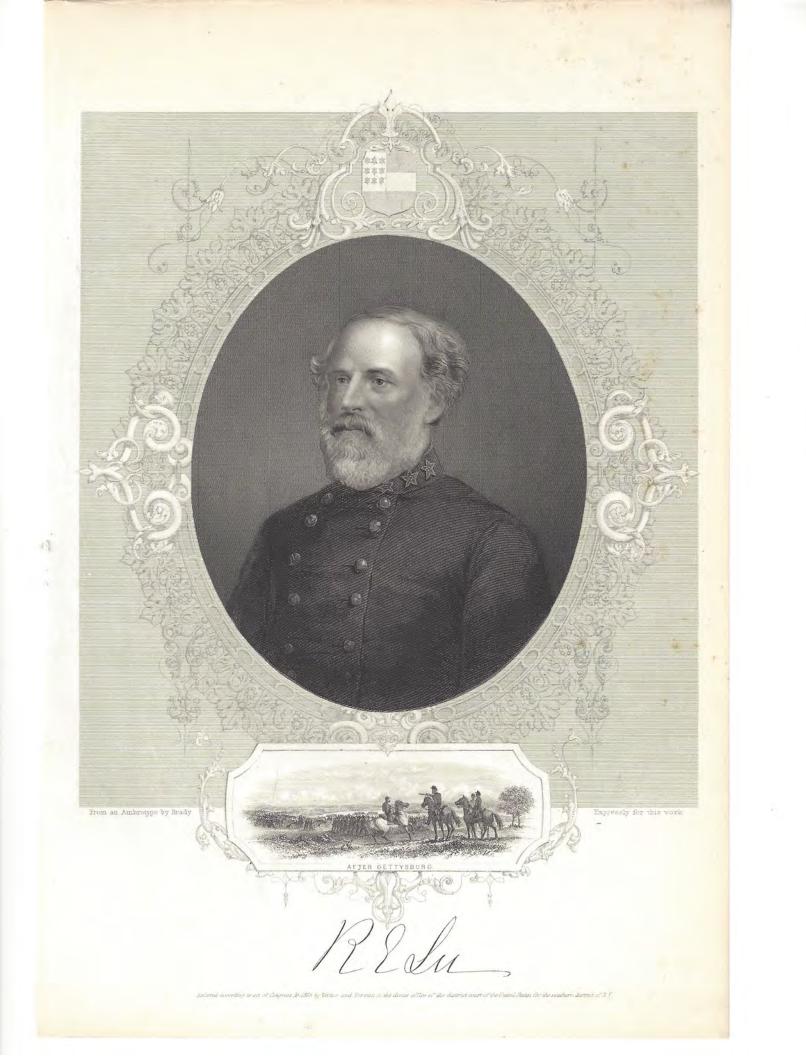


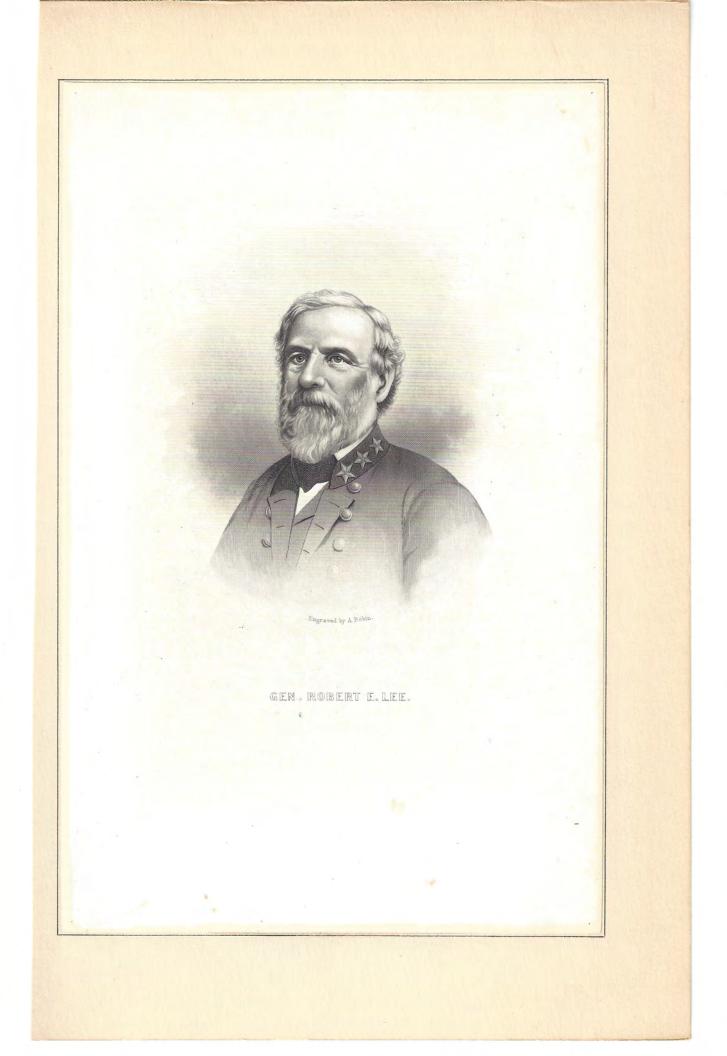
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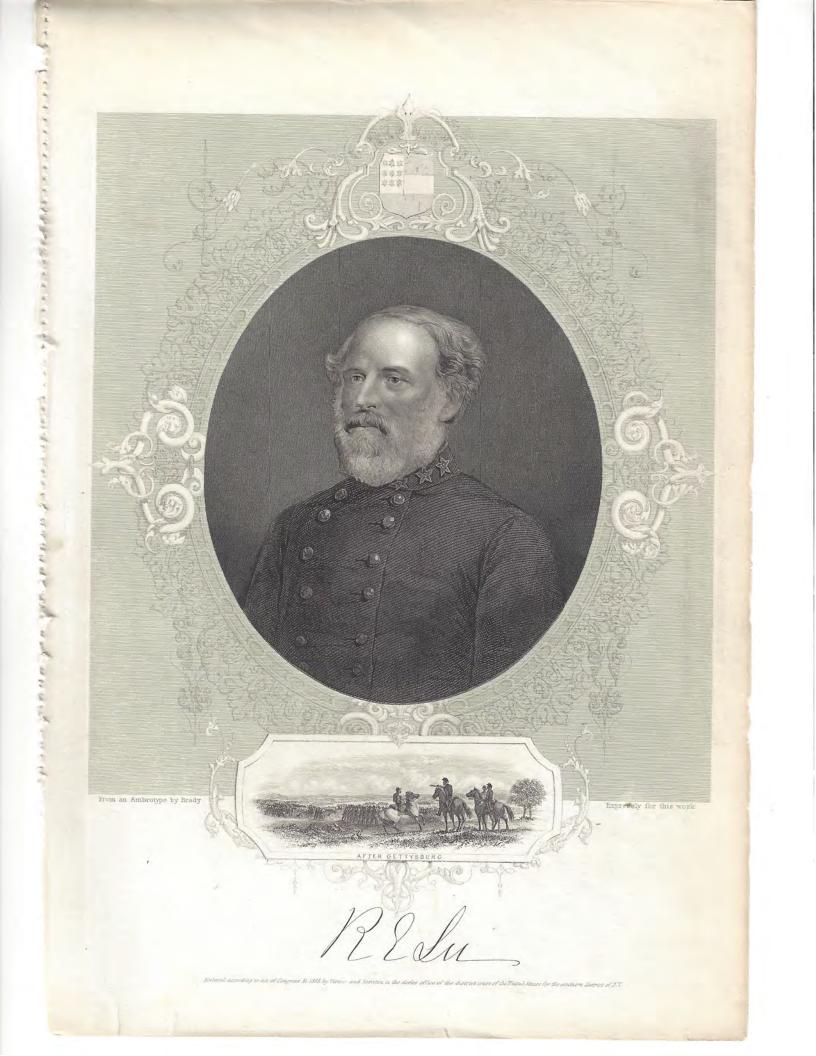
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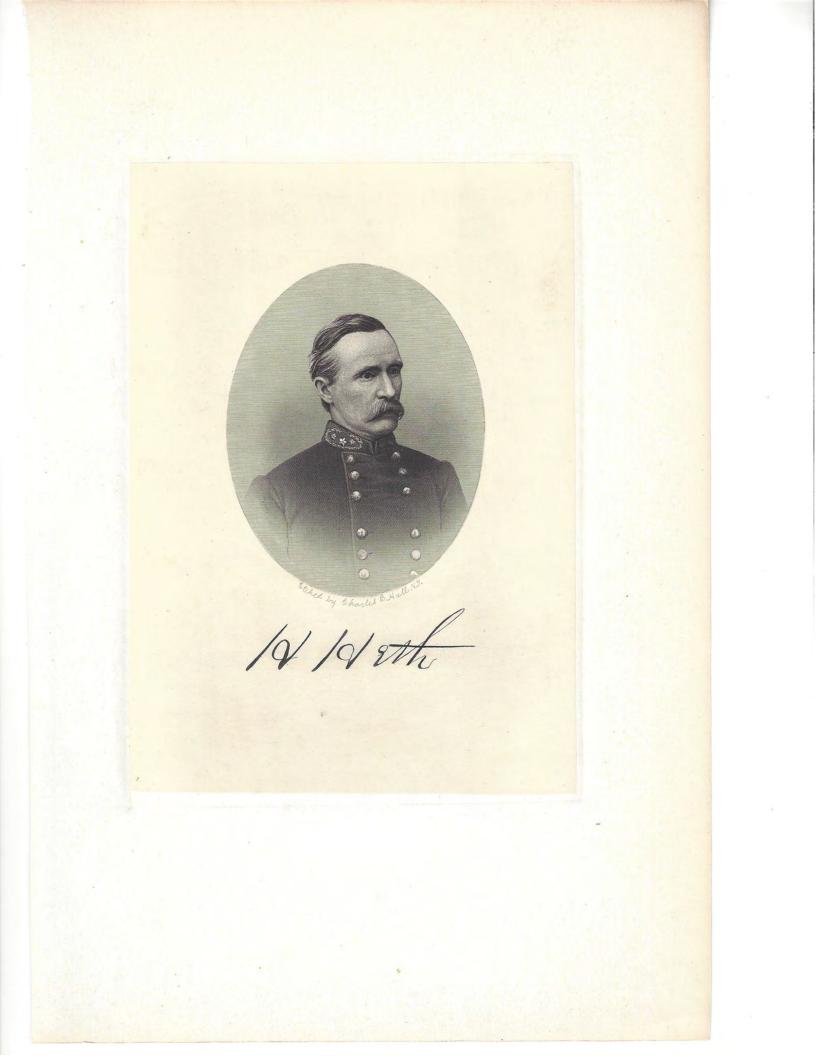


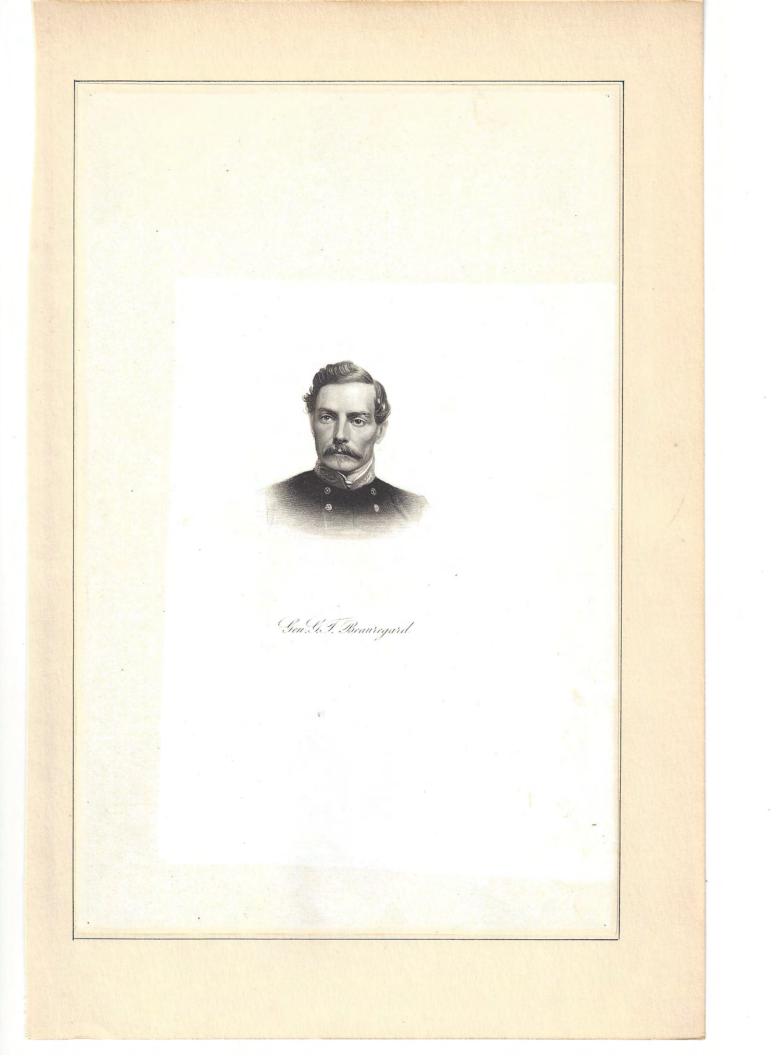
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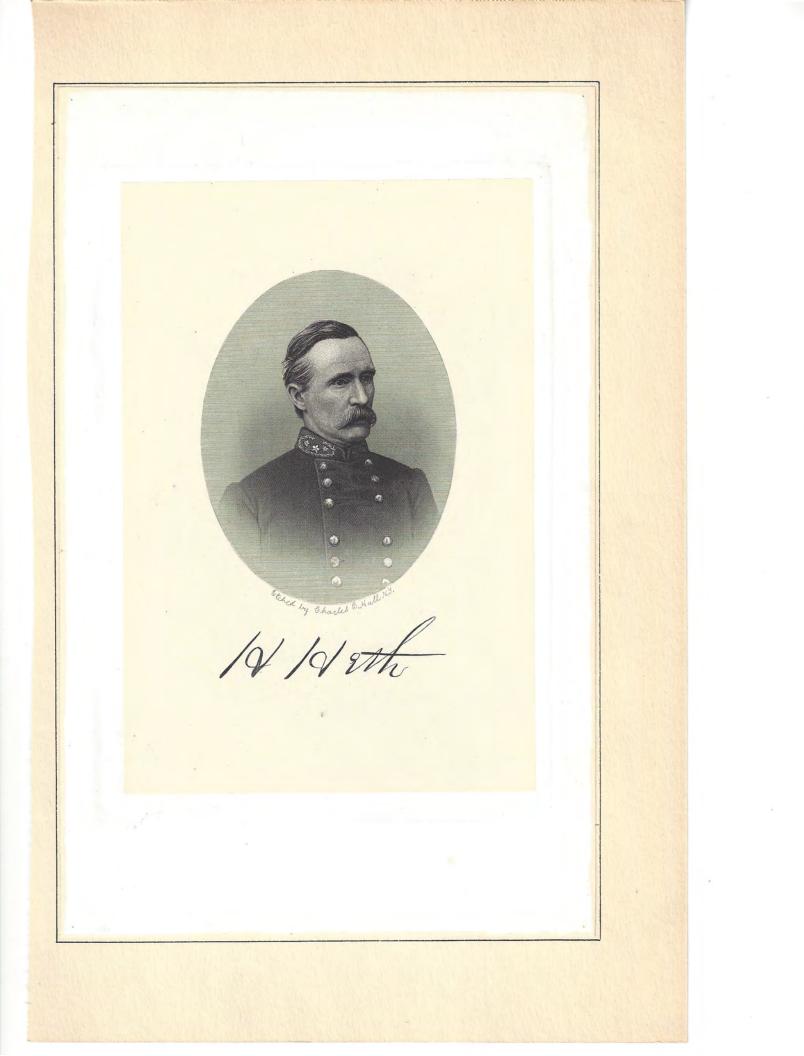


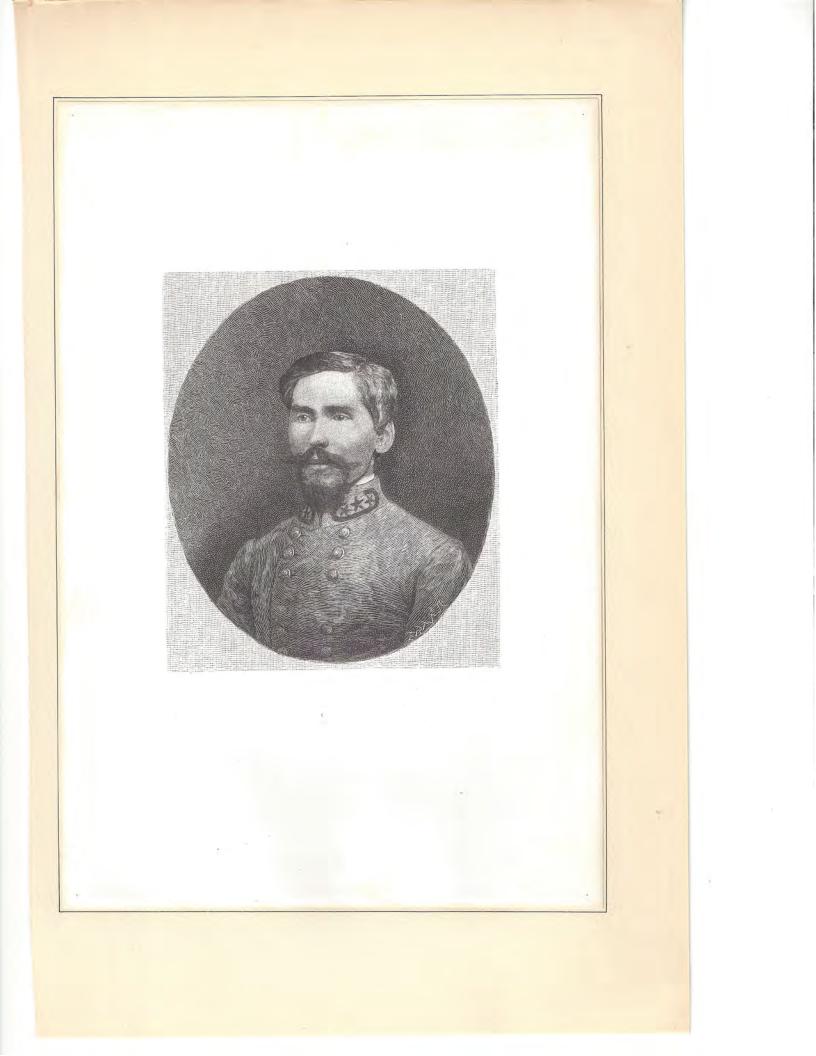


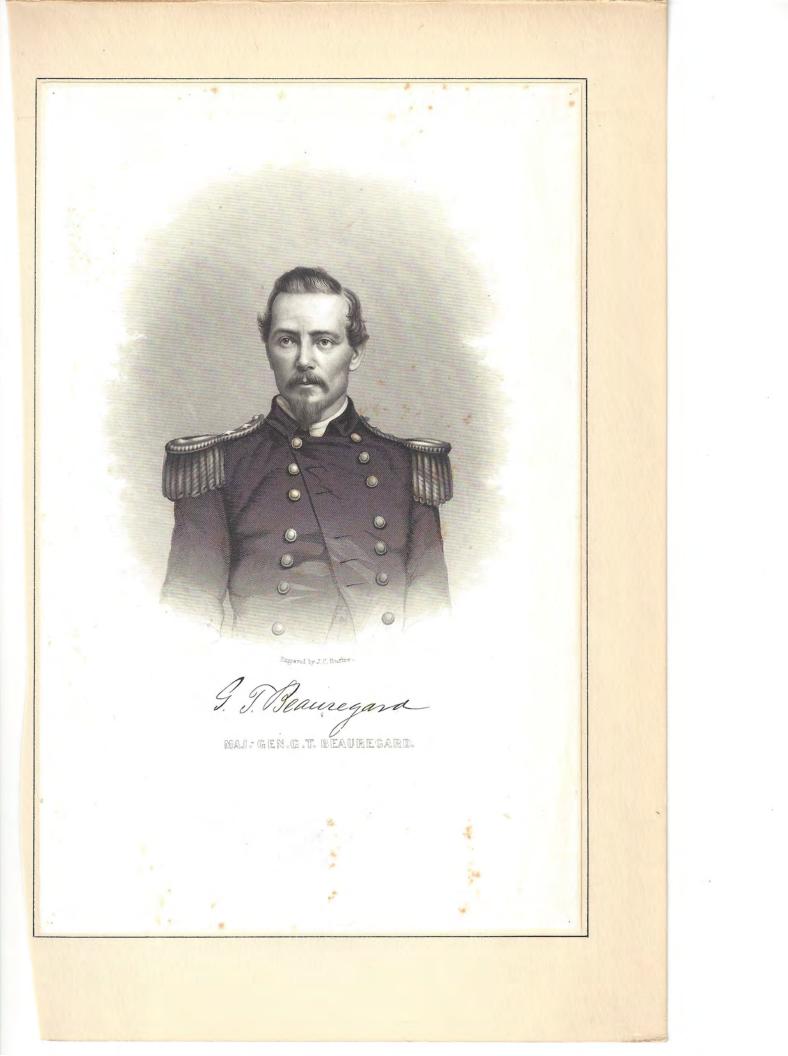


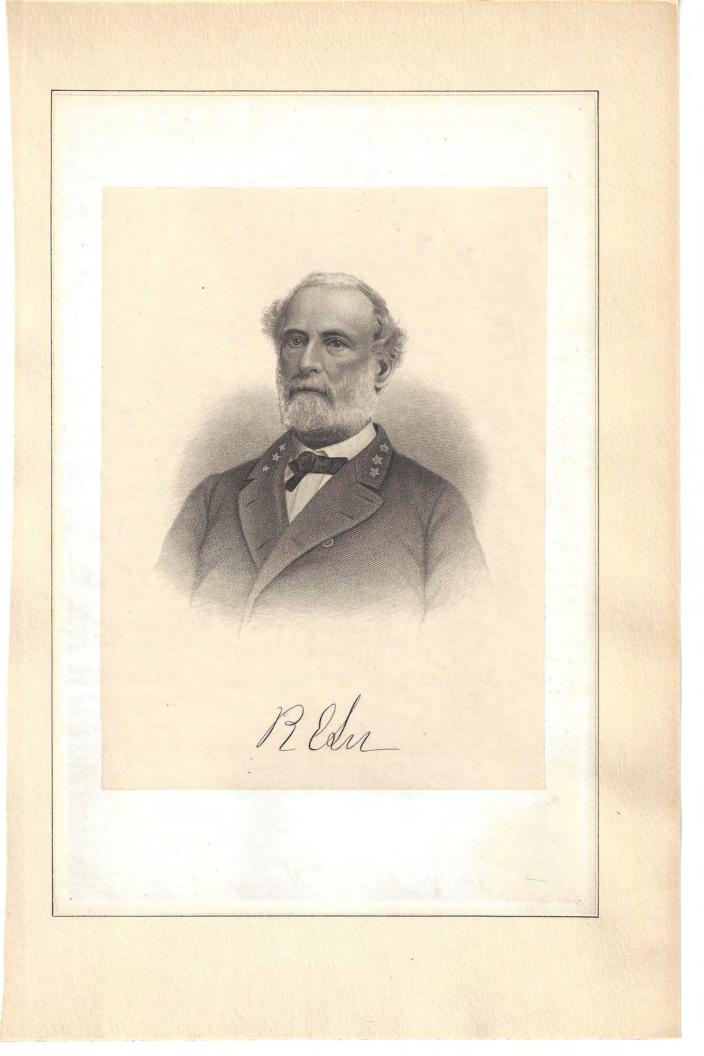


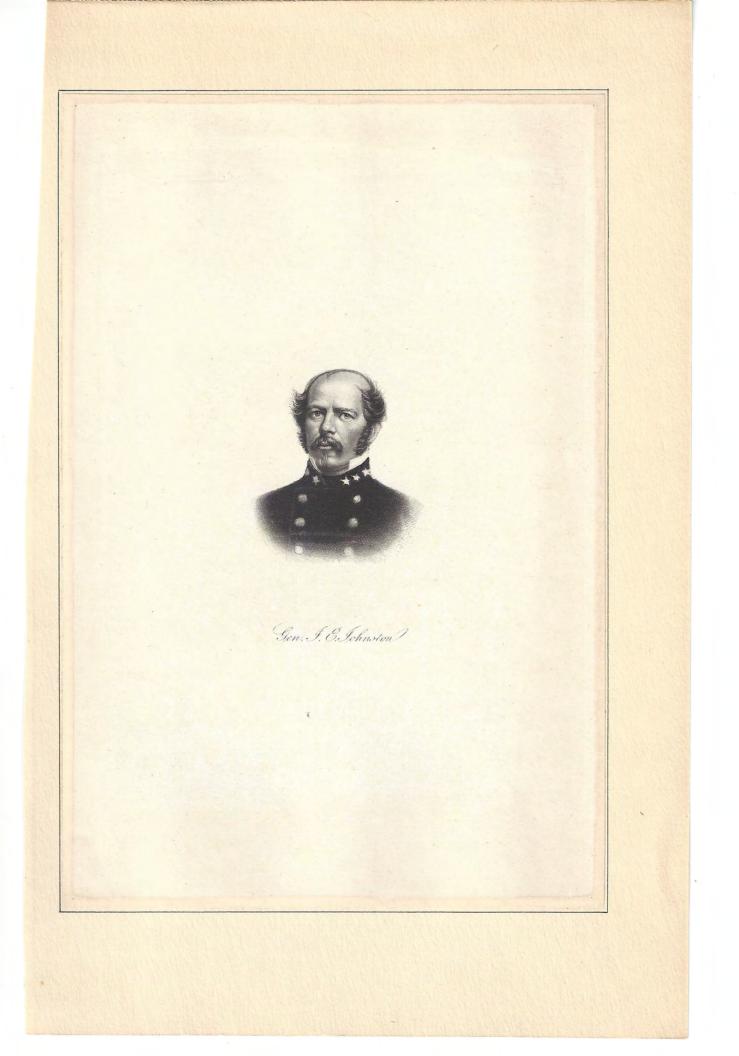


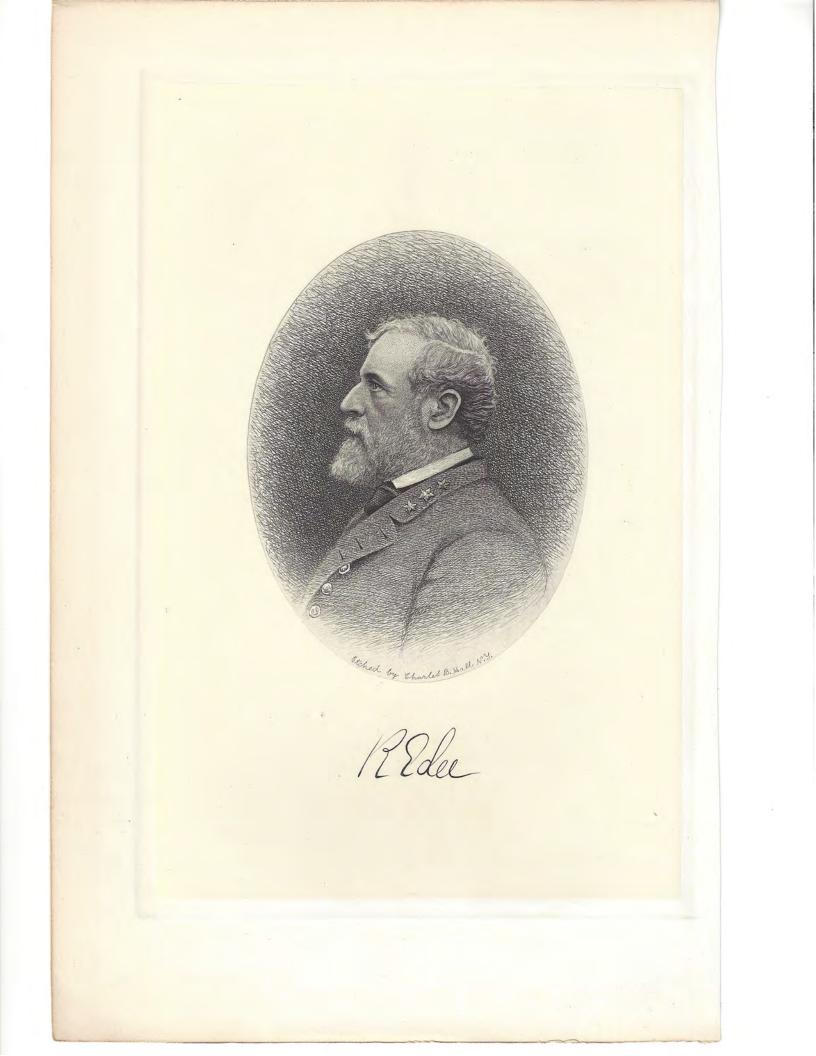




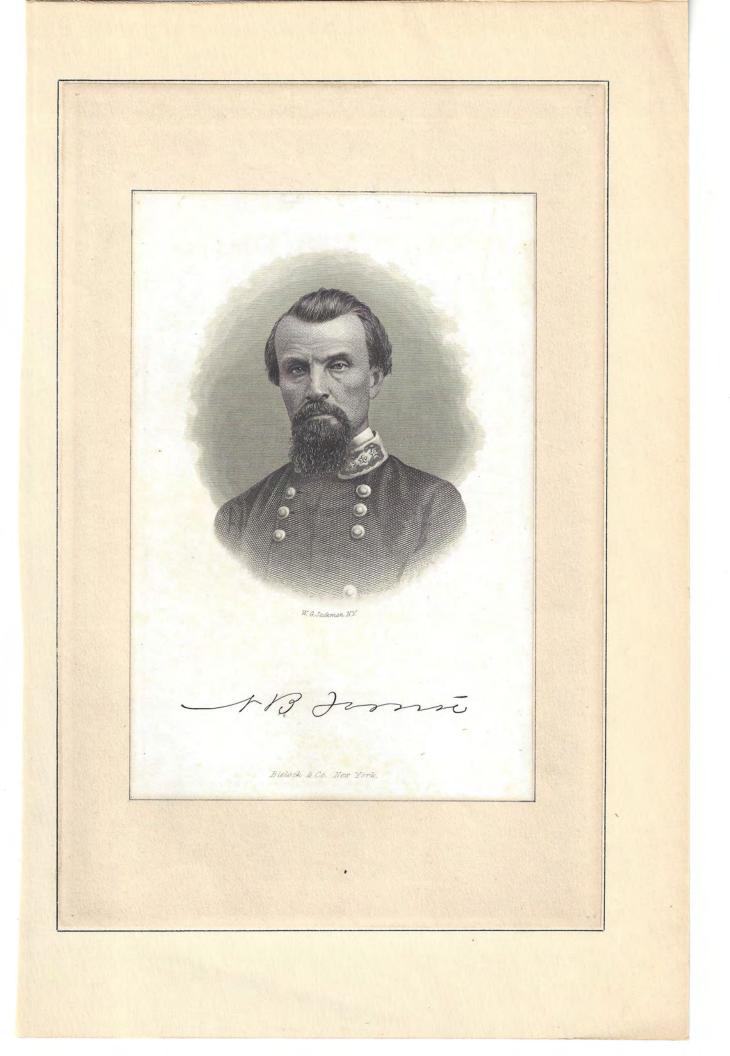


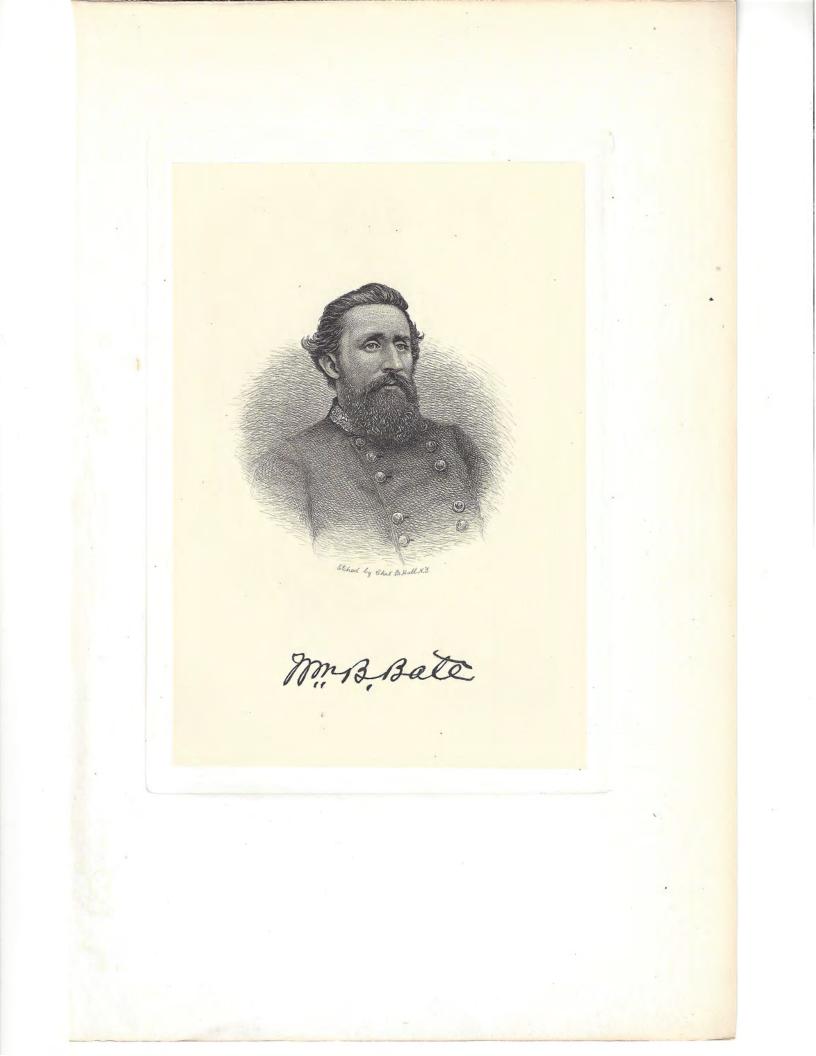






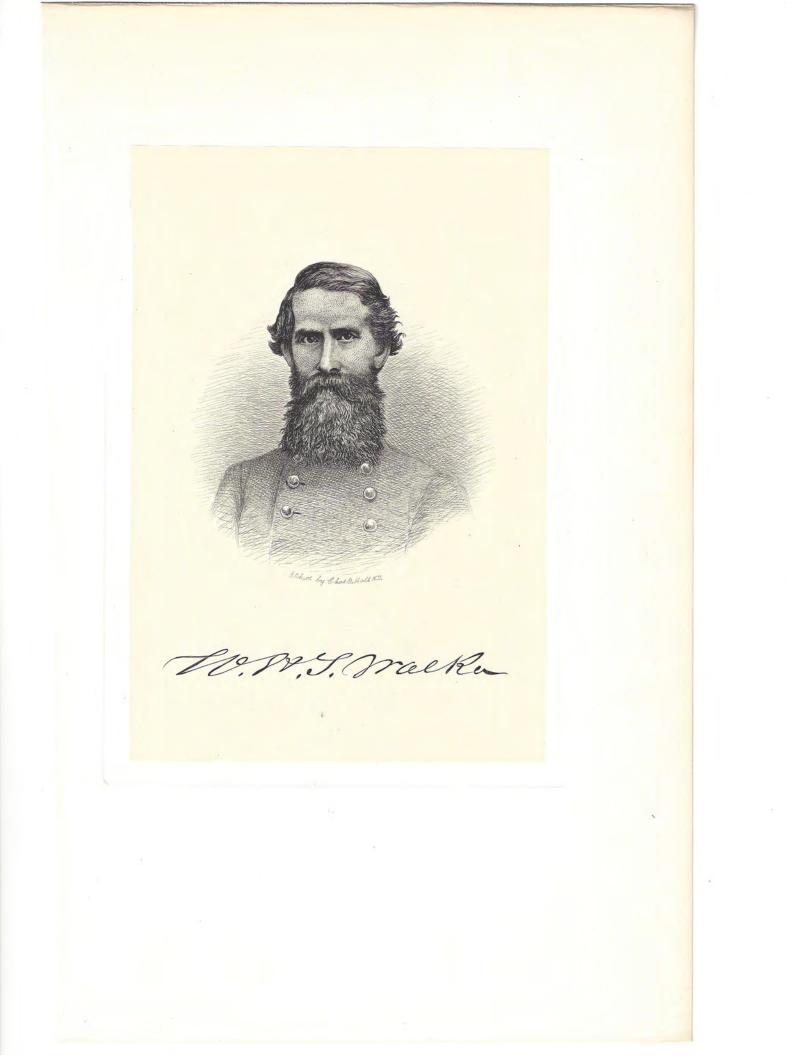
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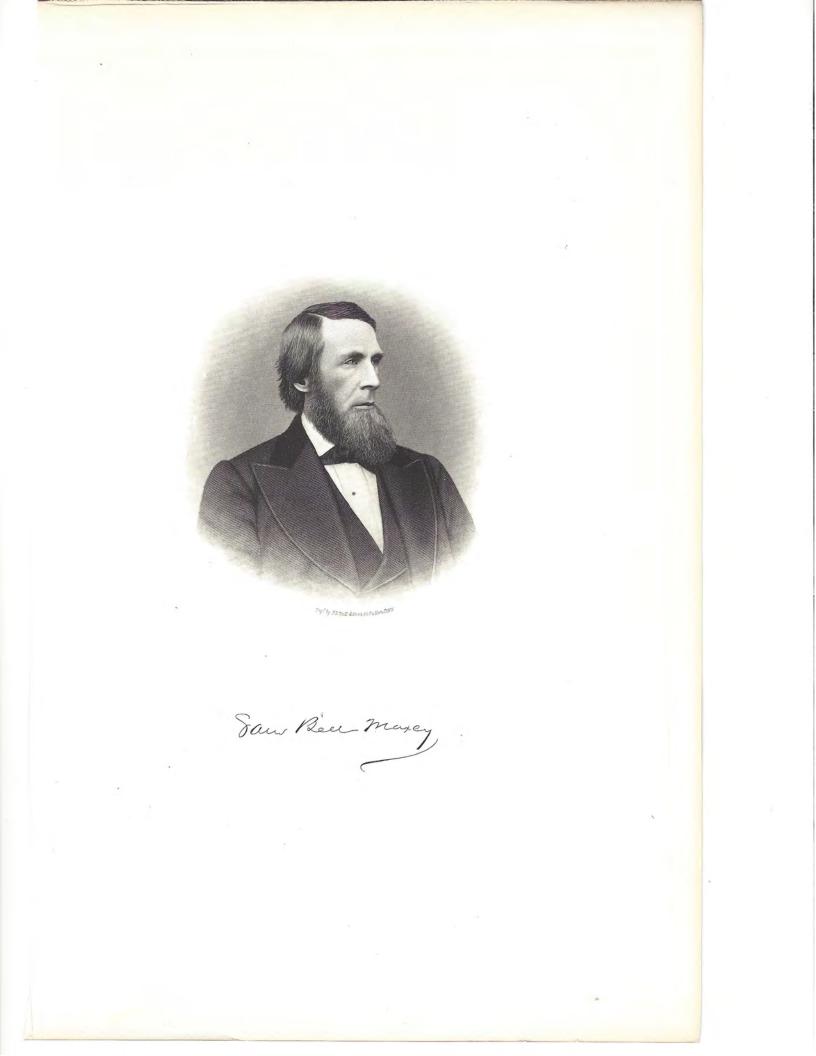


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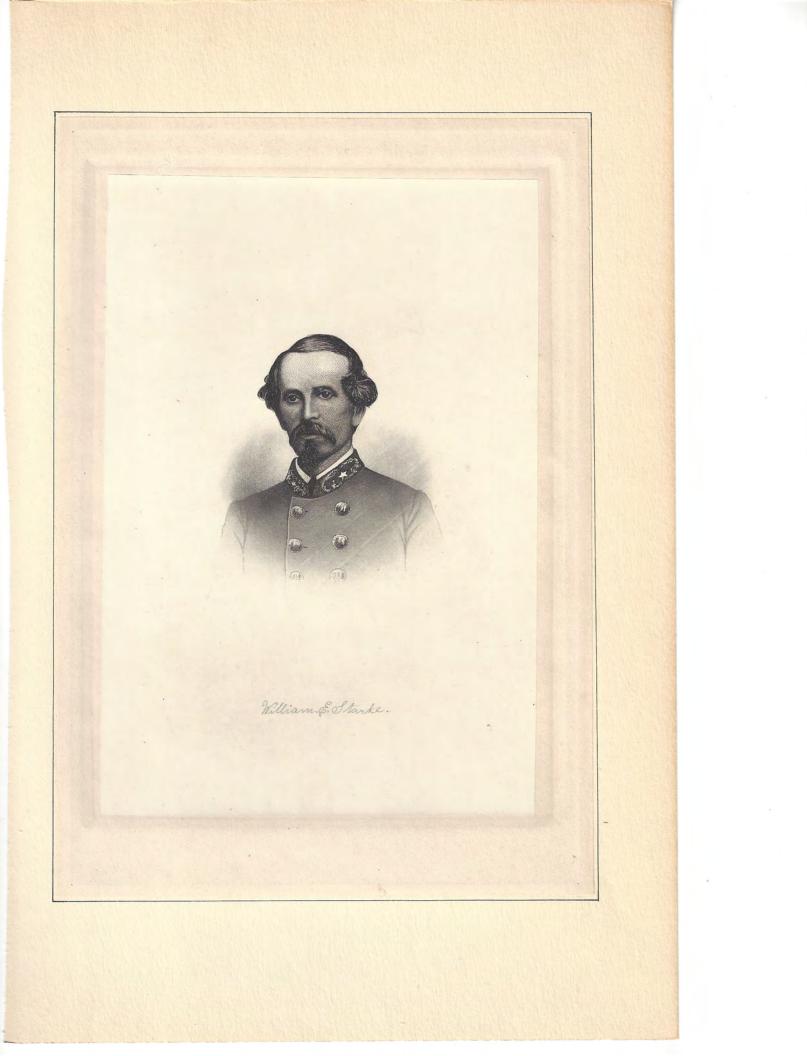
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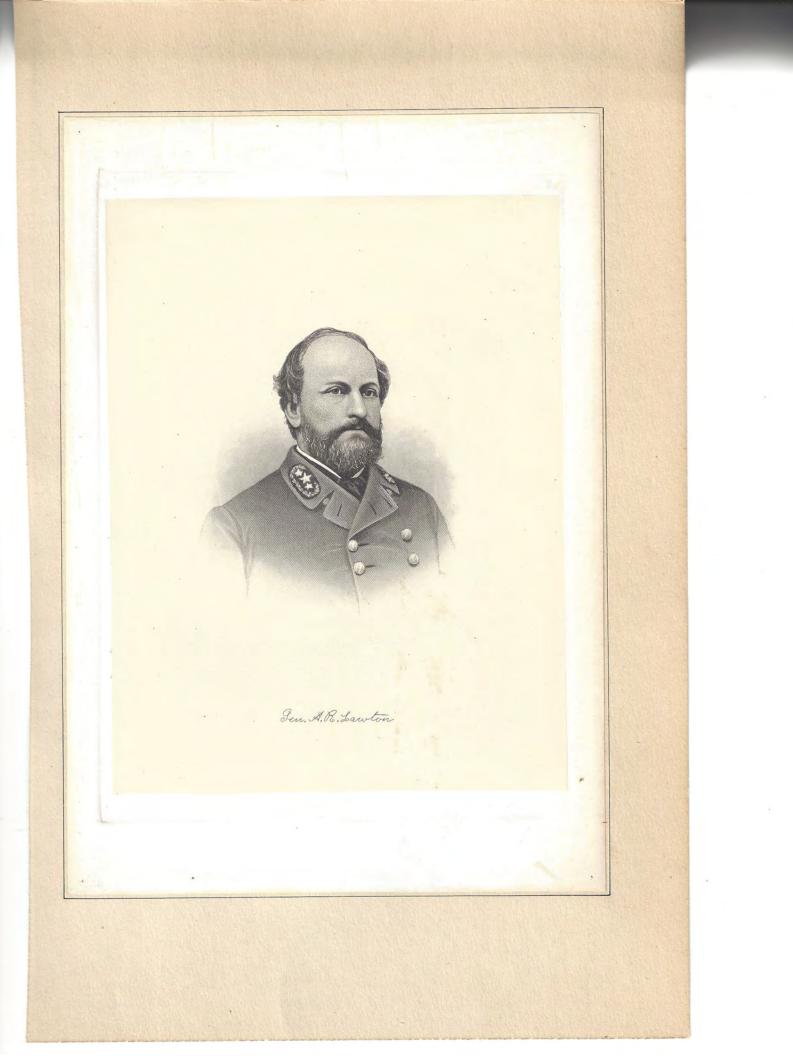


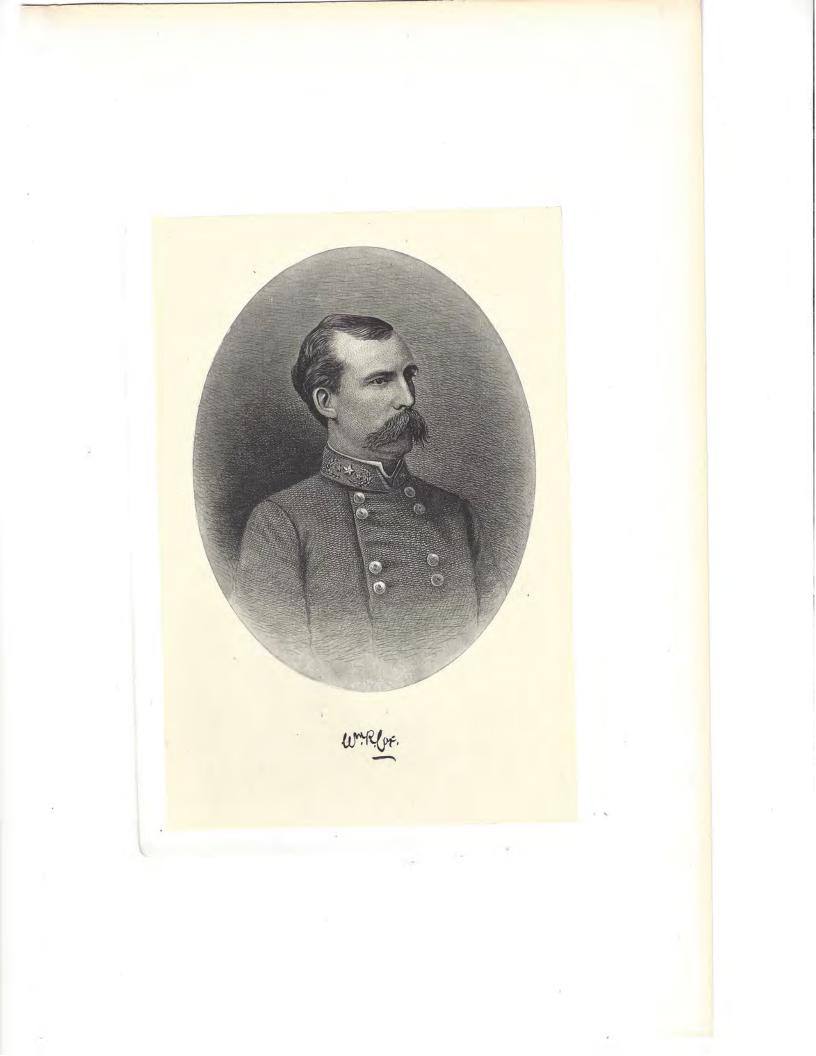
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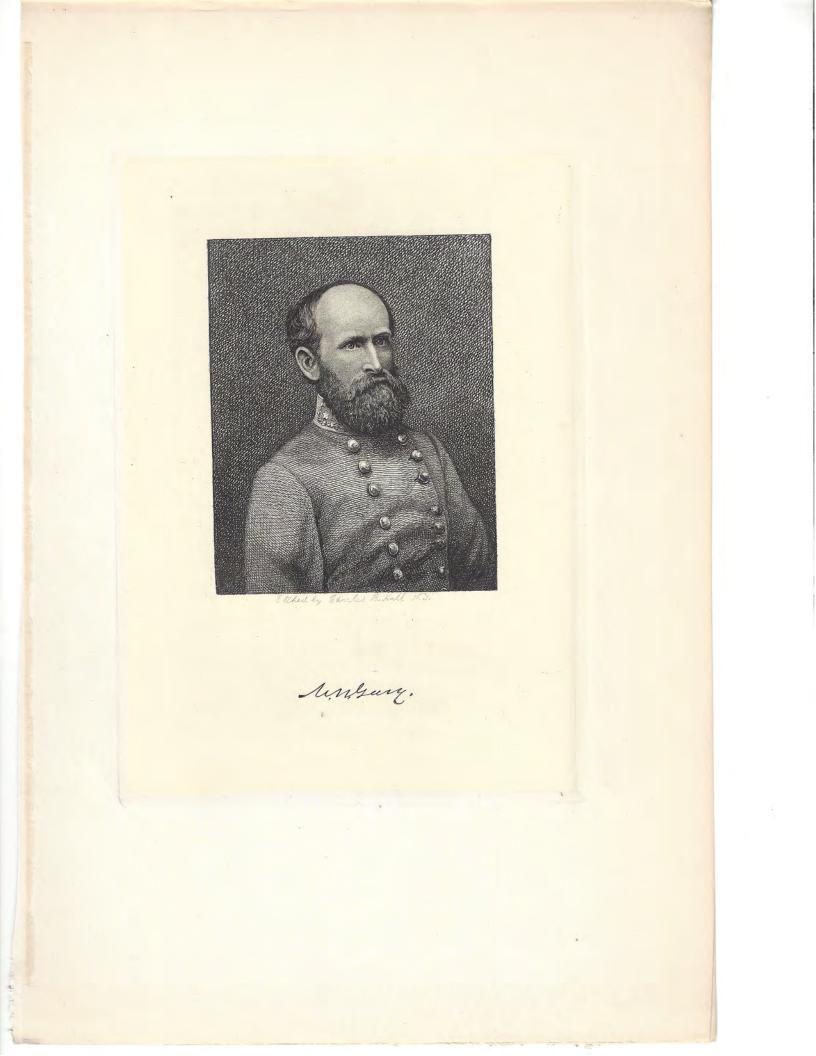
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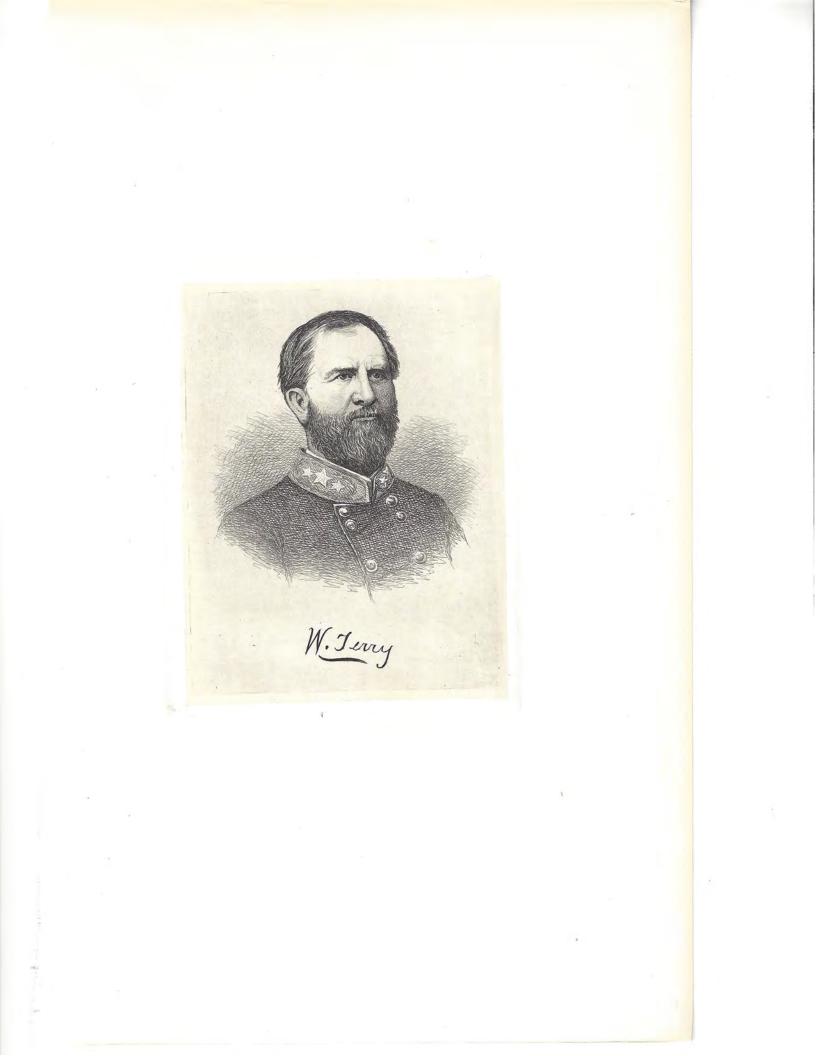
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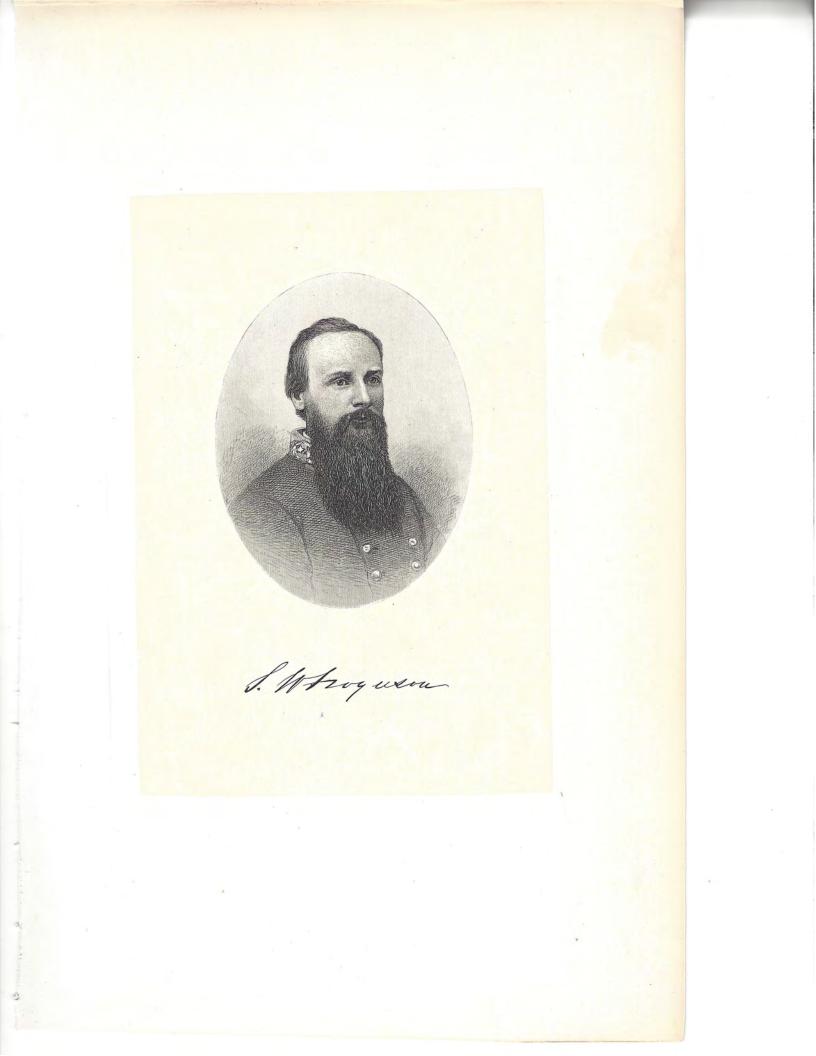


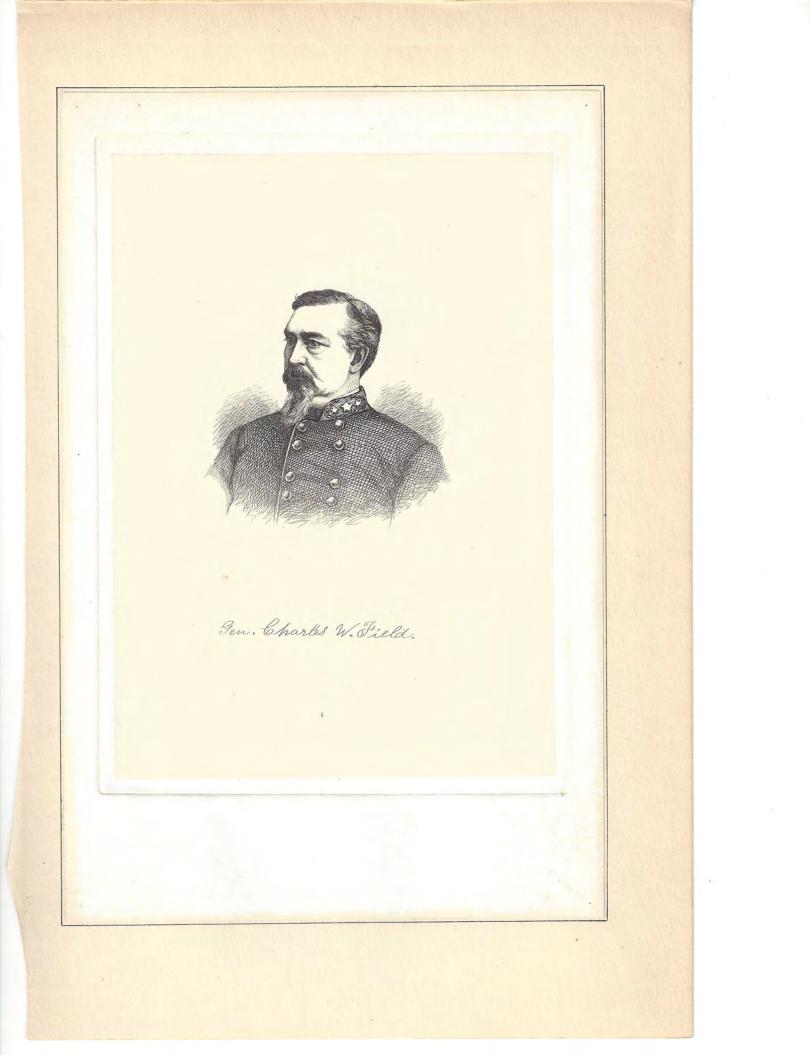


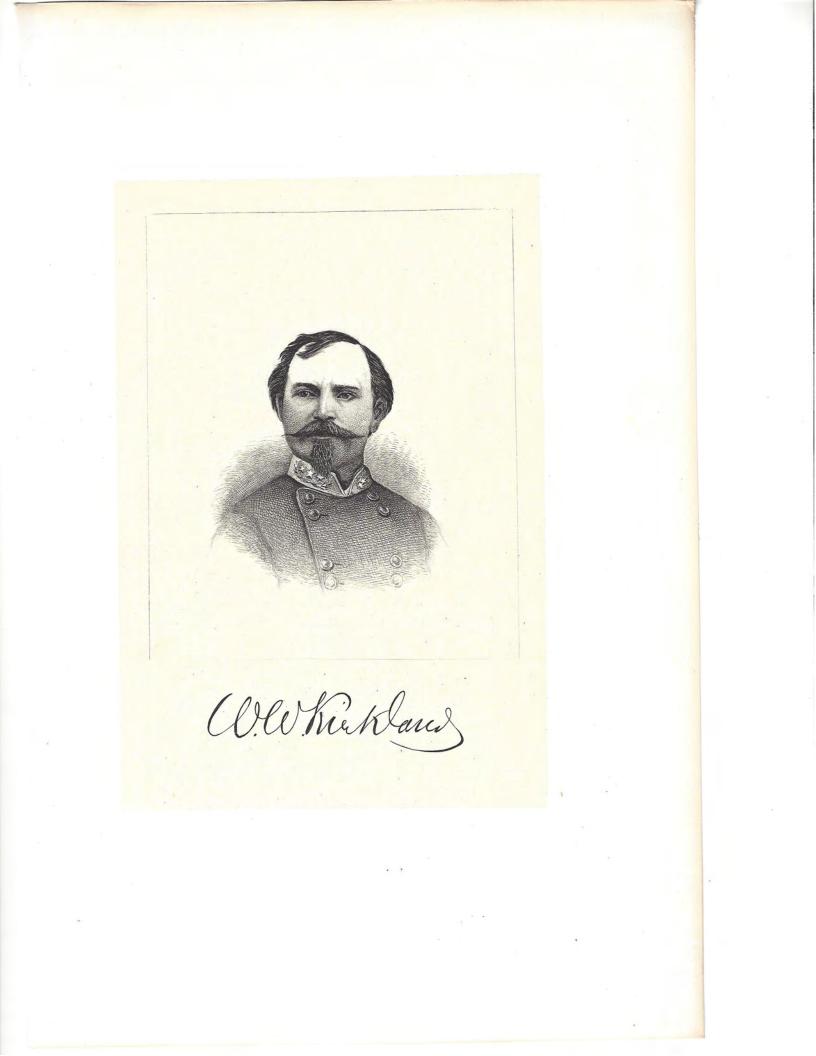


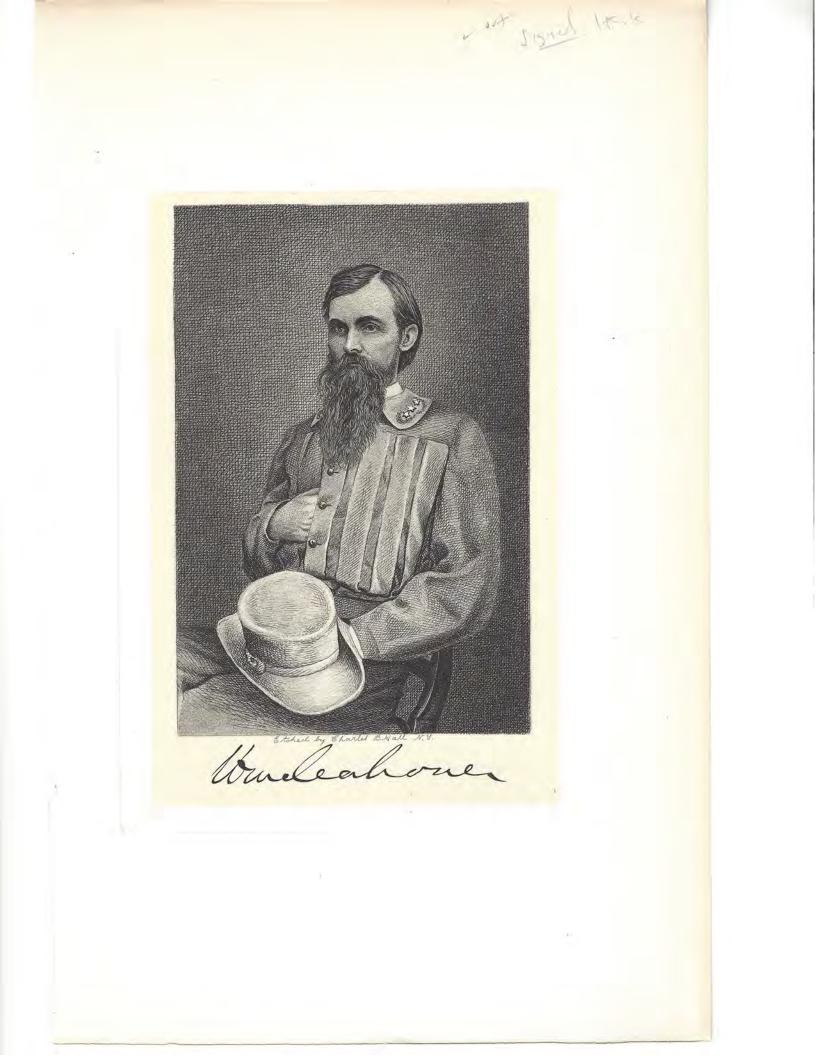


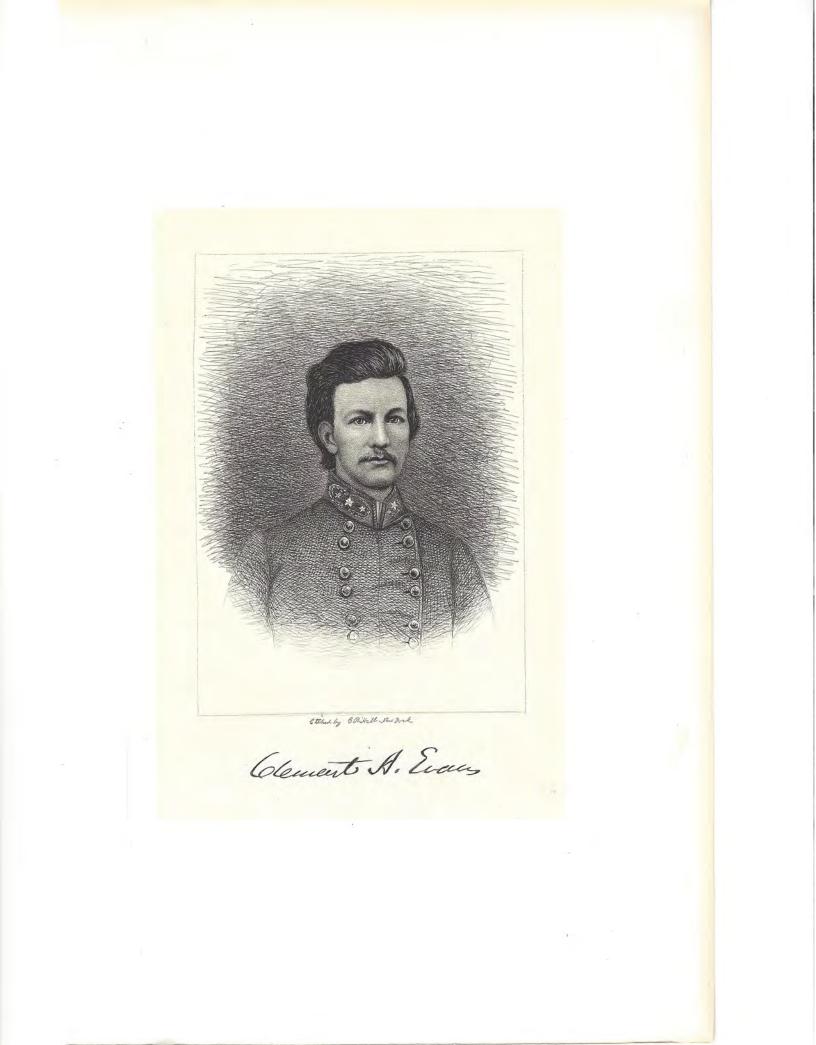
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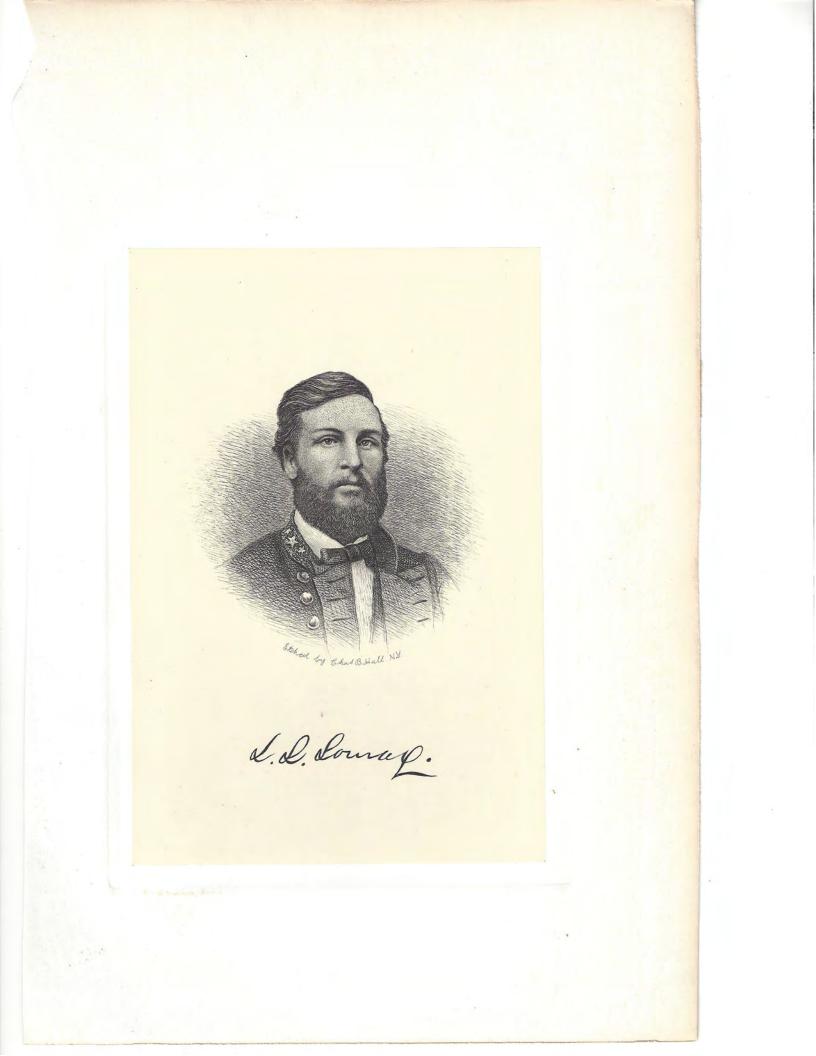


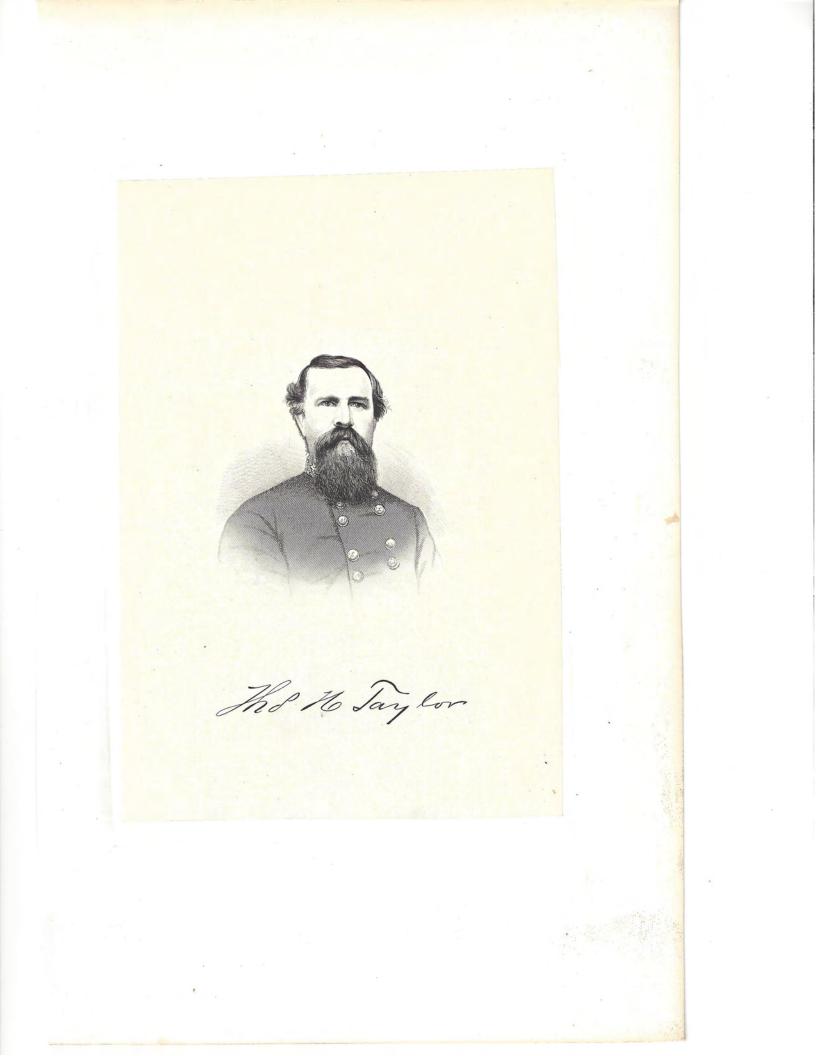


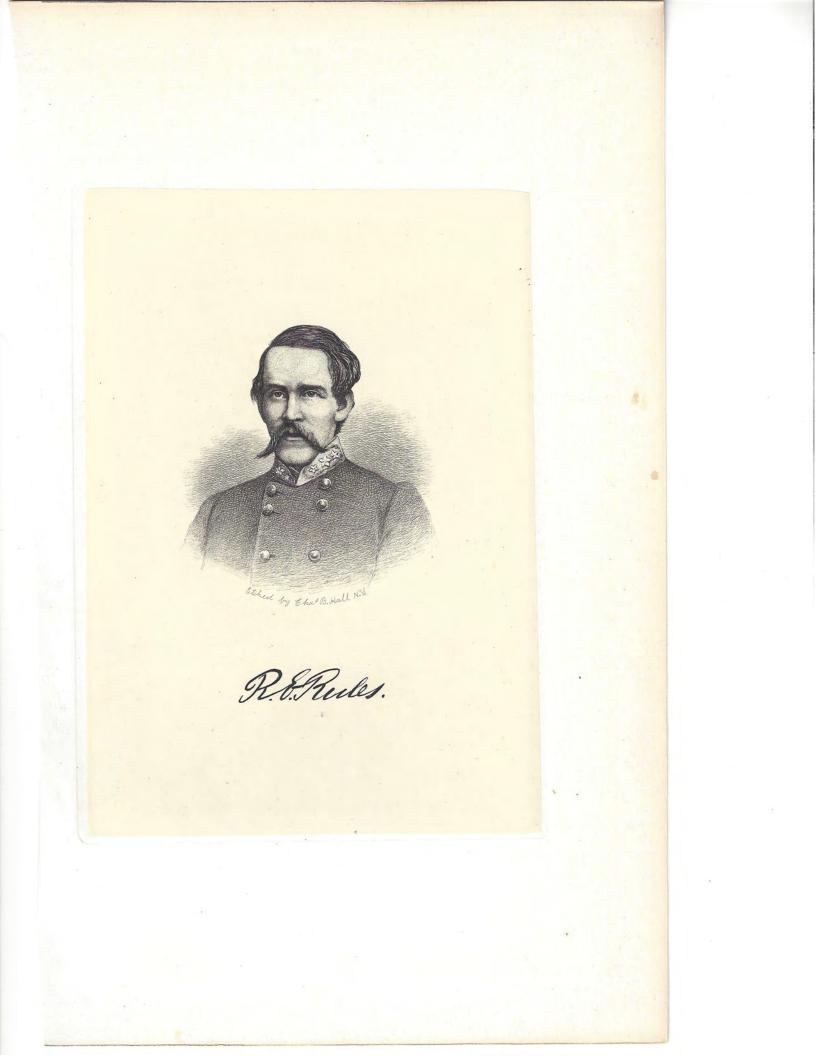




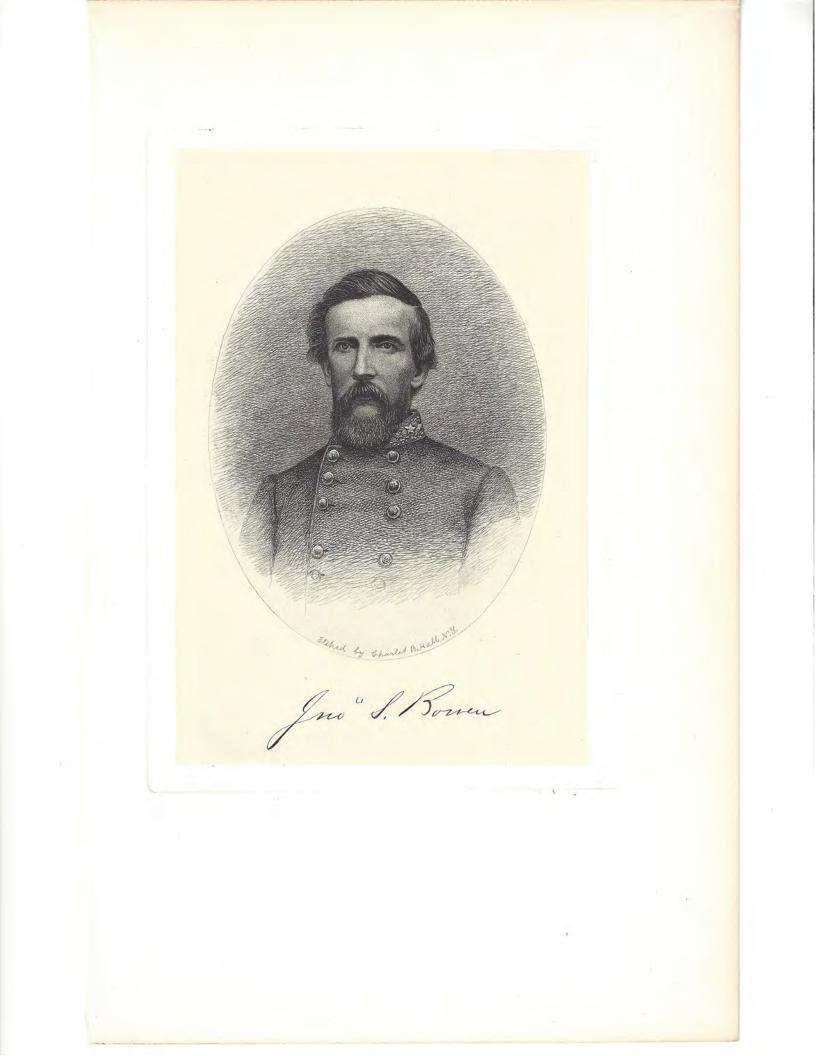








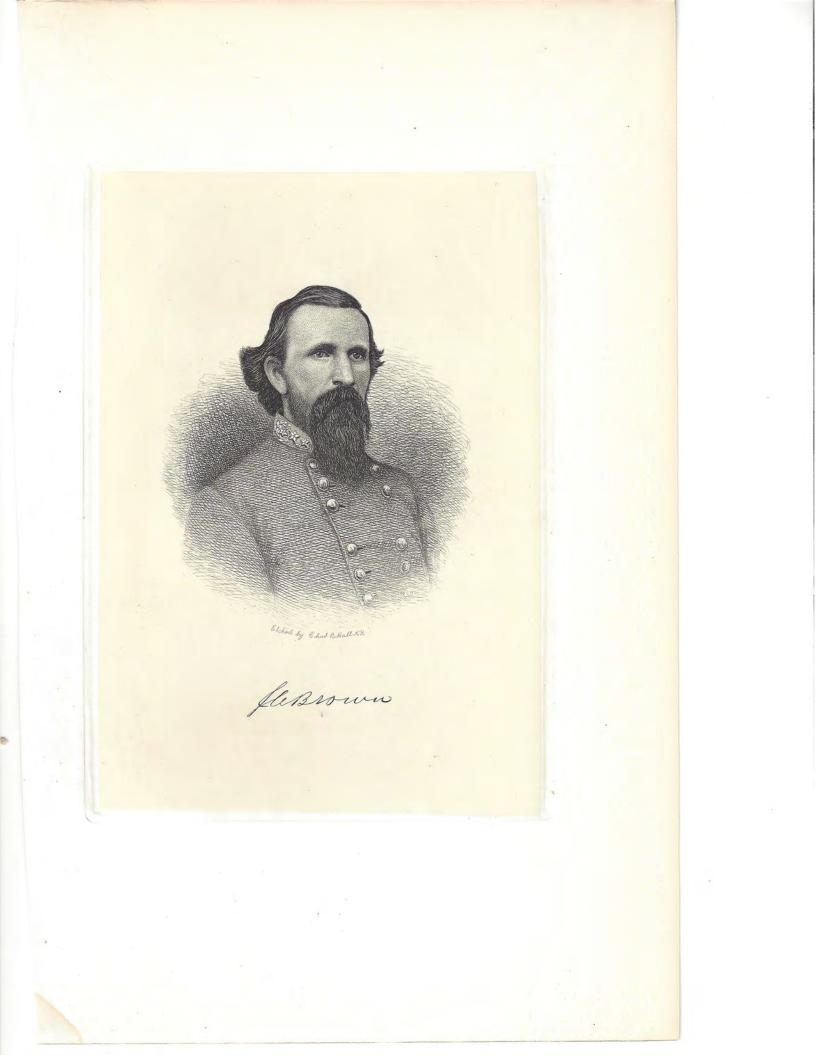
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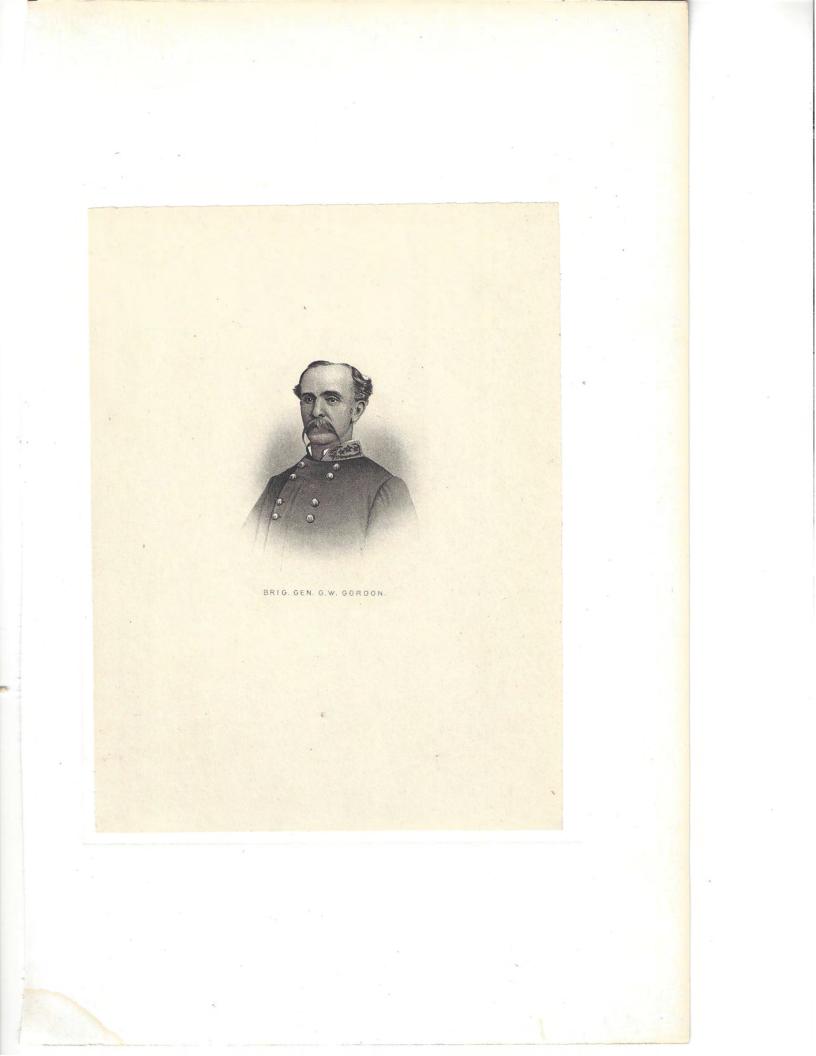
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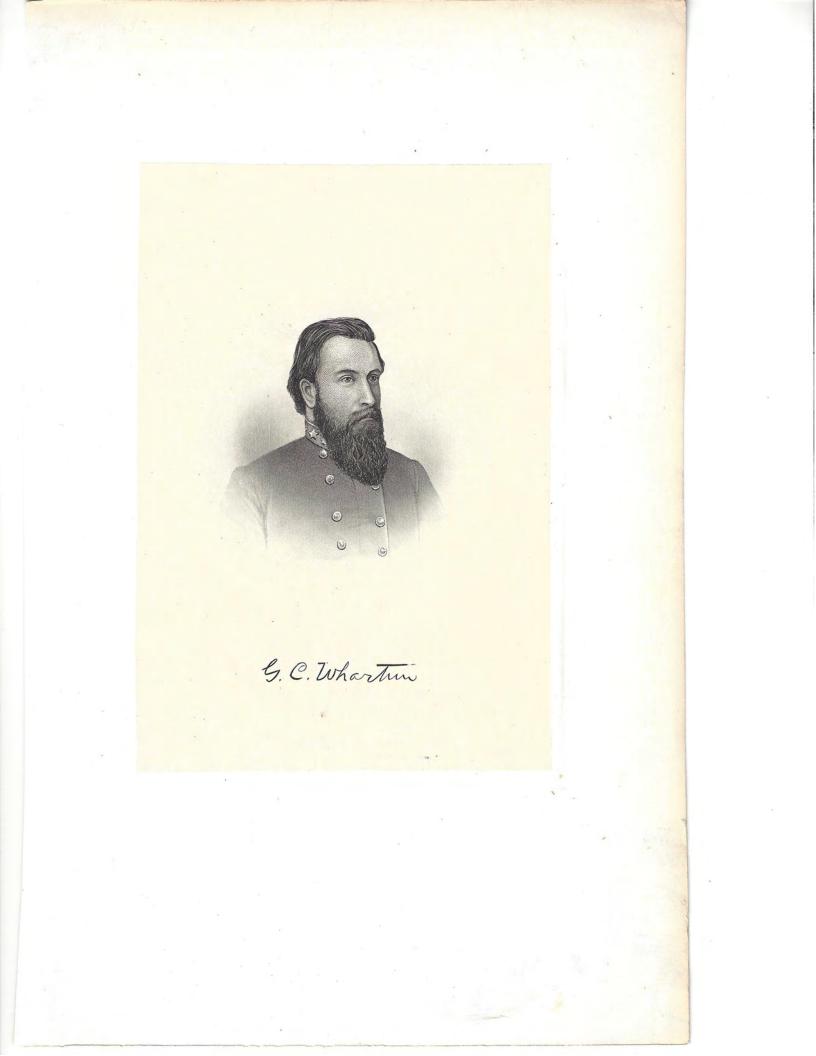
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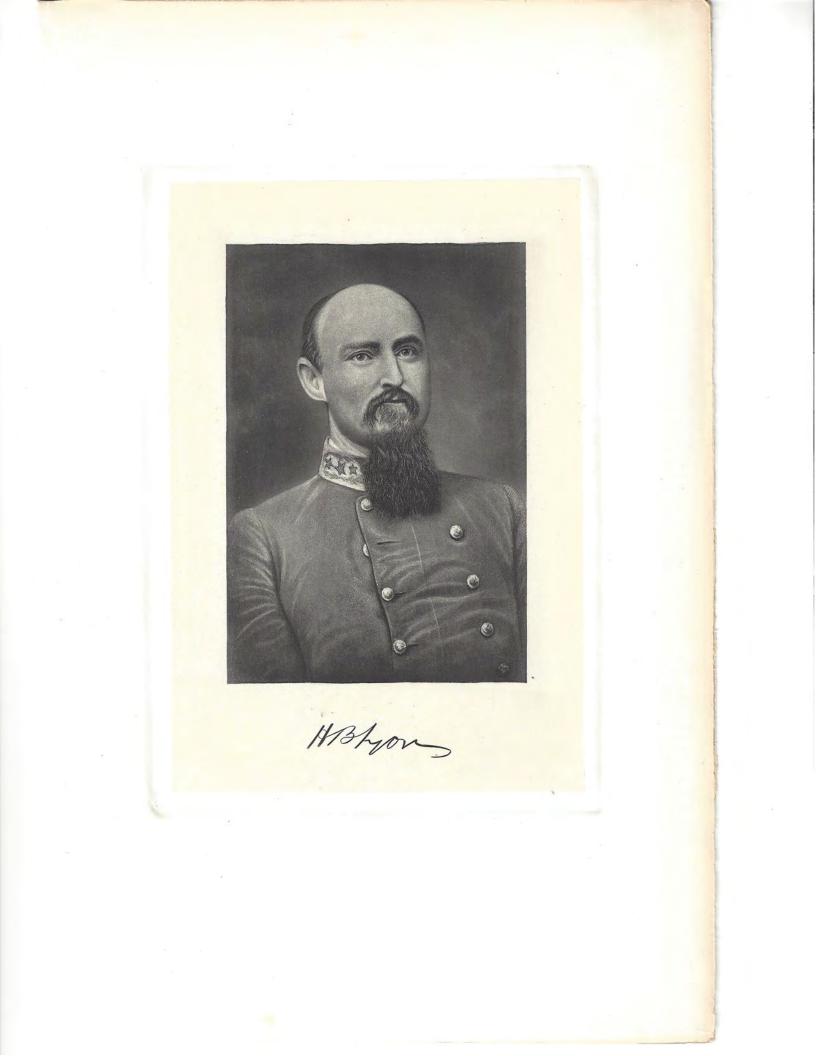




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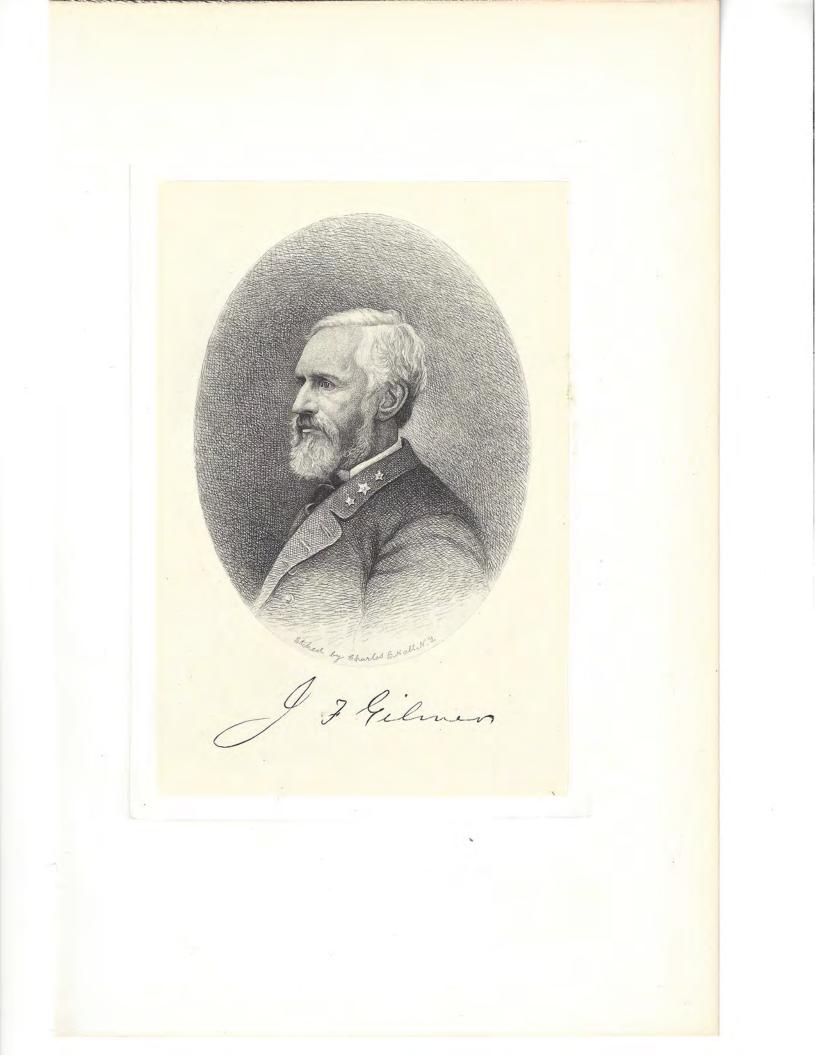


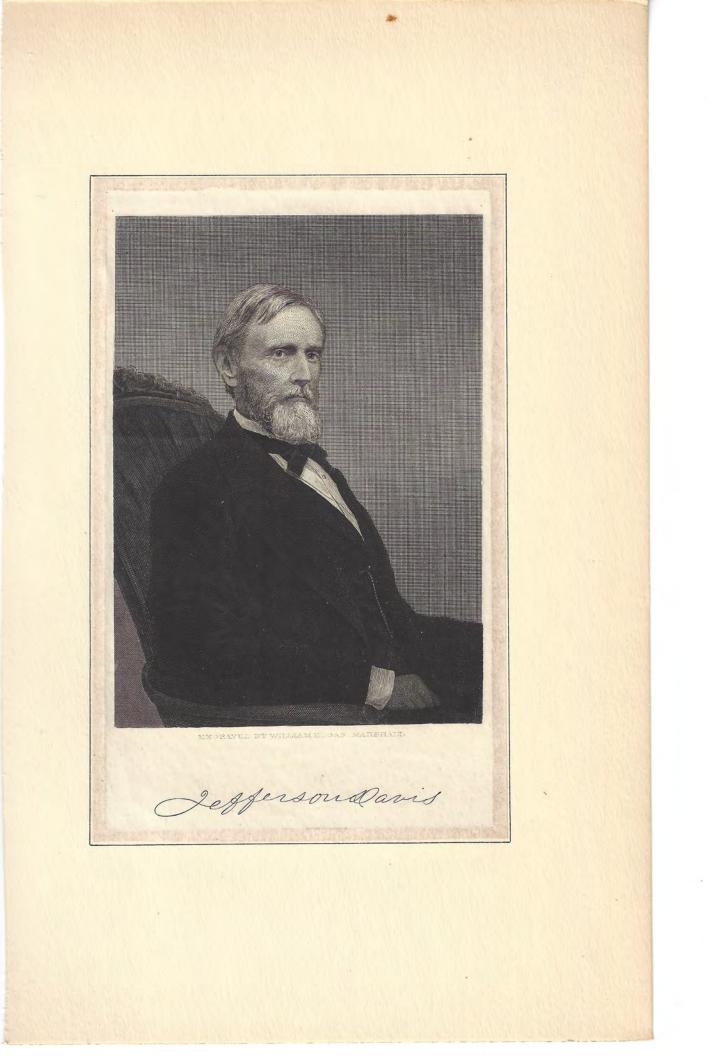


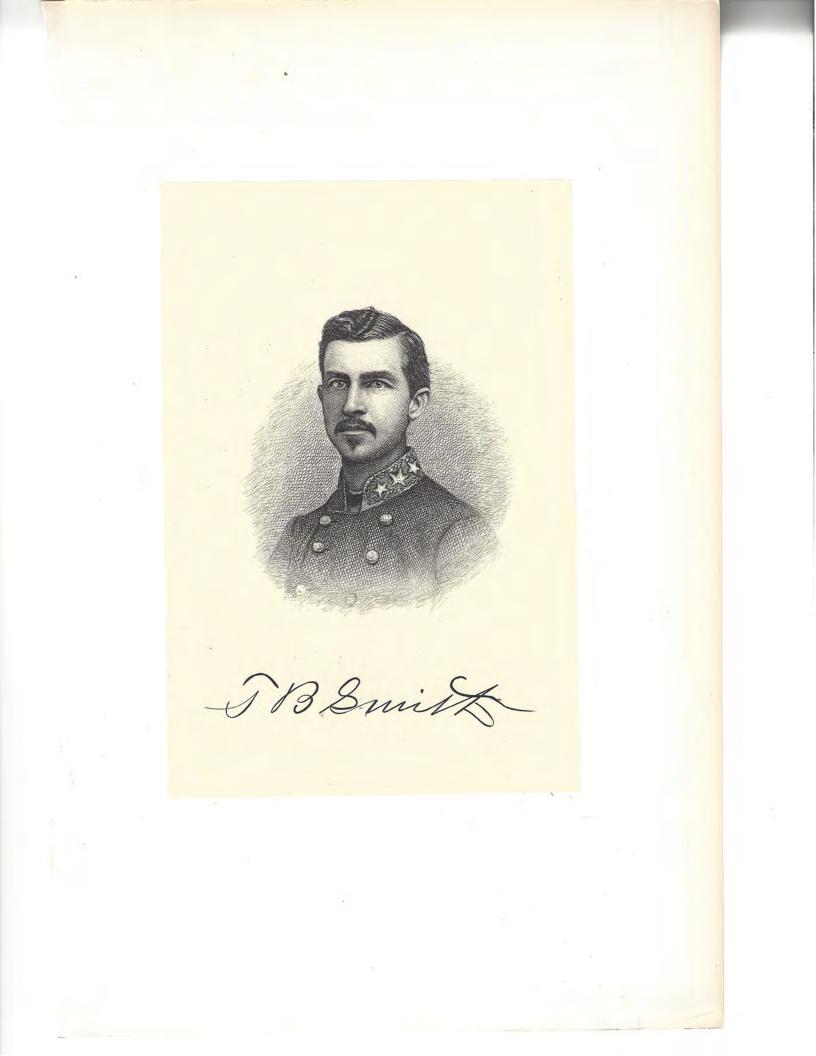


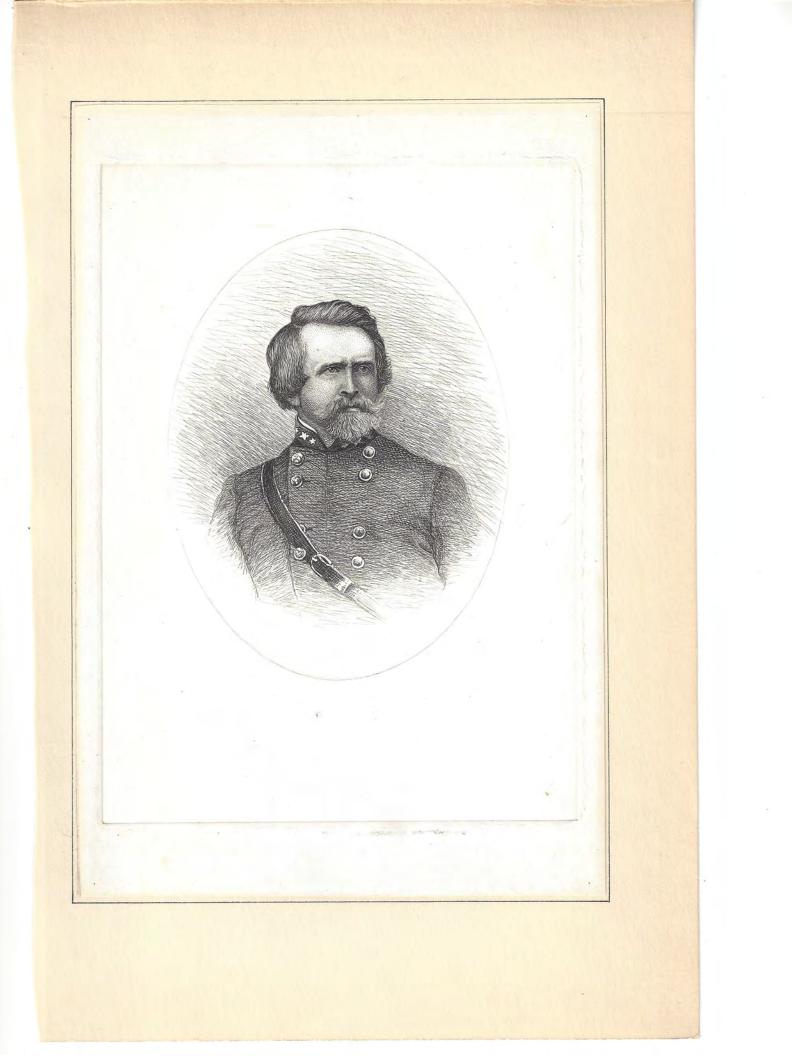


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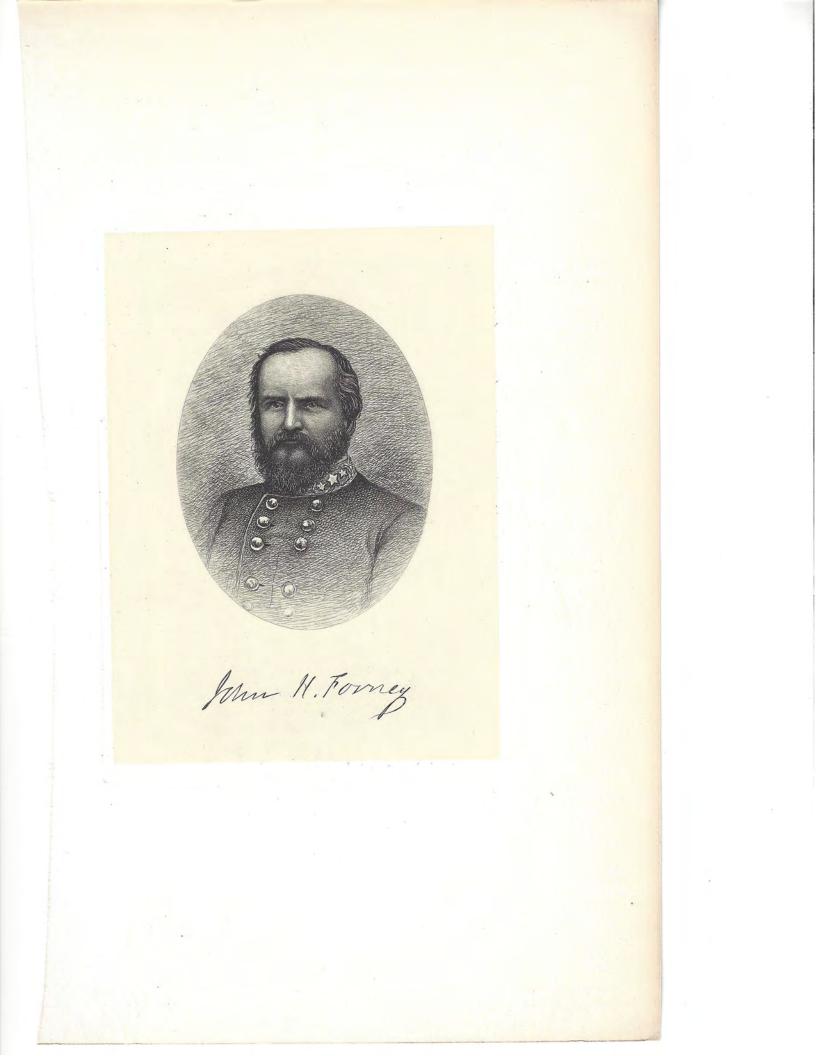


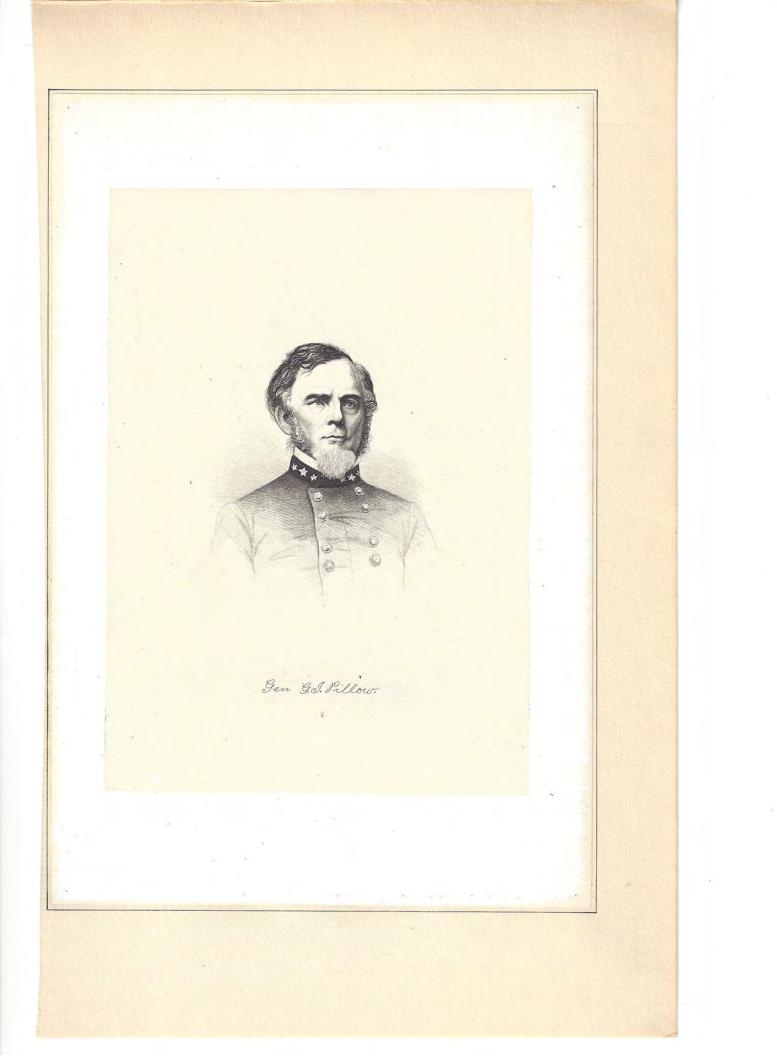


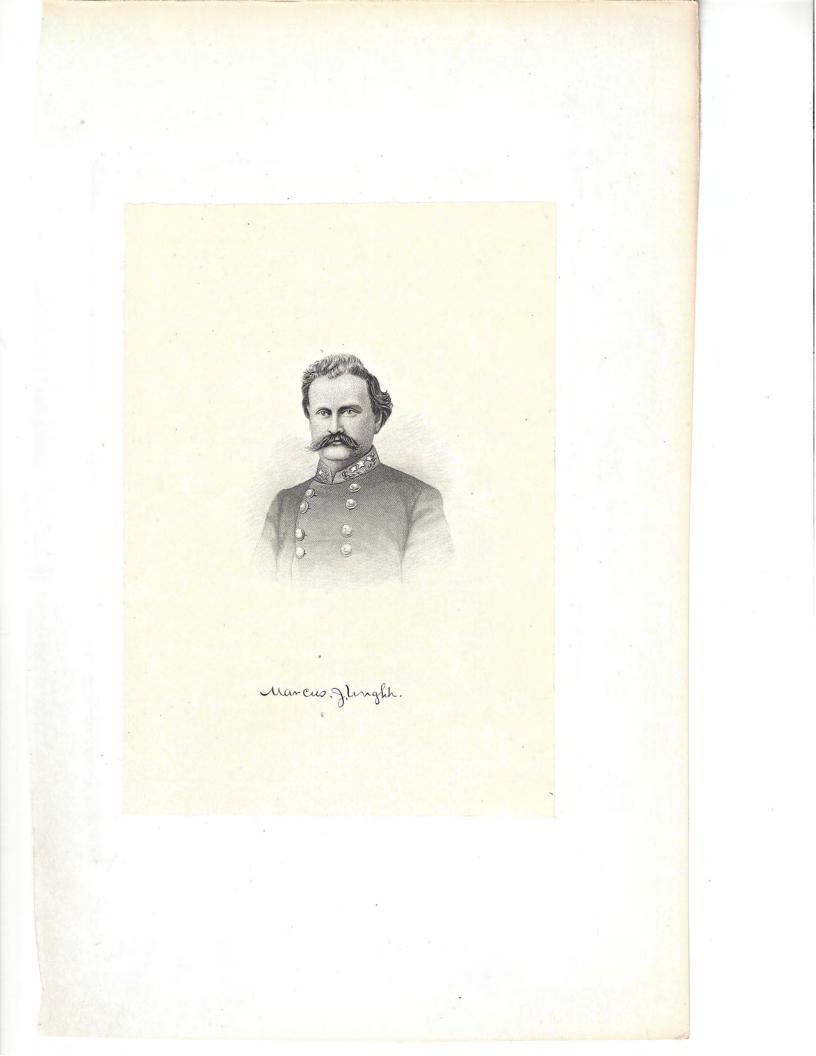


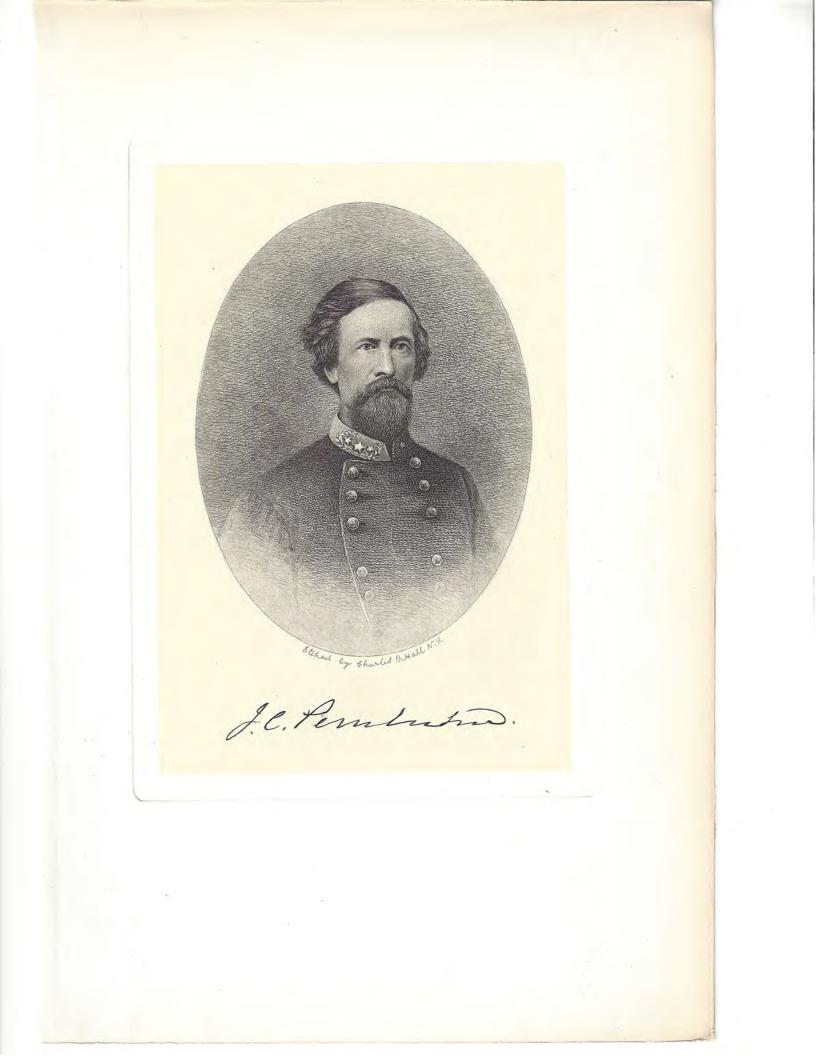


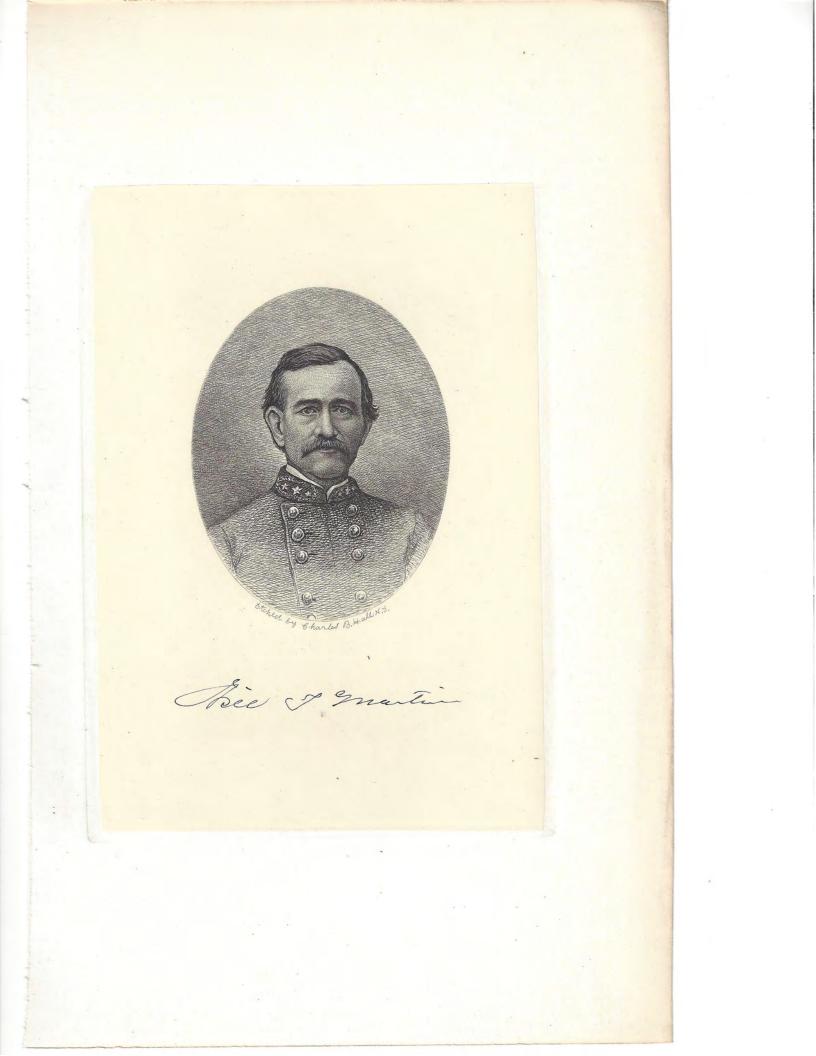
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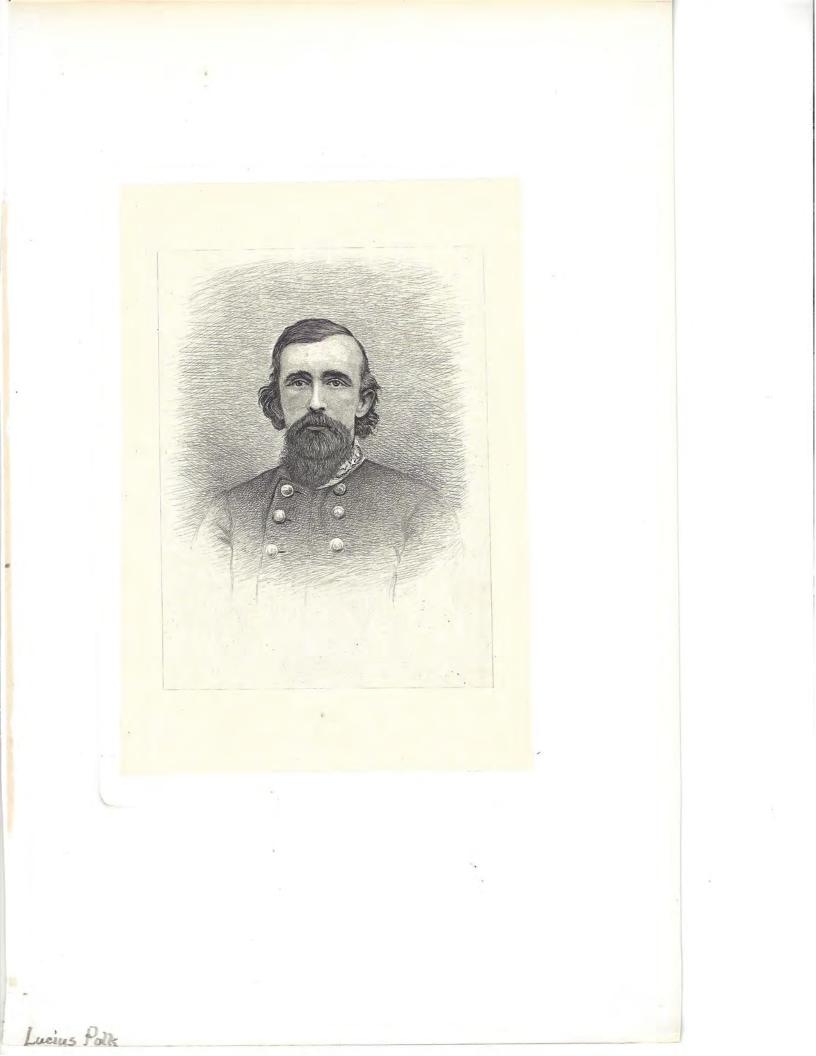


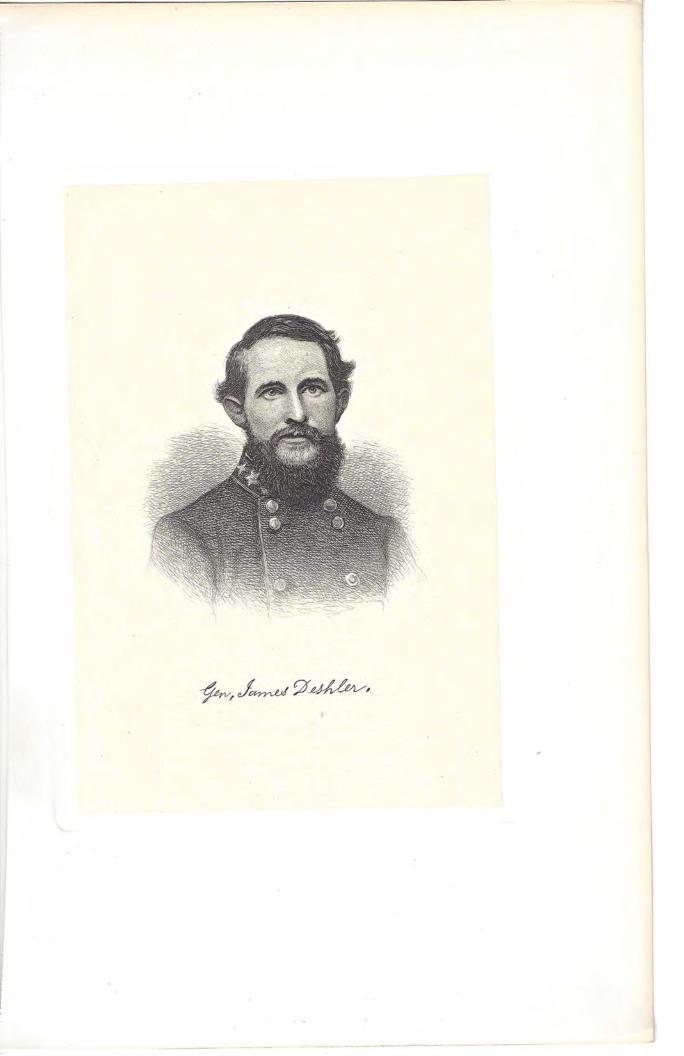


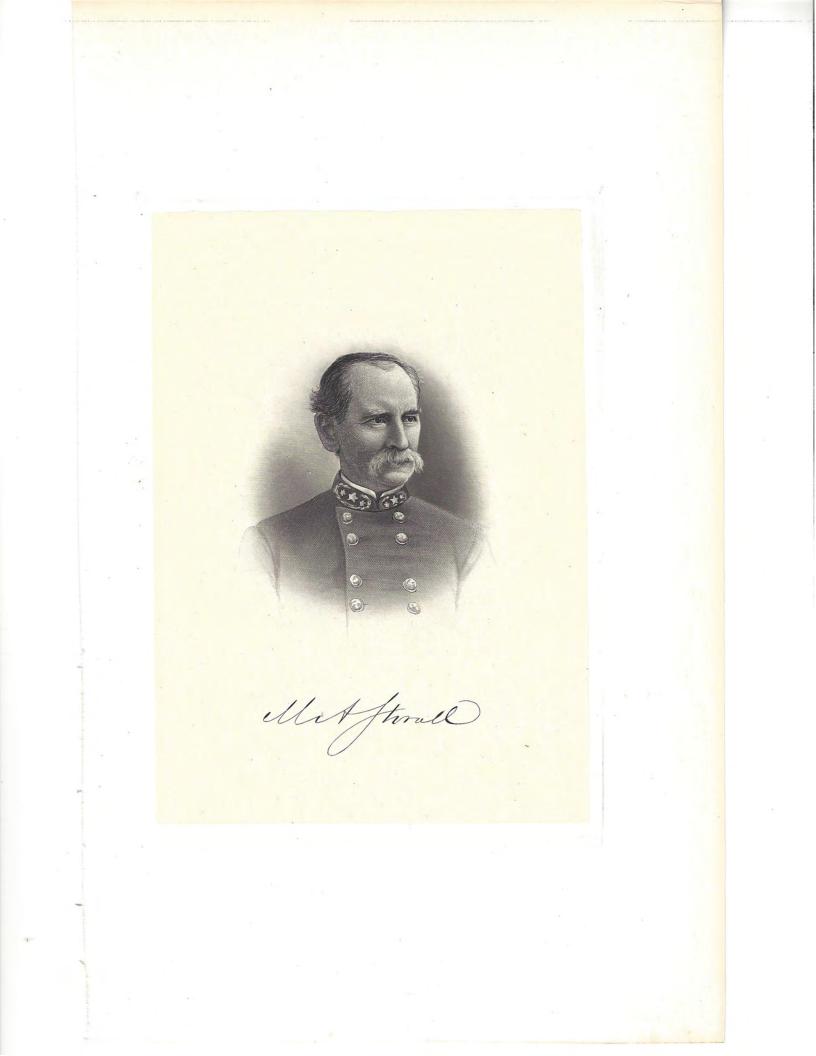


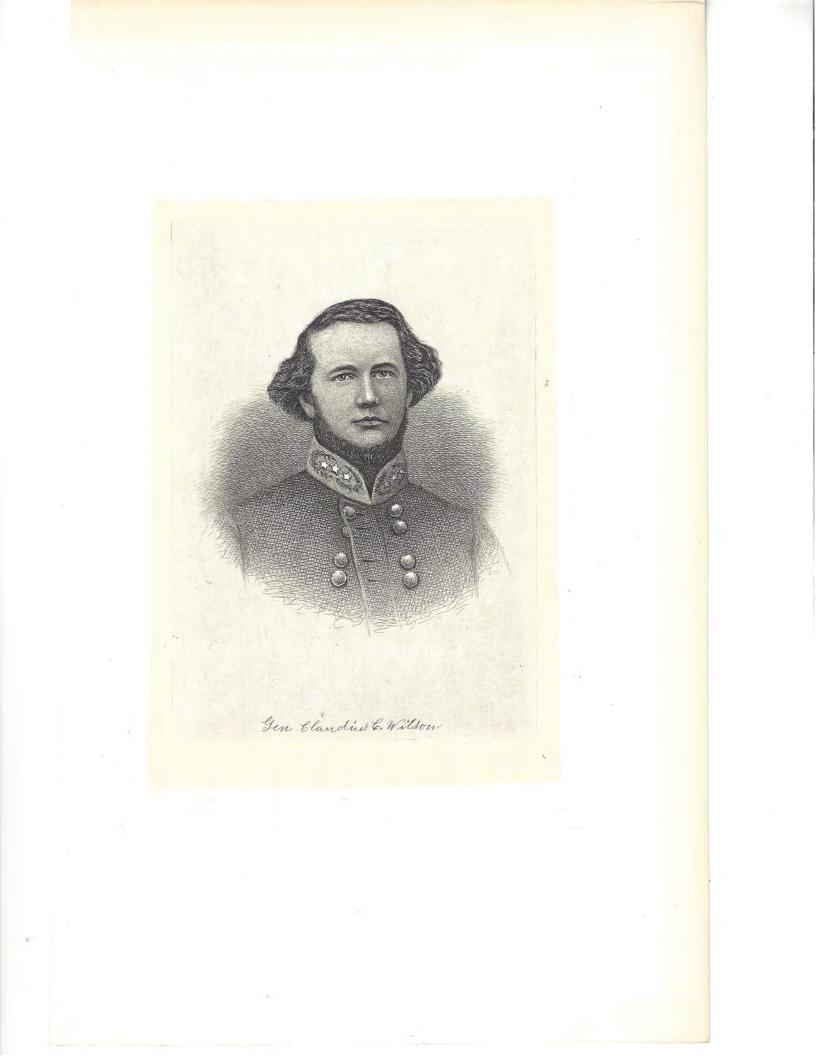
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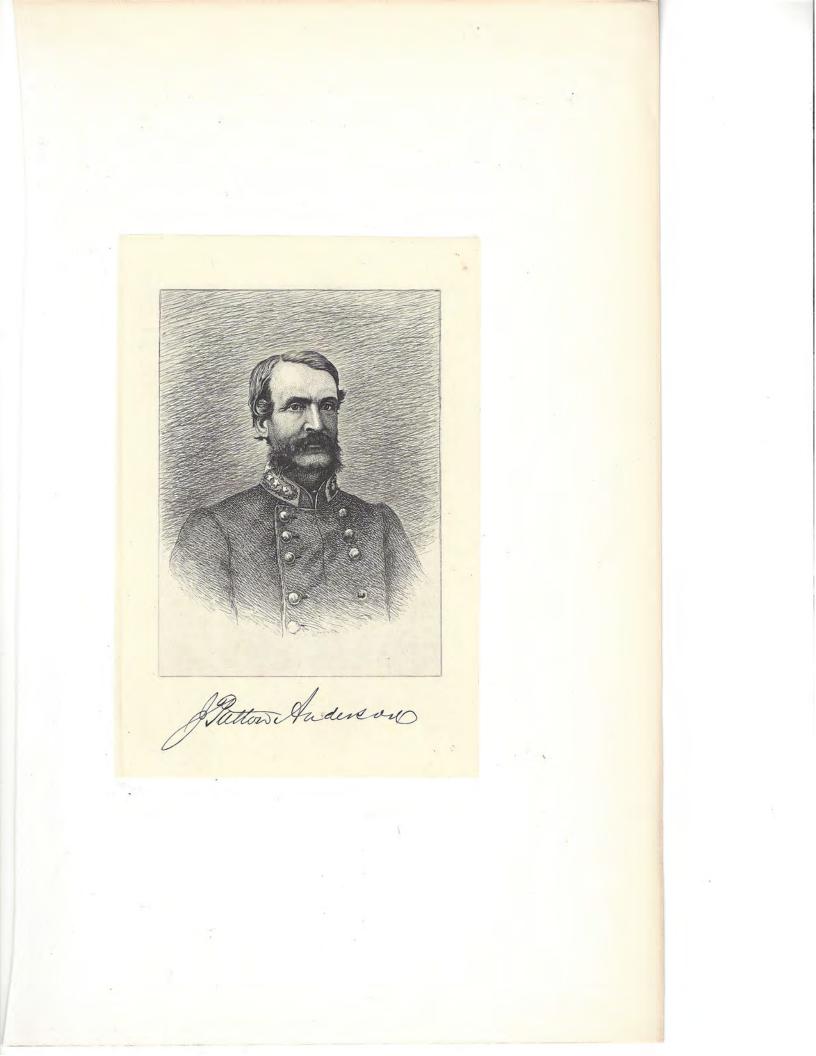
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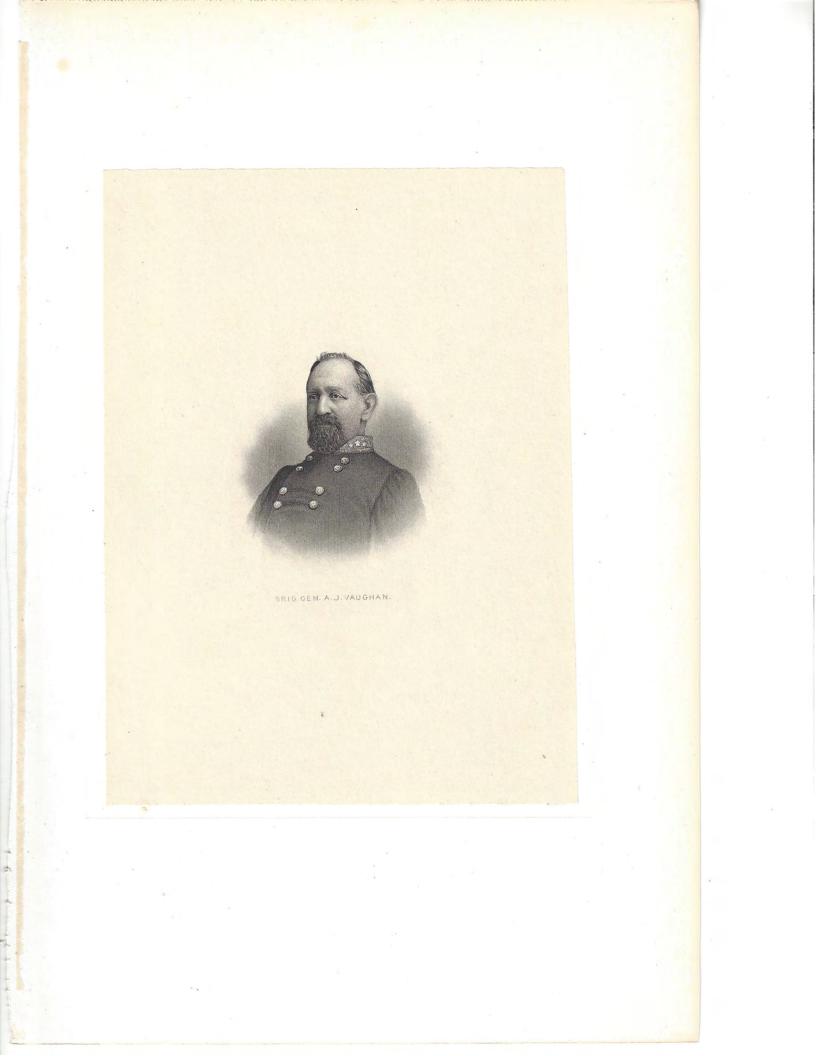








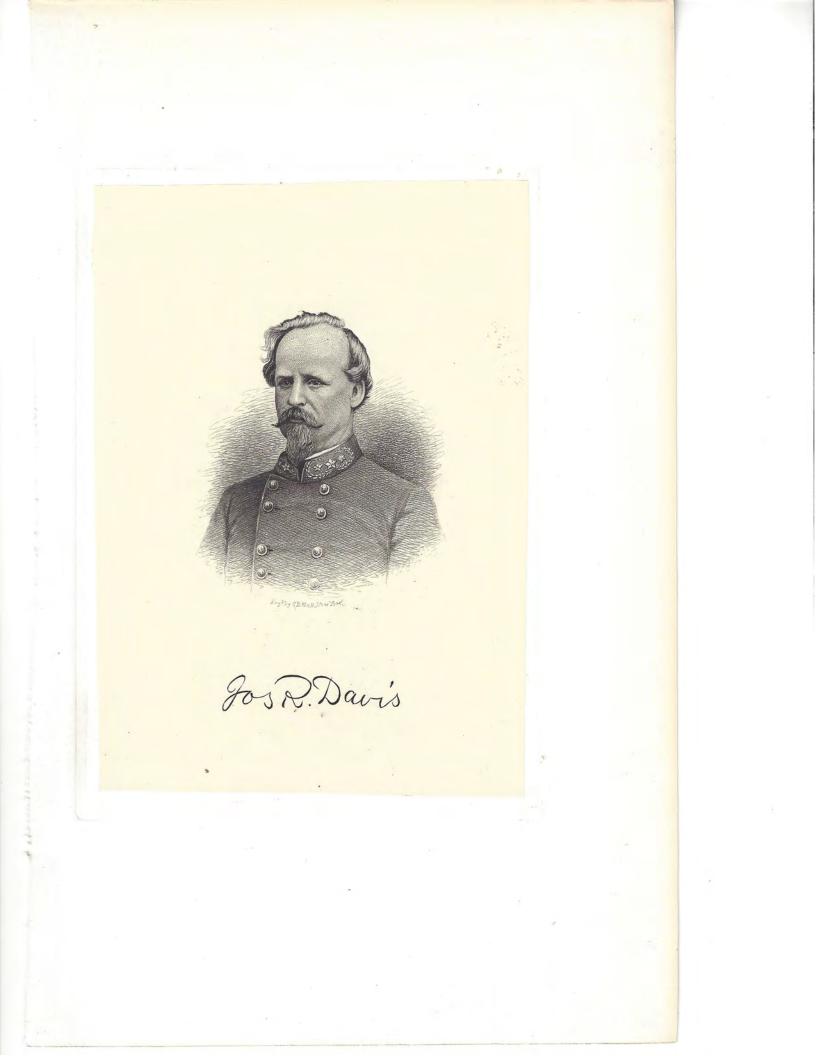


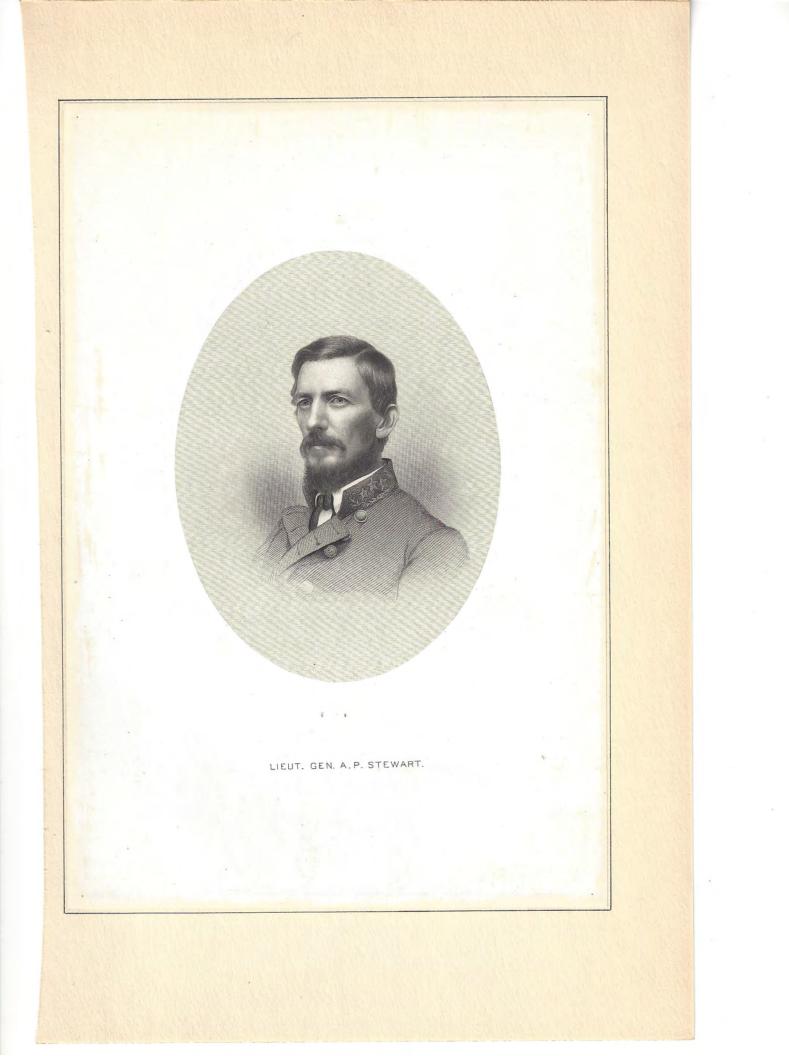


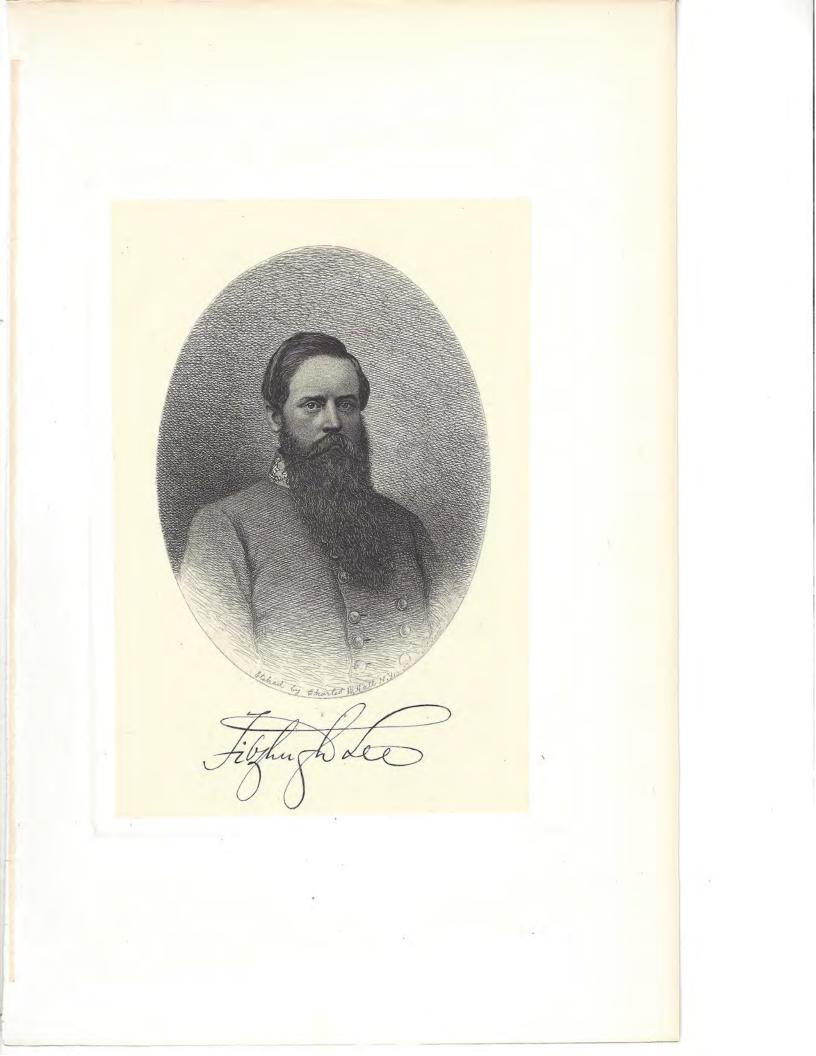
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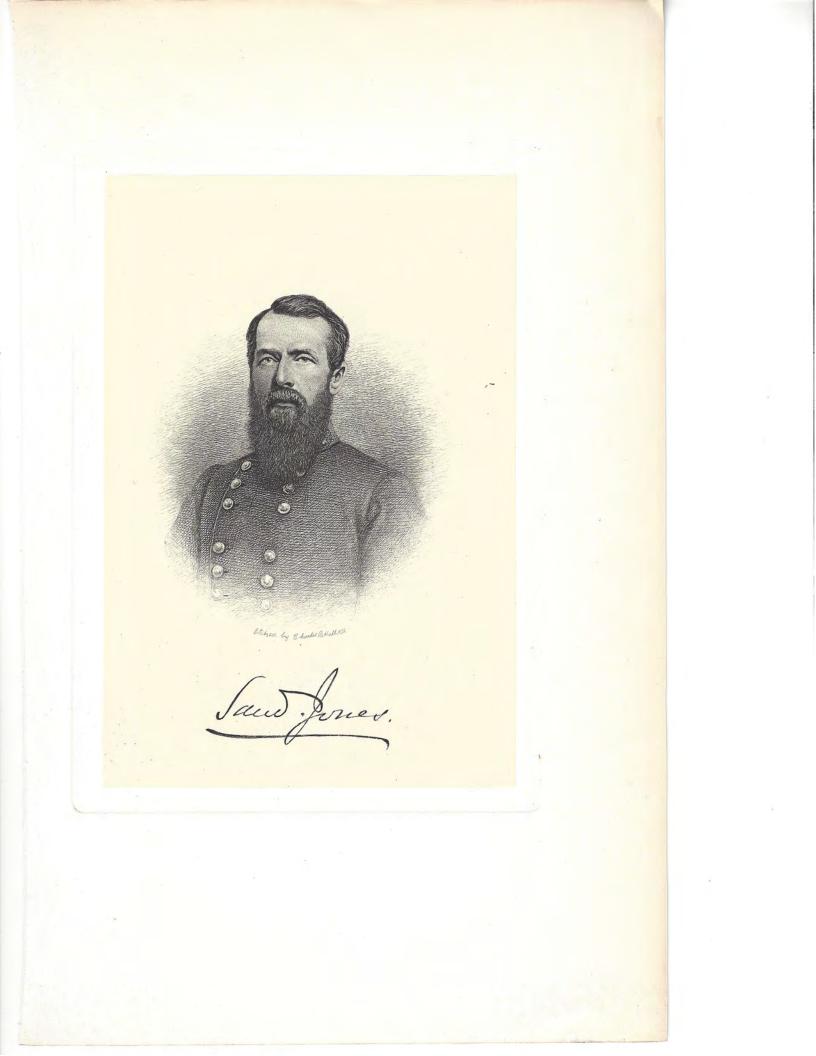
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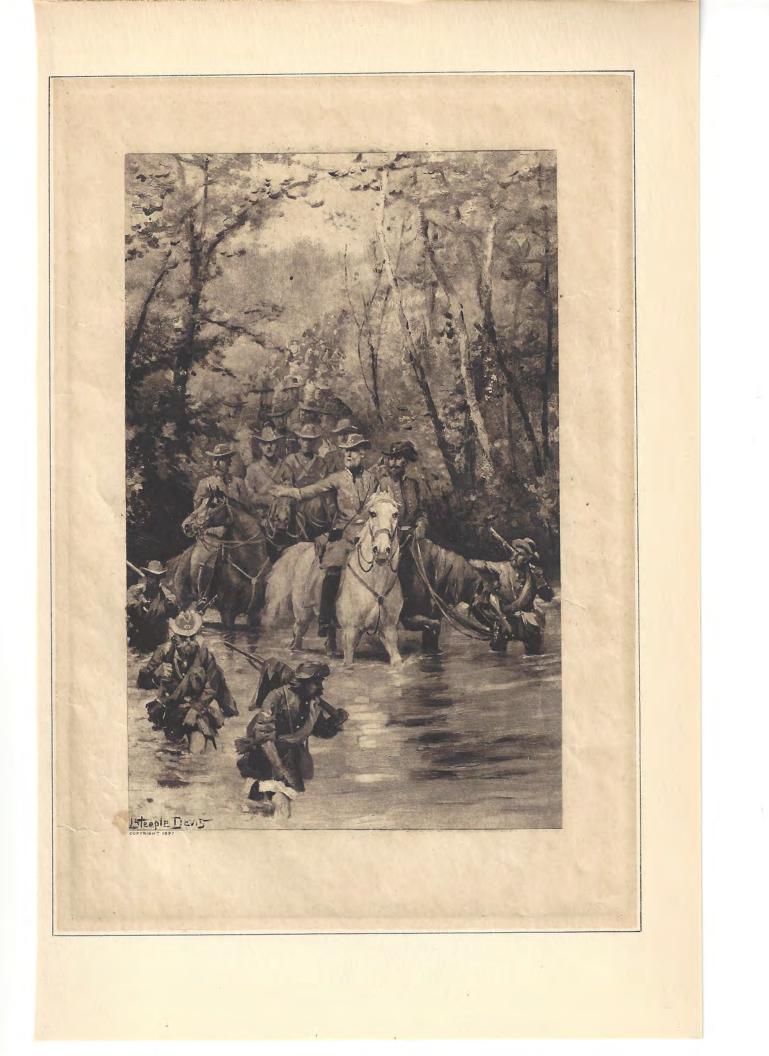
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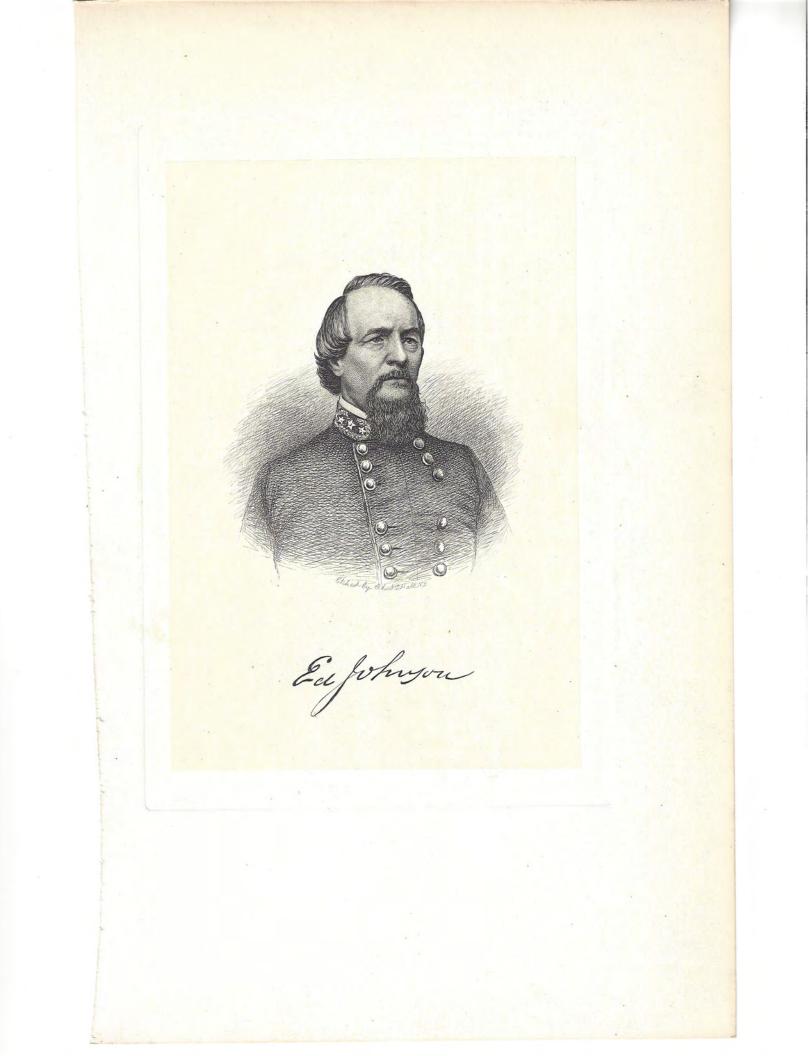


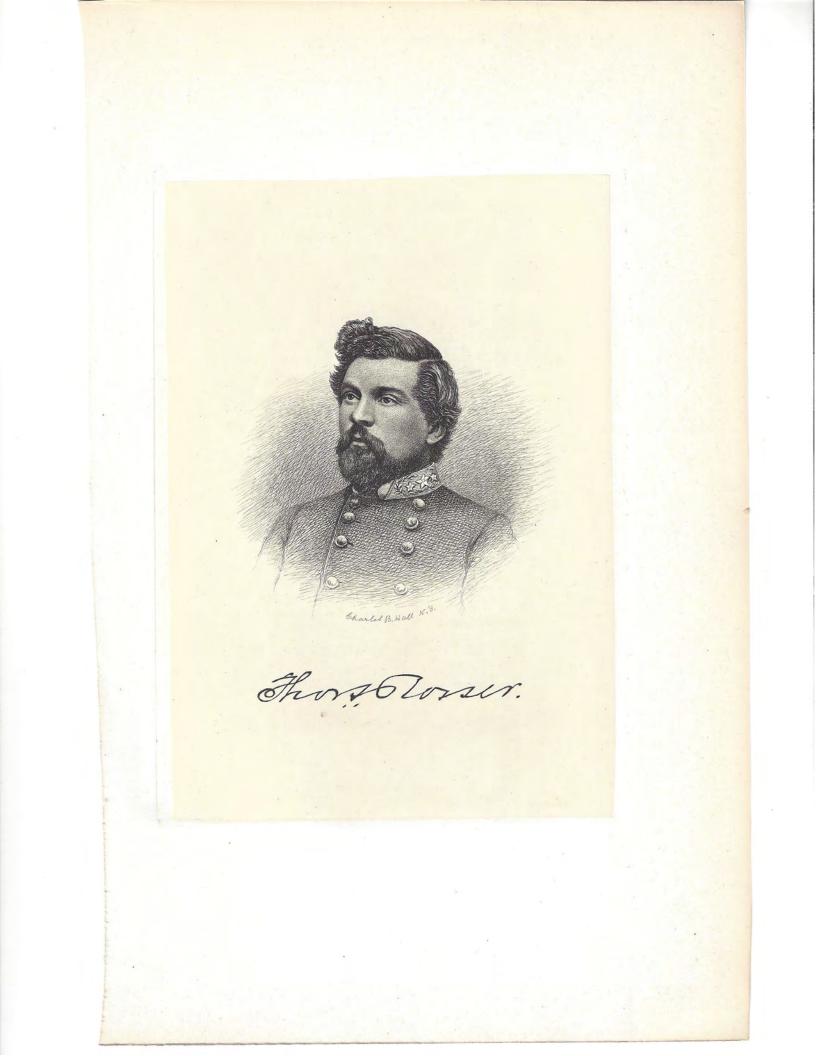


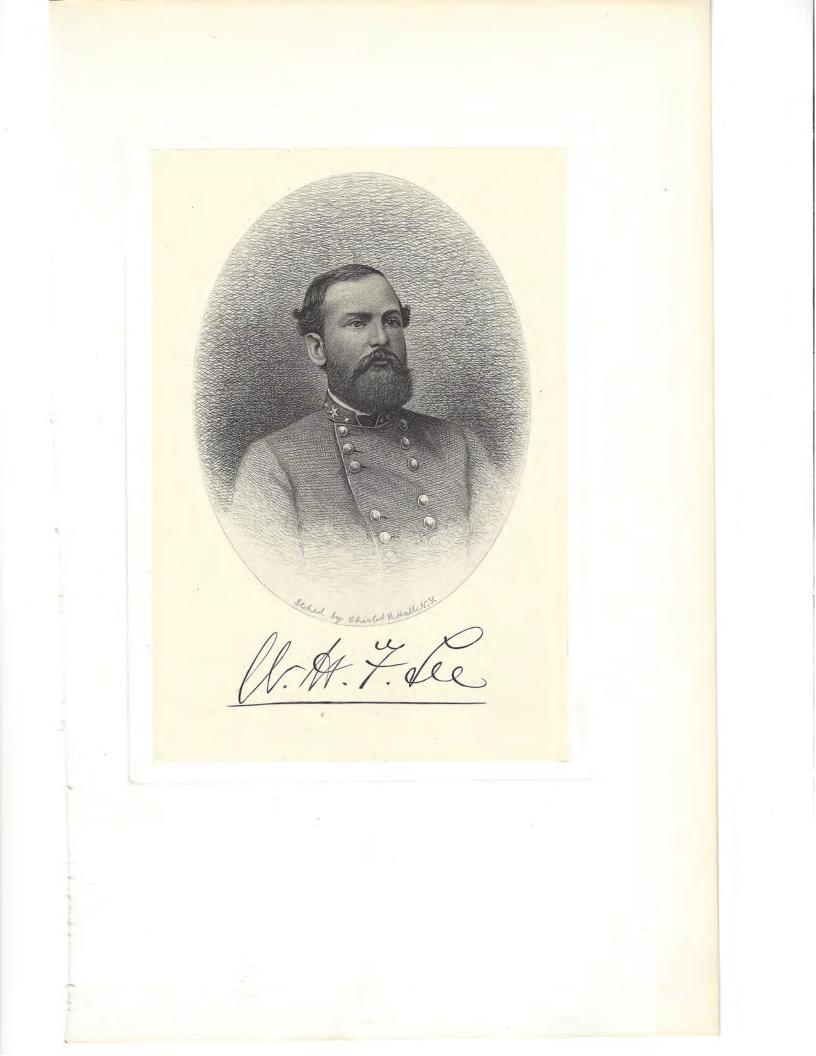


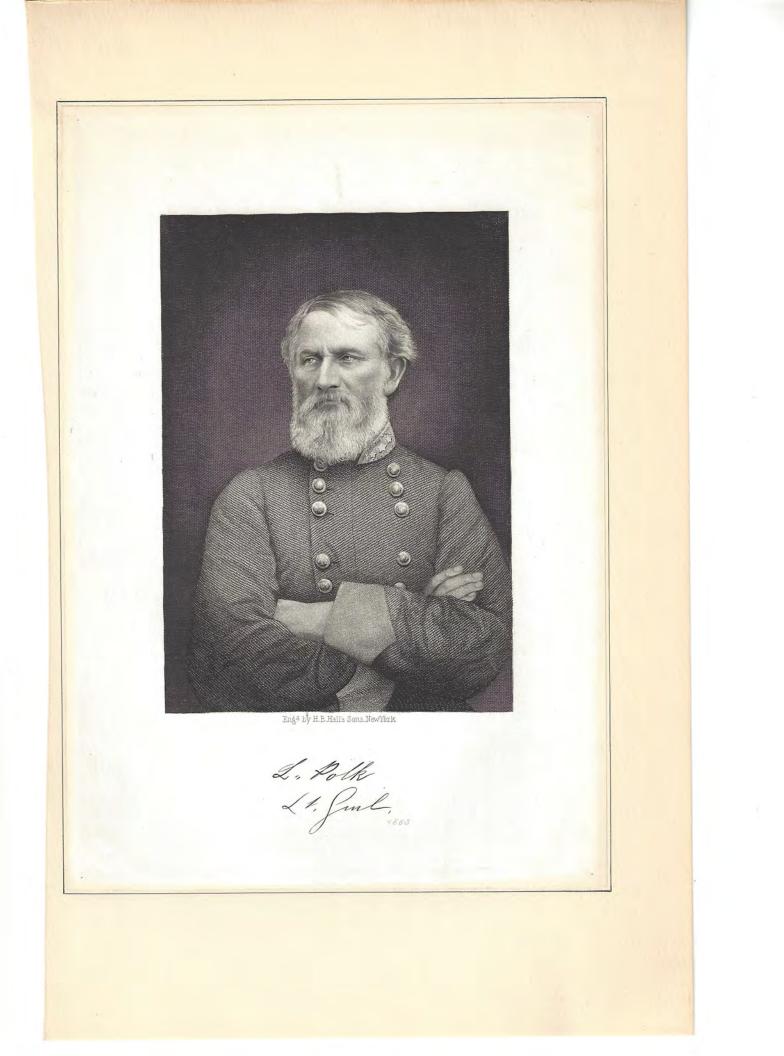




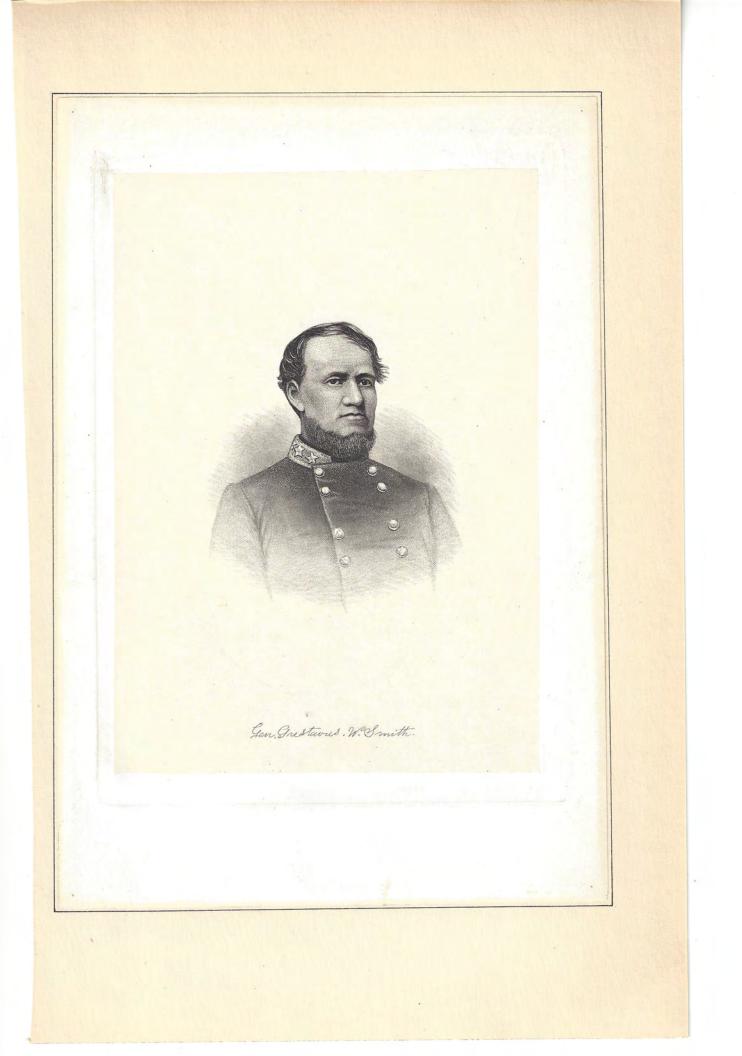


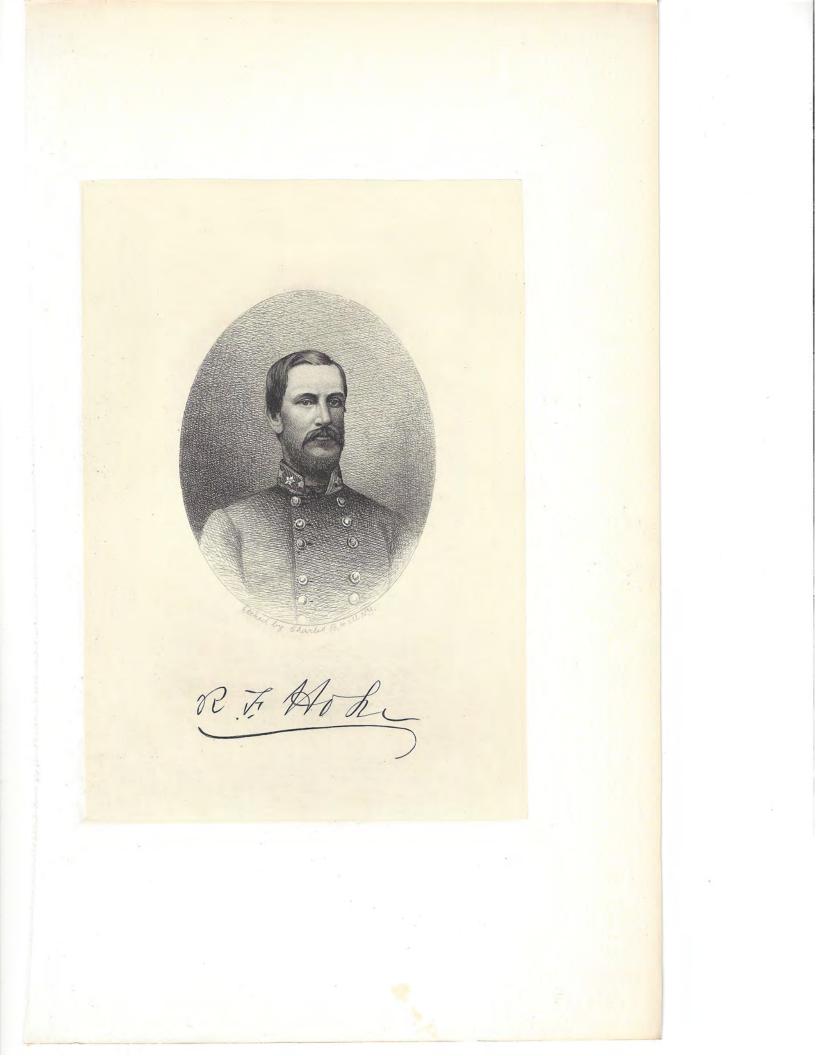




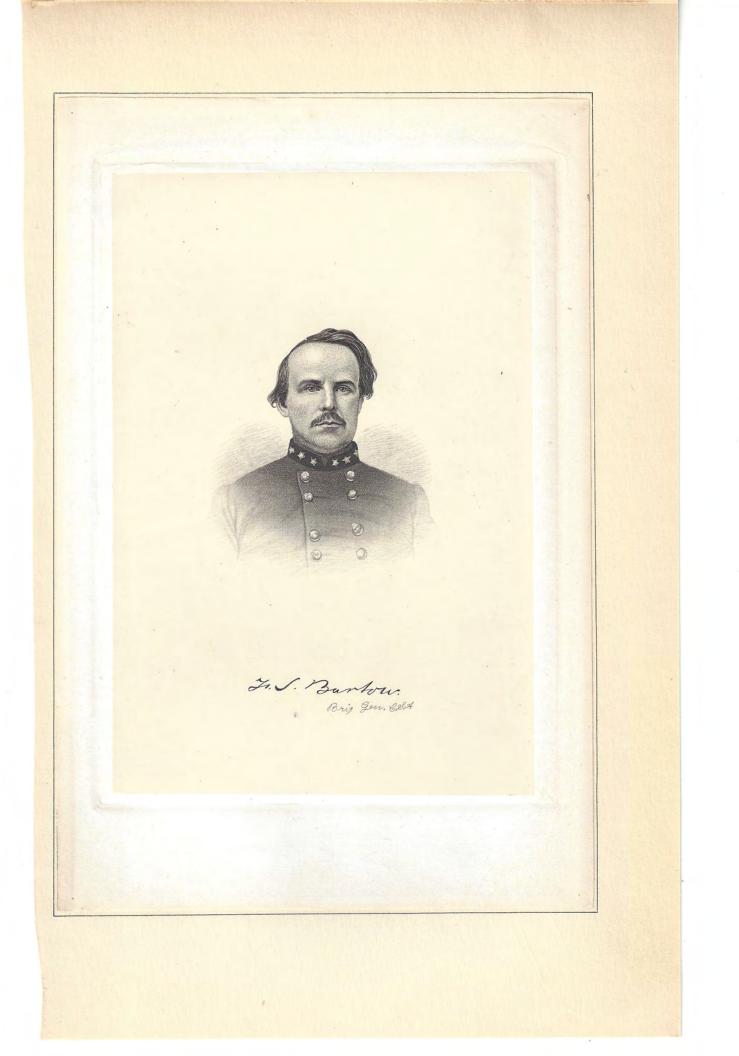


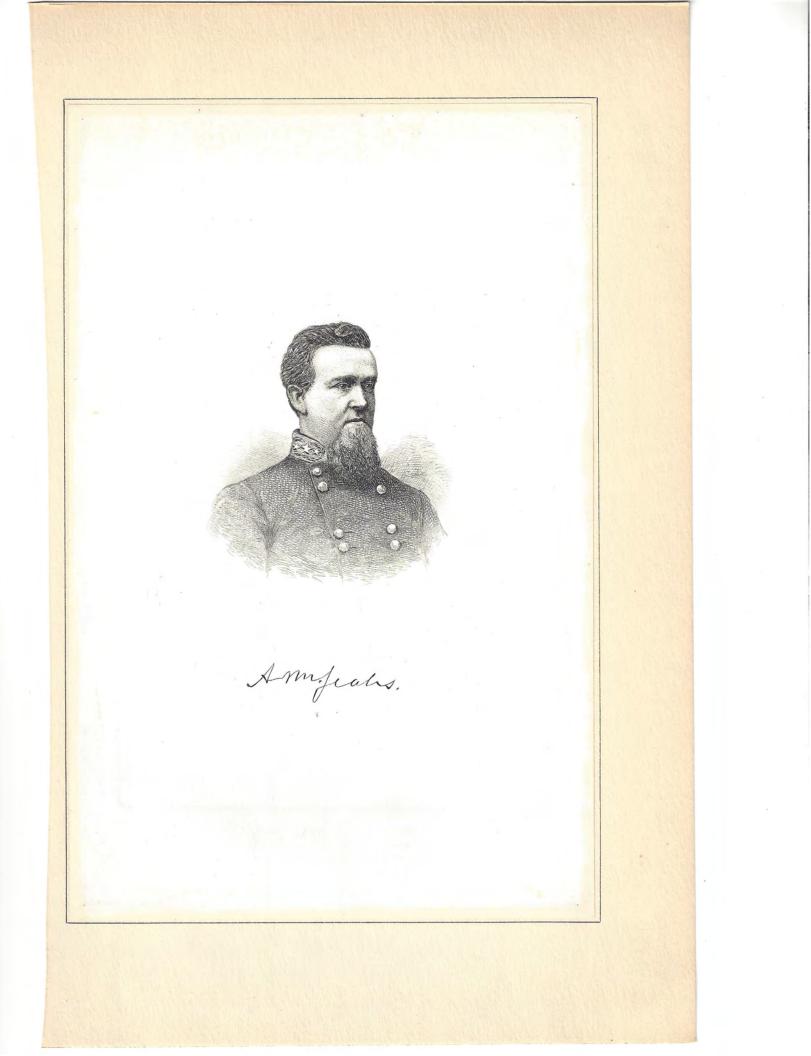


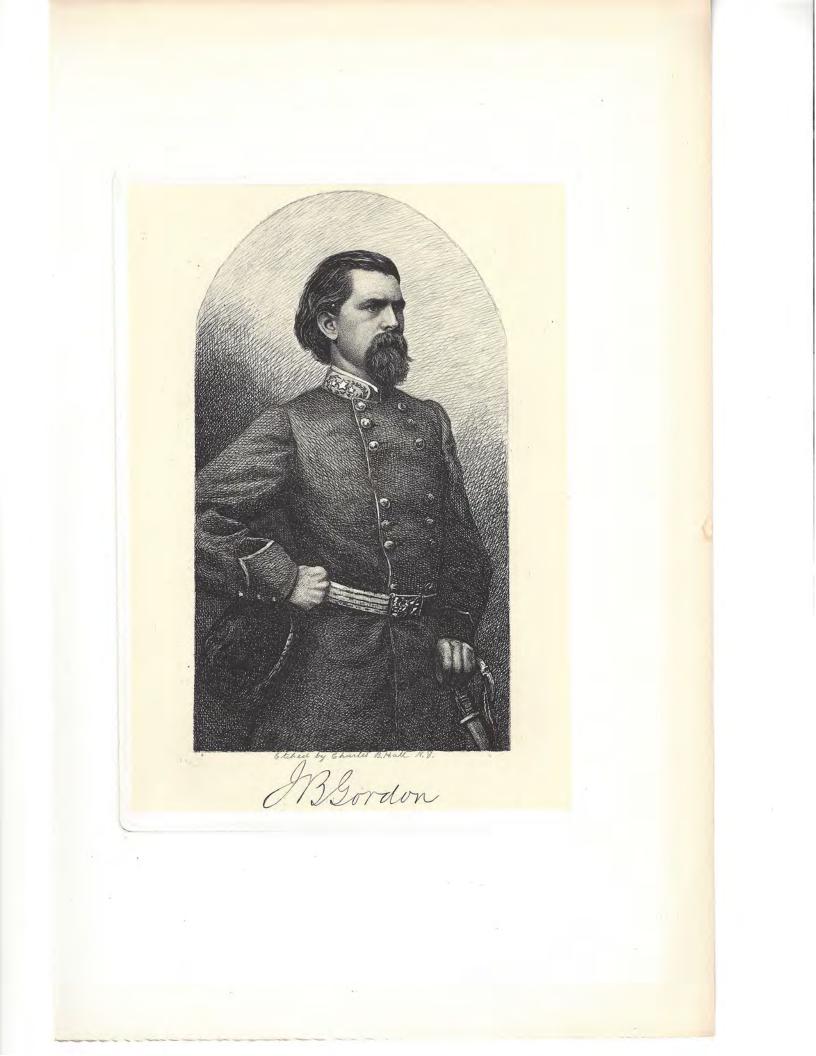




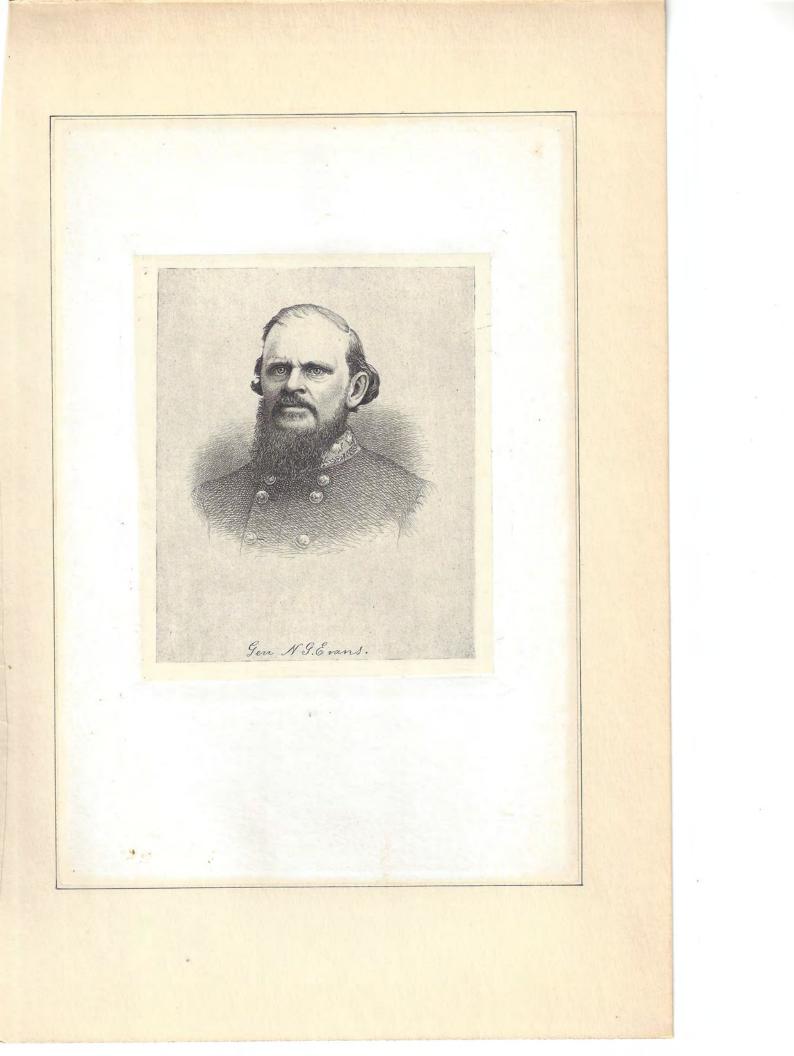
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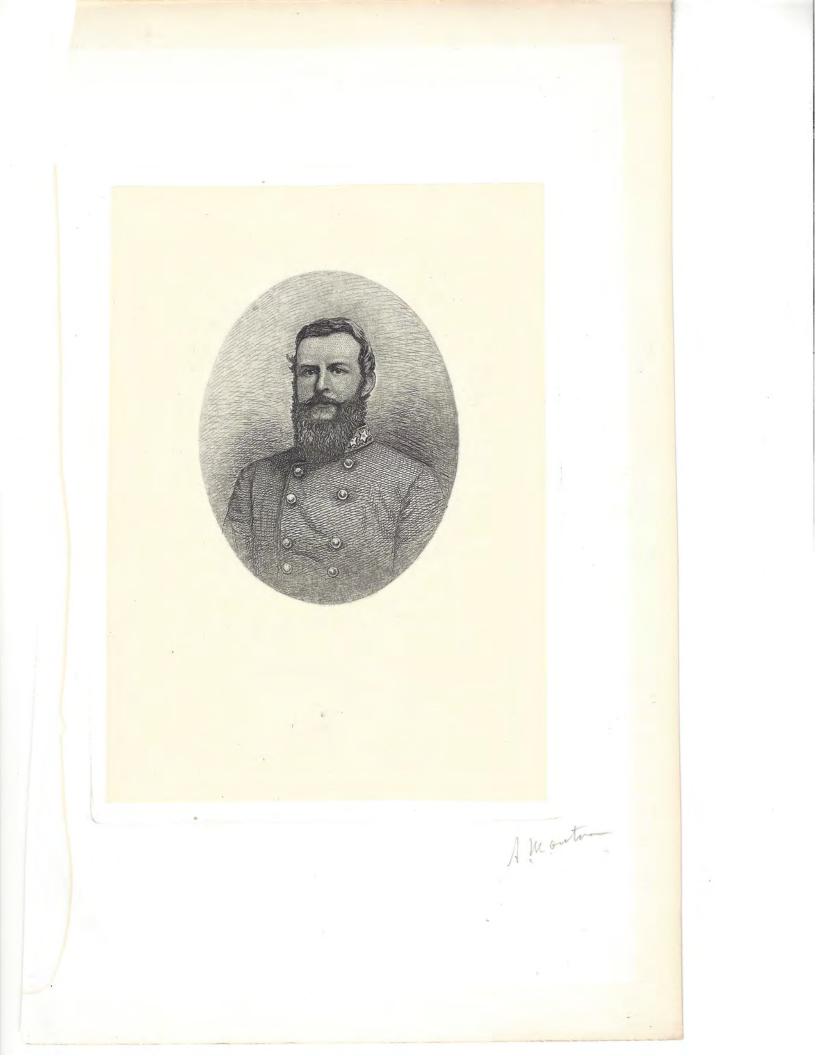


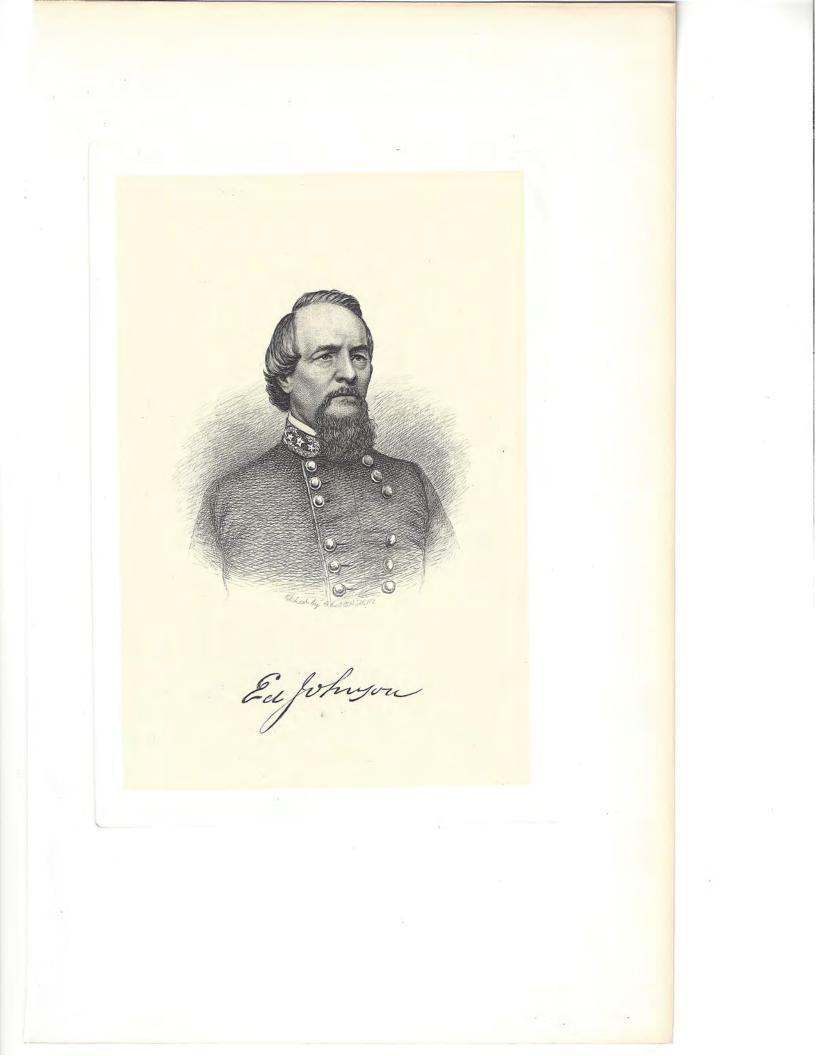


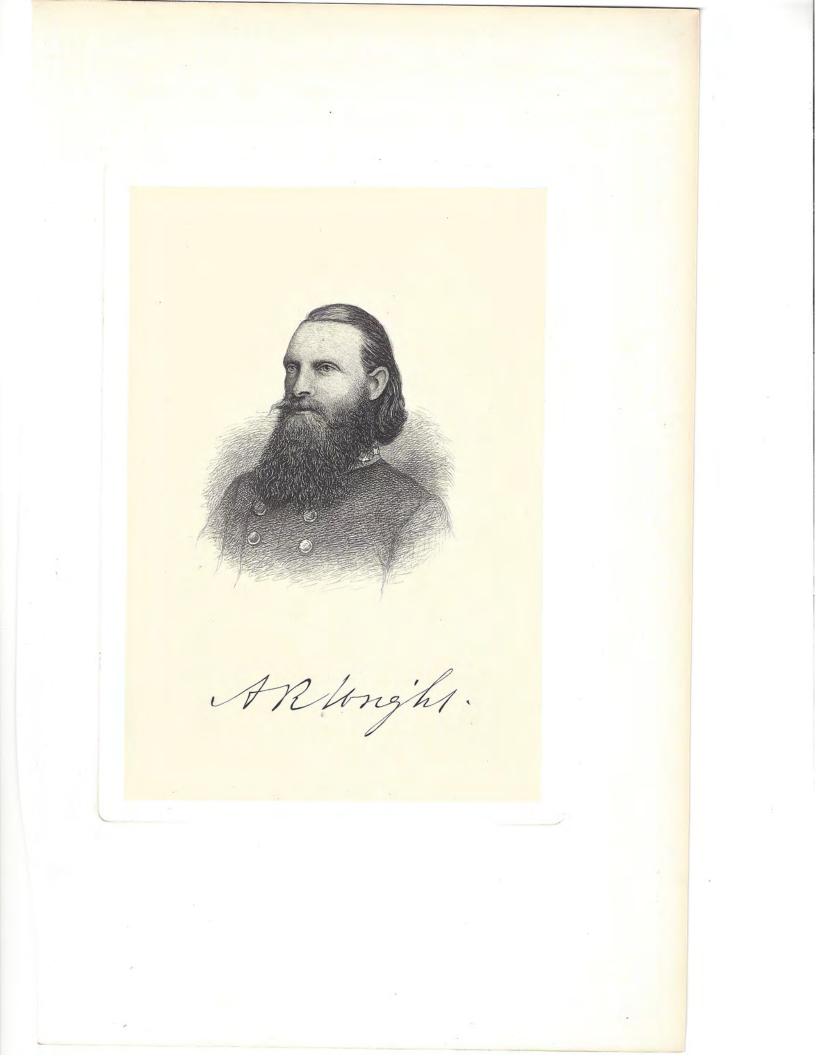


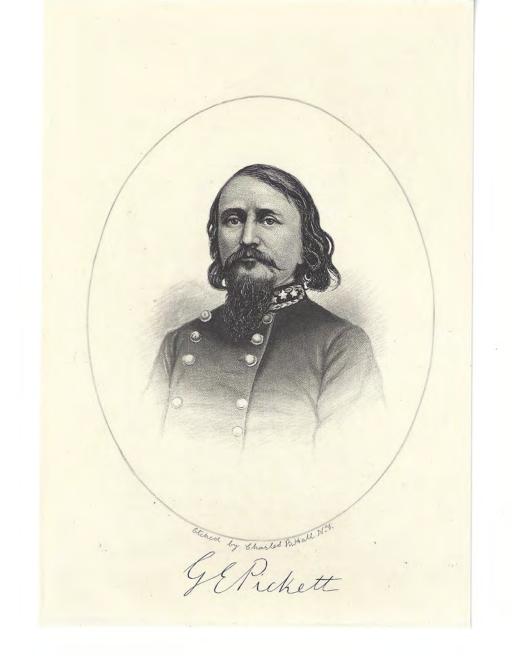
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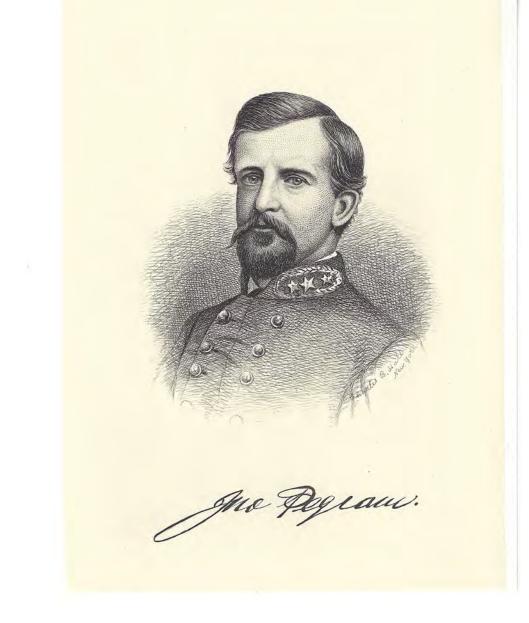


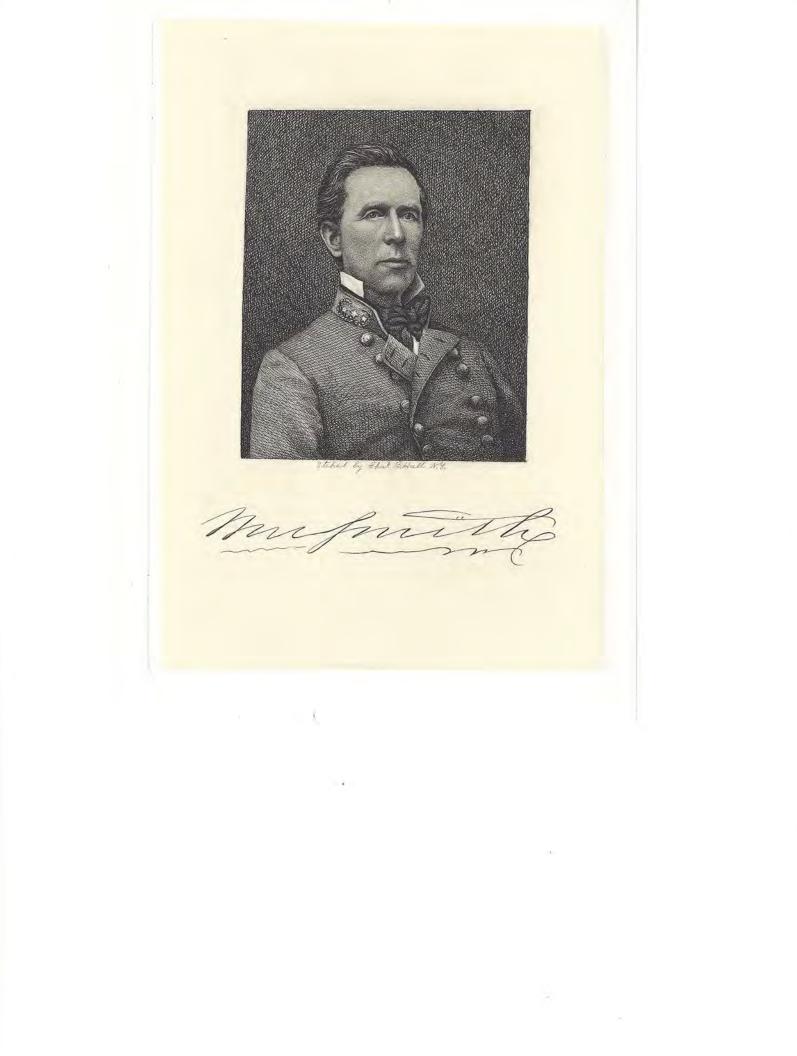


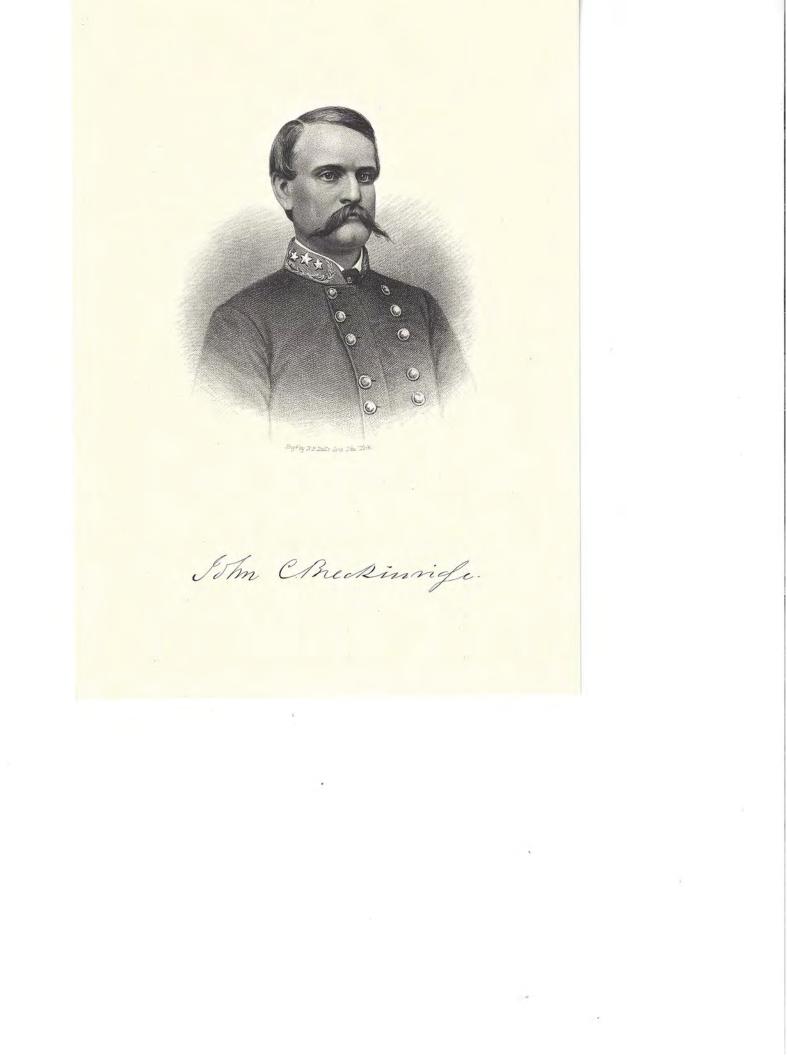




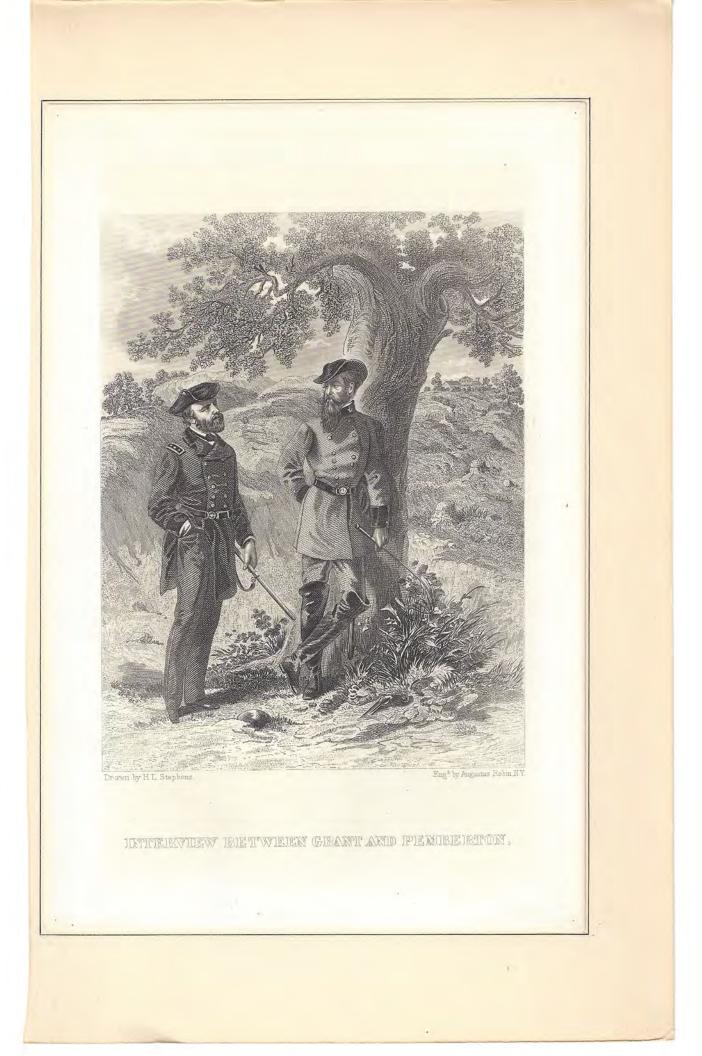








14 14  $\bigcirc$ ٢ 0 ٢ 0 J.E. Johnston







## C. S. A. TO G. A. R.

## A WAIF ON THE PAST.

Written for the ADVANCE-GAZETTE, Pensacola, Florida, by a Volunteer Soldier of the Southern Cause, from its inception to the final surrender at Appomattox ; who was never absent a day, sick or reported, nor ever had a furlough during the whole war. A member of the First Richmond Howitzers, Col. Colter Cabell's Battalion of Artillery, Northern Army of Virginia, C. S. A., First Army Corps, Gen. Longstreet commandant.

## PROF. F. NICHOLLS CROUCH.

Where brambles, chinquapins, blackberries grow, Lines formed of boulders, rubble and stones,
We soldiers contested, which all the world know, "The Blues," "The Greys," *neither* cowards nor drones,
Each fought on principle, both believed right; Trenches we dug—to bury the dead,
Shoulder to shoulder we haid them at night, All in their gory race, placed foot and head

All in their gory rags, placed foot and head.

Year after year maintained was this struggle, The trenches were filled, and newer ones yawned, The dead, being mustered by call of the bugle, Within these pits were their bodies entombed; No stone then marking the warrior's grave, No tears of woman bedewing the spot, Silence! stark ruin, environing the brave, On battle-fields left, to perish and rot.

Hamanities confines, the South to undo; Pillaging homesteads, and women defenceless, Fatherless orphans assigning the winds, His march for destruction, fierce, savage, relentless,

History shames, and no precedent finds.

Butler ! invoking his braves, demoniac, To outrage, as did the Sabines of old; Changed, since then's rancor, the Federal bivouac Merged into Union, and strengthened ten-fold; Out-numbered, not "conquered," we Southrons return Back to our cotton-fields, passive, resigned, Driving the plow, hoeing corn in the furrow, All of one spirit, one feeling, one mind.

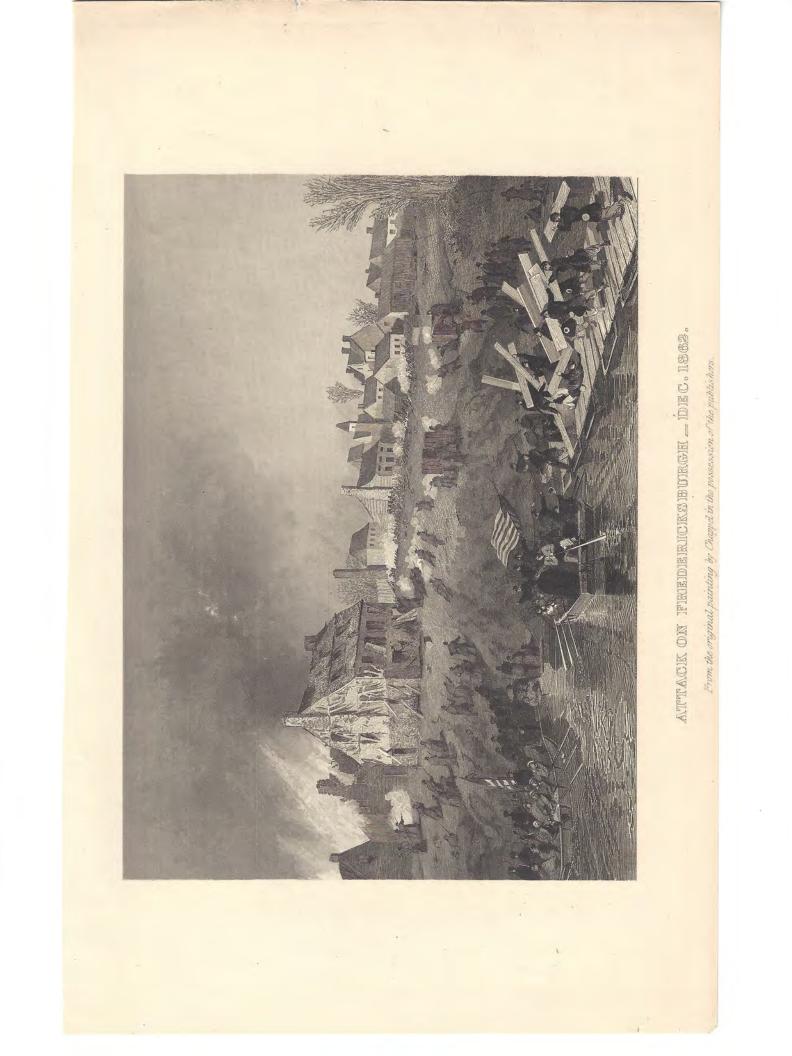
Re-union, cemented by deeds in the past, Heroic contestings for National Right; Re-union established, one people to last, Two rival armies united to fight; Blues and Greys marching, life-blood of the land, Legions now fused, should war call us out; Long-tried defenders, drilled years to command Victories, sweeping insurgents in rout.

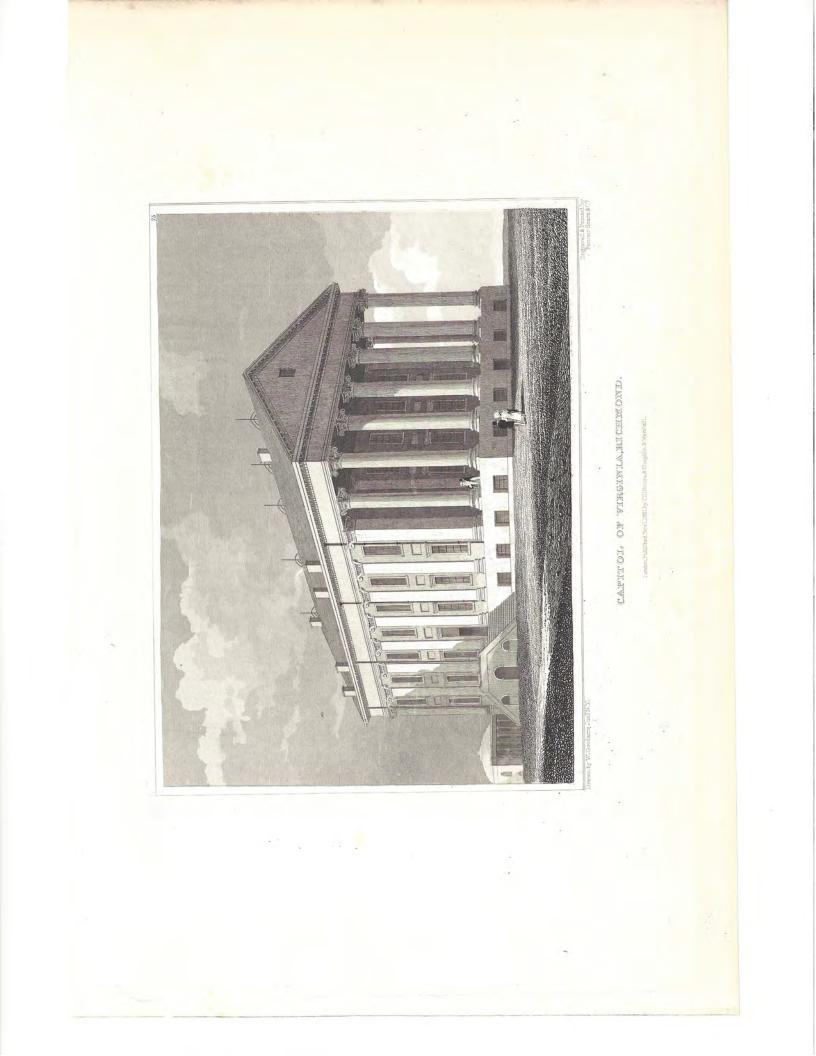
Gettysburg-last of our battles recorded, Whose valorous charges have ne'er been surpassed;
Doomed "A Lost Cause," its death there awarded, North and South divided, no longer should last;
The "fall back on Farmville," a "dernier resort,"
"Confederate States" made sepulchre there, The chivalric South, never conquered before, Surrendered its all—in silent despair.

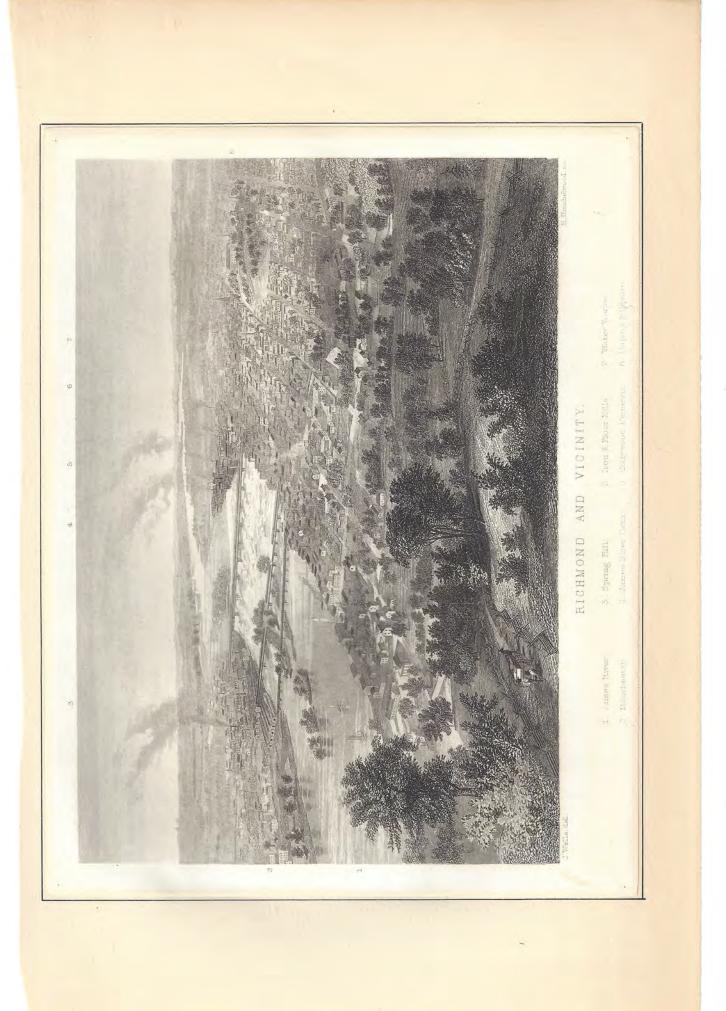
Since then, re-union, reconstruction abnormal, The Blues and the Greys have frequently met; Their greetings forged friendships, truthful, eternal, The past both forgetting, or recalled with regret. Not a sectional thought disturbs our repose; As heroes we met, proud in our might, Comrades in glory, no longer grim foes, Charging the lines in the hottest of fight.

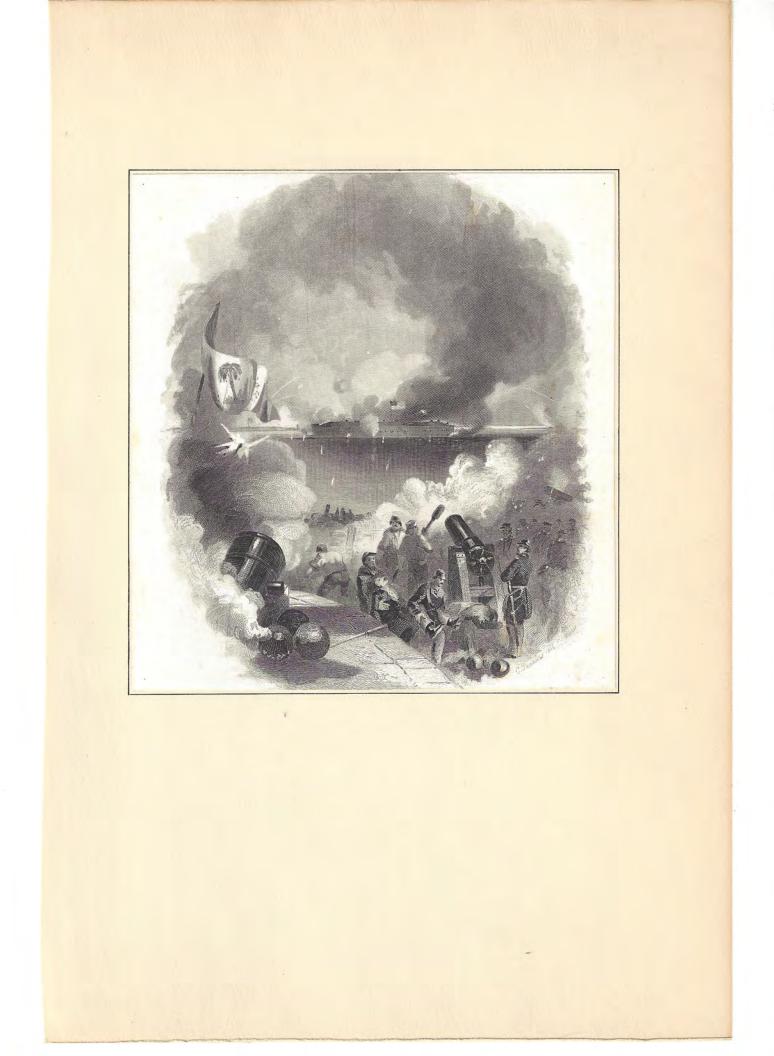
Their men, G. A. R., and our's, C. S. A., Are fraternized armies—both now are one; Each vies with the other, what part best to play Conveying the fact "Southern sentiment's gone;" It's shown wherever a grave's to be found, In monuments, statues, cemeteries, stones; Records there kept-not a man's been disowned, If proof can be brought they're true soldiers' bones.

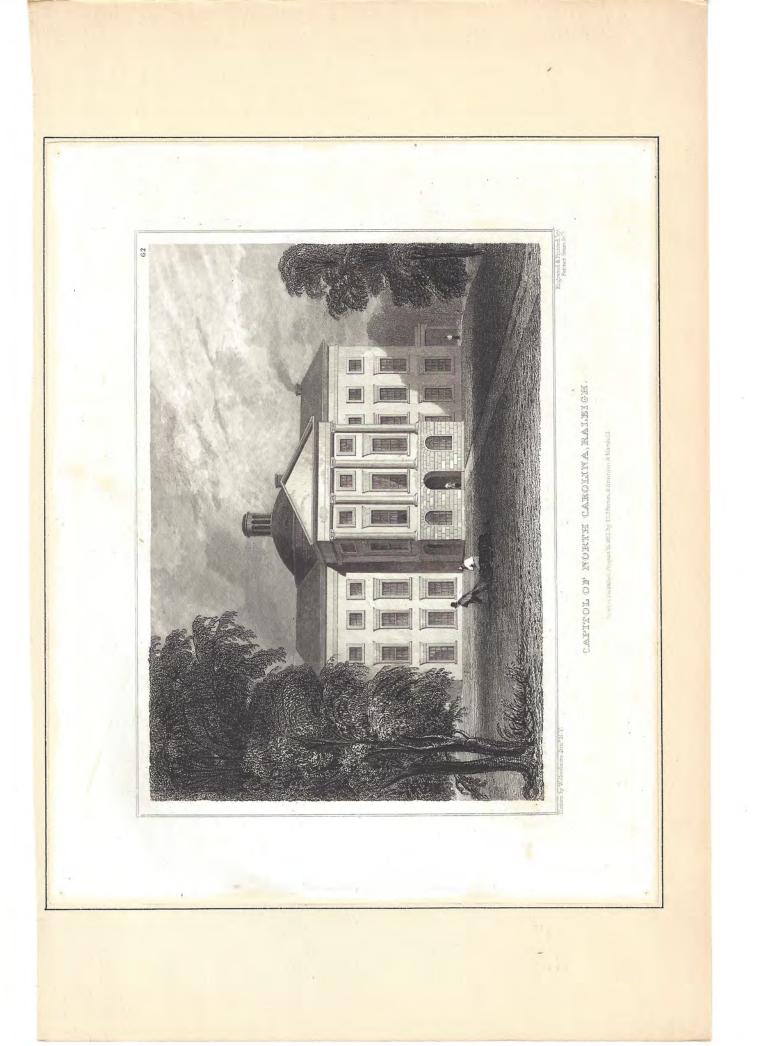
In our eightieth year, still answering roll-call, These thoughts we pen, ere last taps are given; Falling in line—Right Section—Close Order— Abiding commands, when sent us from Heaven. What's chronicled here are statements de facto.

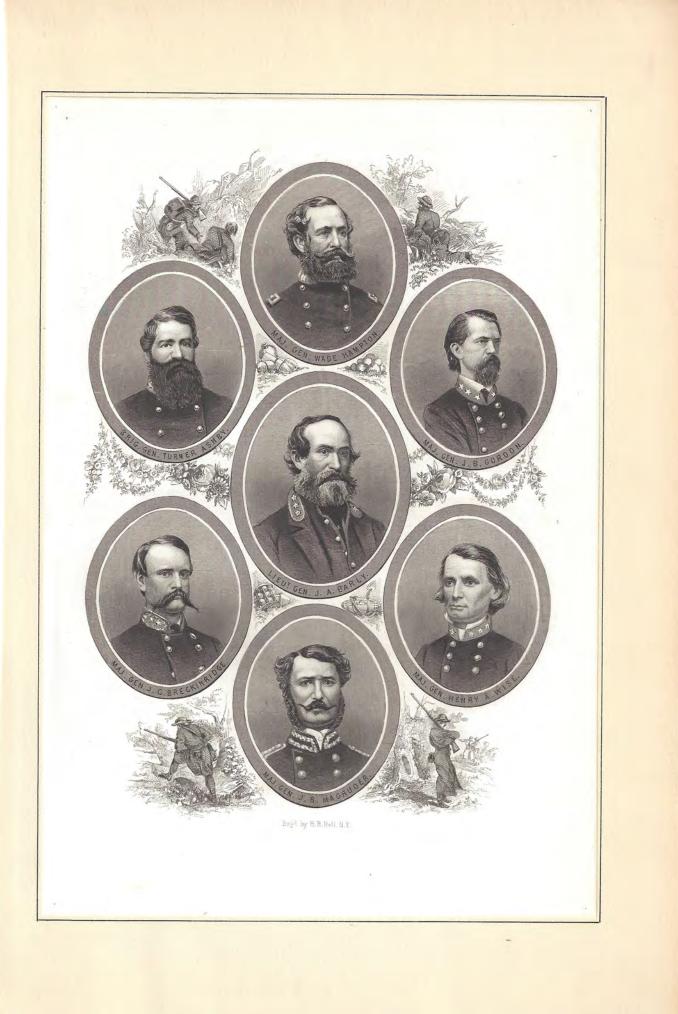


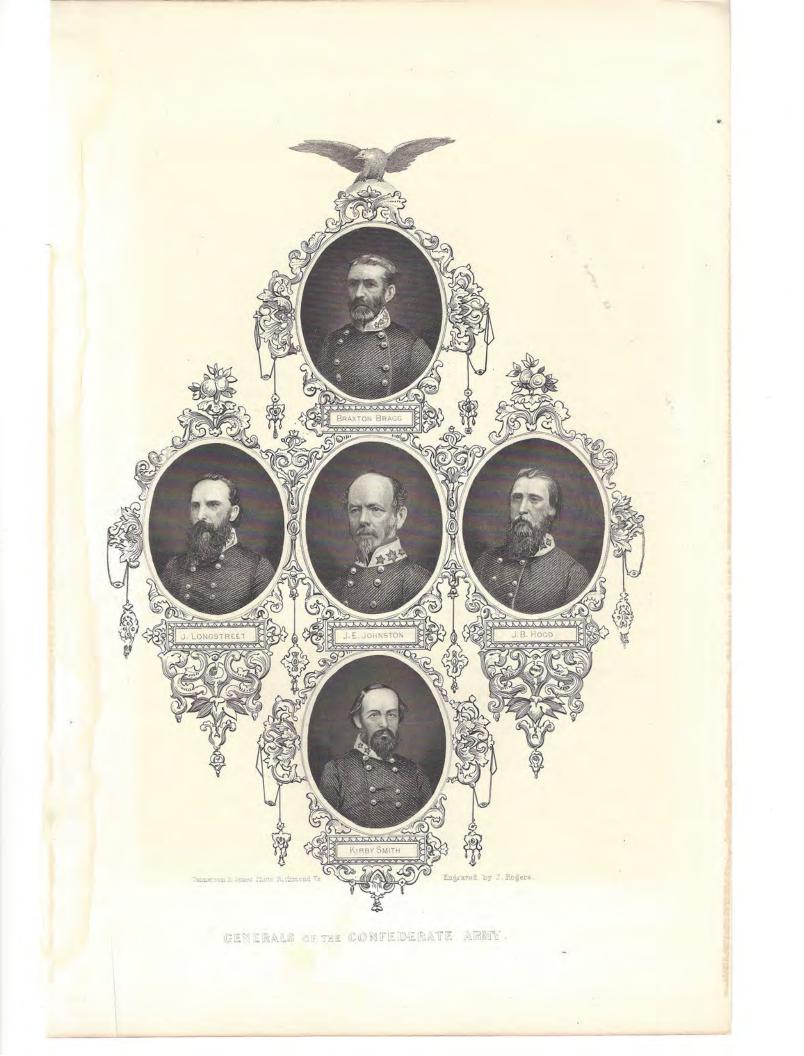












# Quarterly Return of Quartermaster's Stores received

CLASSES.				1. FUEL.				
in the second	Chester Chester		WOOD.			COAL.		
						-		
DATE.	ABSTRACTS, &c.	TRAVERS OF QUARTERNAST	Cords.	Feet.	Inches.	Anthracite.	Bituminous.	
		received, feeded, and remaining on her	No.	No.	No.	Pounds.	Pound	
i dente	Per last return	On hand					2	
	Abstract D	Received by purchase	iilmo.				-	
	" E	" from officers	130				128	
	"" N	Fabricated, taken up, &c						
	Total to b	e accounted for	130				128	
- Andrew Law	Per Abstract F	Fuel	109				910	
	" G	Forage         . <td>101</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	101					
	" I		441					
	" К	Special issues	1	23			350	
	" L						20	
		Issued and transferred				-		
	Total issu	ed and expended	130		-	-	128	
	Total ren	naining on hand					1.	
	CONDITION 1	In good order	1	1	12.			
	2	Unfit for service, but repairable				1	-	
- Com	3	Totally unfit for service						

Duplicate-for Quartermaster General's Office.

## QUARTERLY RETURN OF QUARTERMASTER'S STORES,

received, issued, and remaining on hand

at in the quarter ending on the  $\mathcal{S}I''$  of nuary , 1864.

Quartermaster.

#### NOTE.

The property on this return will be classed as follows, viz:

1. Fuel. 2. Forage.

6

By

- 3. Straw.
- 4. Stationery.
- 5. Barrack, Hospital, and Office furniture.
- 6. Means of transportation, including harness, &c.
- 7. Building materials.
- 8. Veterinary tools and Horse medicines.
- 9. Blacksmiths' tools.
- 10. Carpenters' tools.
- 11. Wheelwrights' tools.
- 12 Masons' and Bricklayers' tools.
- 13. Miscellaneous tools for fatigue and garrison purposes.
- Stores for expenditure—such as Iron, Steel, Horse shoes, Rope, &c., &c., to be classed alphabetically.

Lot#......ID#.5.7.9.....\$..... Stock# 5070 Price \$ 75 - 16 BALL#166 \$100 CSA STREE BOND LEMANDER Frajola A.L 20 1863 (((((( will pay to the Bearer liquite the record frem in the westinder 2 Fire Memater of the Treasure and the the sugar of On Beref Tie for the months process tonic to time estern ARIN DO NO FOUR Southed free CONTRACTOR STATE of the righteds series - fil C.S. LOAN PE On Borg you I No Ver Registered in the second stree Treasury Par \$ 100 How New Mantha lateres Months Interest Dave Auby Jac 29 65 TOUR DOLLARS 1. 2015-01 Vull pay to Search Rull per COMMEDICATE ADDINGTE STREETS OF C.S. LOWN BELL C.S. LOVI LEBRINEN SO 1863 For Six Monthe Interes Months interest Due some on the 1686 CHARDON TO THE TOUR CONFERENCE SUCCEASE STREES SAMERE C.S. LOAN FEL. C.S. LOAN FEBRUS ME'20 1863

#### THE BATTLE OF PETERSBURG.

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#### BY G. T. BEAUREGARD, GENERAL, C. S. A.

N the 9th of June General Butler sent a strong force across the Appo-• mattox for the purpose of striking another blow at Petersburg. Fully five thousand men, more than half of whom had been taken from General Gillmore's corps, the others from Kautz's mounted infantry, participated in that expedition, about the probable results of which much hope was entertained at Federal headquarters. The main reason for thus counting upon success on this occasion lay in the belief that Petersburg was totally unprotected, even more so than it really was; and, in fact, only 2200 men of all arms defended it then. But these defenders understood the great and imperative duty devolving upon them, and although not a few belonged to the local militia of the place, composed, as the Northern papers of that period had it, of old men stolen from the grave and of boys borrowed from the cradle, they so nobly and heroically acted their part, under the gal-lant and judicious leadership of General Wise, assisted toward the end by General Dearing and some of his cavalry, that they succeeded once again in saving Petersburg from the almost inevitable fate which then hung over it. It was indeed a narrow escape; so much the more so that the defensive line of the city, planned before my arrival in the department, measured seven miles and a half in length, more than four of which were entirely undefended. Without, therefore, intending in any way to disparage the intrepid conduct of the handful of men who so signally repulsed the Federal attack on that day, it is but fair to add that, had the enemy displayed sufficient boldness self should the necessity arise.

The Confederate forces opposed to Smith's corps on the 15th of June consisted of the 26th, 34th, and 46th Virginia regiments, the 64th Georgia, the 23d South Carolina, Archer's militia, Battle's and Wood's battalions, Sturdevant battery, Dearing's small command of cavalry, and some other transient forces, having a real effective for duty of 2200 only.

\* For accounts of the previous attempt to take actesburg, see the article by General Get Becauregard, p. 195, and one by General Non. F. Smith, p. 206. - Editors

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The five thousand men under Gillmore and Kautz were repulsed and ordered back without accomplishing their object, because, strange to say, General Gillmore "reported the works in his front to strong too assault." A

☆ Badeau's "Military History of U. S. Grant," Vol. II., Chapter XX., p. 343.

The movement of the Army of the Potomac to the south side of the James began on the evening of the 12th of June, and Smith's Corps (the Eighteenth) was at Bermuda Hundred in the early afternoon of the 14th. From Point of Rocks it crossed the river that night and was pushed forward without delay against Petersburg. Kautz's mounted infantry and Hinks's command of colored troops had been added to it, thus swelling the Eighteenth Corps to an aggregate of 22,000 men. The Ninth Corps (Burnside's) and the Sixth (Wright's) moved by way of Jones's Bridge and Charles City Court-House Road. The Second Corps (Hancock's) and the Fifth (Warren's) were marched from Long Bridge to Wilcox Landing.

It was with a view to thwart General Grant in the execution of such a plan that I proposed to the War Department [June 9th] the adoption—should the emergency justify it, and I thought it did — of the bold and, to me, safer plan of concentrating all the forces we could readily dispose of to give battle to General Grant, and thus decide at once the fate of Richmond, and of the cause we were fighting for, while we still possessed a comparatively compact, well-disciplined, and enthusiastic army in the field.

From Swift Creek, early in the morning of the 14th of June, I sent this telegram to General Bragg:

"Movement of Grant's across Chickahominy and increase of Butler's force render my position here critical. With my present forces I cannot answer for consequences. Cannot my troops sent to General Lee be returned at once? Please submit my letter of 9th instant to President."

No answer came. Late in the evening of the same day, having further reason to believe that one corps at least of General Grant's army was already within Butler's lines, I announced the fact to General Lee in the following telegram:

"A deserter from the enemy reports that Butler has been reinforced by the Eighteenth and a part of the Tenth Army Corps."

To this dispatch, likewise, there came no response. But, as prompt and energetic action became more and more imperative, and as I could no longer doubt the presence of Smith's corps with Butler's forces, I sent one of my aides, Colonel Samuel B. Paul, to General Lee with instructions to explain to him the exact condition and situation of my forces between Drewry's Bluff and Petersburg, to ask him such a statement of his present and future movements as he might feel at liberty to communicate, in order that I might be prepared to act in concert with him, according as circumstances might make

## Battle of Petersburg.

These troops occupied the Petersburg line on the left from battery No. 1 to what was called the Butterworth's Bridge, toward the right, and had to be so stationed as to allow but one man per every four yards and a half. From that bridge to the Appomattox - a distance of fully four miles and a half the line was entirely defenseless.

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Early in the morning-at about 7 o'clock A. M.-General Dearing, on the Broadway and City Point roads, reported his regiment engaged with a large force of the enemy. The stand made by our handful of cavalry, near their breastworks, was most creditable to themselves and to their gallant commander, and the enemy's ranks, at that point, were much thinned by the accurate firing of the battery under Graham. But the weight of numbers soon produced its almost inevitable result, and in spite of the desperate efforts of our men, the cavalry breastworks were flanked and finally abandoned by us, with the loss of one howitzer. Still, Dearing's encounter with the enemy, at that moment and on that part of the field, was of incalculable advantage to the defenders of our line, inasmuch as it afforded time for additional preparation and the distribution of new orders by General Wise.

At 10 o'clock A. M. the skirmishing had assumed very alarming proportions. To the urgent demands of General Wise for reënforcements, I was enabled at last to answer that part of Hoke's division was on the way from Drewry's Bluff and would be in time to save the day, if our men could stand their ordeal, hard as it was, a little while longer. Then all along the line, from one end to the other, the order was given "to hold on at all hazards!" It was obeyed with the resolute fortitude of veterans, though many of the troops thus engaged, with such odds against them, had hardly been under fire before, and Archer's militia not at all. At 12 M., and as late as 2 P. M., our center was vigorously pressed, as though the Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad were the immediate object of the onset. General Wise now closed the line from his right to strengthen Colonel Goode and, with him, the 34th Virginia; while, at the same time and with equal perspicacity, he hurried Wood's battalion toward the left in support of Colonel Page and his command.

The enemy, continuing to mass his columns toward the center of our line, pressed it more and more and concentrated his heaviest assaults upon batteries Nos. 5, 6, and 7. Thinned out and exhausted as they were, General Wise's heroic forces resisted still, with such unflinching stubbornness as to equal the veterans of the Army of Northern Virginia. I was then on the field and only left it when darkness set in. Shortly after 7 P. M., the enemy entered a ravine between batteries 6 and 7, and succeeded in flanking battery No. 5.

General Wise, in his report, says: "The line then broke, from No. 3 to No. 11 inclusive. The

2 being still ours. The 59th Virginia arriving at whole line on the right was then ordered to close to the left, up to battery No. 14; batteries 1 and the left."

But just then very opportunely appeared, advancing at double-quick, Hagood's gallant South Carolina brigade, followed soon afterward by Colquitt's, Clingman's, and, in fact, by the whole of Hoke's division. They were shown their positions, on a new line selected at that very time by my orders, a short distance in the rear of the captured works, and were kept busy the greatest part of the night throwing up a small epaulement for their additional protection. These gallant men and true soldiers, who had just gone through a forced march and who were being placed in position in the darkness of the night, upon ground totally unfamiliar to them, never faltered nor hesitated a moment, but rushed forward, with their wonted alacrity, and showed once more how reliable they were under all circumstances.

Strange to say, General Smith contented himself with breaking into our lines, and attempted nothing further that night. All the more strange was this inaction on his part, that General Hancock, with his strong and wellequipped Second Army Corps, had also been hurried to Petersburg, and was actually there, or in the immediate vicinity of the town, on the evening of the 15th. He had informed General Smith of the arrival of his command and of the readiness of two of his divisions-Birney's and Gibbon's-to give him whatever assistance he might require. Petersburg at that hour was clearly at the mercy of the Federal commander, who had all but captured it, and only failed of final success because he could not realize the fact of the unparalleled disparity between the two contending forces. Although the result of the fighting of the 15th had demonstrated that 2200 Confederates successfully withheld nearly a whole day the repeated assaults of at least 18,000 Federals, it followed, none the less, that Hancock's corps, being now



Battle of Petersburg 3 WI 10009 War Department had given me no answer, clearly intending that I should assume the responsibility of the measure, which I did. Scarcely two hours after Johnson's division had abandoned its position at Bermuda Hundreds, Butler's forces drove off the Confederate pickets left there, as already stated, and took full possession of the lines.

It is clear, from the preceding narrative, that no troops from General Lee's army were at Petersburg on the 15th of June, despite the assertions of a few writers to that effect, among whom, strange to say, is Mr. Davis himself. It is true that Hoke's division had been sent from Drury's Bluff at that date, and had arrived late in the evening and been placed in position on our new line, a fact which had given a feeling of unequivocal relief to all who had seen or taken part in the unequal contest of that memorable day. But Hoke's division, composed then of Colquitt's, Hagood's and Clingman's brigades, with the addition later on of Martin's, had never belonged to the Army of Northern Virginia, though sent temporarily to reënforce it after the battle of Drury's Bluff, on the 16th and 17th of May. They formed part of my new command, as did also Bushrod Johnson's division, including Matthew Ransom's brigade, transferred north of the James, on or about the 4th of June.

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Three Federal corps,—Smith's, Hancock's and Burnside's,—aggregating about sixty-six thousand men, confronted our lines on the 16th of June. Opposed to them I had, after the arrival of Johnson's division, at about 10 o'clock A. M., an effective of not more than ten thousand men of all arms.

Through a mere sense of duty, but with no sanguine hope of succeeding in the attempt, I addressed the following telegram, June 16, 7:45 A. M., to General Lee:

"Prisoner captured this A. M. reports that he belongs to Hancock's corps (Second), and that it crossed day before yesterday and last night from Harrison's Landing. Could we not have more reënforcements here?"

No direct answer was received to the above. But in reply to another dispatch of mine, June 16, 4 P. M., relative to tugs and transports of the enemy reported to have been seen that day by Major Terrett, General Lee sent this message:

"The transports you mention have probably returned Butler's troops." Has Grant been seen crossing James River ?"

This shows that General Lee was still uncertain as to his adversary's movements, and, notwithstanding the information already furnished him, could not realize that the Federal army had crossed the James, and that three of its corps were actually assaulting the Petersburg lines.

General Hancock, the ranking Federal officer present, had been instructed by General Meade not to begin operations before the arrival of Burnside's command. Hence the tardiness of the enemy's attack, which was only made after 5 o'clock P. M., though Burnside had reached Petersburg, according to his own report, at 10 o'clock A. M.

The engagement lasted fully three hours, much vigor being displayed by the Federals, while the Confederates confronted them with fortitude truly admirable, though they knew they were fighting against overwhelming odds, constantly increasing. Birney's division of Hancock's corps finally broke into part of our line and effected a lodgment. The contest, with varying results, was carried on until after nightfall, with advantage to us on the left and some serious loss on the right. It then slackened and gradually came to an end. In the meantime, Warren's corps, the Fifth, had also come up, but too late to take a part in the action of the day. Its presence before our lines swelled the enemy's aggregate to about 90,000, against which stood a barrier of not even 10,000 exhausted, half-starved men, who had gone through two days of constant hard fighting and many sleepless nights in the trenches, but who were ready, nevertheless, uncomplaining and unfaltering, to again face and repel their assailants.

Hostilities began early on the morning of the 17th. I here quote from "Military Operations of General Beauregard," Vol. II., p. 232:

"Three times were the Federals driven back, but they as often resumed the offensive and held their ground. About dusk a portion of the Confederate lines was wholly broken, and the troops in that quarter were about to be thrown into a panic, which might have ended in irreparable disaster, when happily, as General Beauregard with his staff was endeavoring to rally and reform the troops, Gracie's brigade, of Johnson's division, consisting of about twelve hundred men,— the return of which to his command General Beauregard had been urgently asking,— came up from Chaffin's Bluff, whence, at last, the War Department had ordered it to move. It was promptly and opportunely thrown into the gap on the lines and drove back the

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Bat of Petersburg as follows:

"Push after the enemy, and endeavor to ascertain what has become of Grant's Army O Inform General Hill."

Later on — *i. e.*, at 4:30 P. M., on the same day — he sent this message to Lieutenant-General A. P. Hill, at Riddle's shop:

"General Beauregard reports large numbers of Grant's troops crossed James River, above Fort Powhatan, yesterday. If you have nothing contradictory of this, move to Chaffan's Bluff."

Just at that time, however, and upon being informed by my Inspector-General of the statements of some of the last prisoners taken, I determined to send another telegram to General Lee, reiterating my former assertions, with the addition of other particulars:

"PETERSBURG, June 17, 1864, 5 P. M. "Prisoners just taken represent themselves as belonging to Second, Ninth and Eighteenth corps. They state that Fifth and Sixth corps are behind coming on. Those from Second and Eighteenth came here yesterday, and arrived first. Others marched night and day from Gaines's Mill, and arrived yesterday evening. The Ninth crossed at Turkey Bend, where they have a pontoon bridge. They say Grant commanded on the field yesterday. All are positive that they passed him on the road seven miles from here."

Prisoners sometimes err in their statements. Very few, however, hesitate to say to what corps, division, brigade or regiment they belong; and the greater number answer truthfully when properly interrogated. These had followed the general rule. But others also had come in later, and had been again examined by my Inspector-General, who had reduced to writing the substance of all the information thus obtained. It confirmed me in the belief that not three only, but four Federal corps actually confronted us. And without further delay, at 6:40 P. M., I addressed this dispatch to General Lee:

"The increasing number of the enemy in my front, and inadequacy of my force to defend the already too much extended lines, will compel me to fall within a shorter one, which I will attempt to effect to-night. This I shall hold as long as practicable, but without reënforcements I may have to evacuate the city very shortly. In that event I shall retire in the direction of Dryry's Bluff, defending the crossing at Appomattox River and Swift Creek."

I had also sent, that day, to General Lee's headquarters, first, Lieutenant Chisolm, one of my aids; then, later on in the evening, Colonel Roman, my chief inspector; and, after midnight, on the 18th, Major Cooke, one of the assistant inspectors of the department. Their instructions were to explain verbally, with all necessary details, what it had been impossible to express in the laconic telegraphic messages already forwarded; and to further impress upon General Lee the urgency of sending immediate assistance to me. To Colonel Roman, who had taken with him the condensed statements of more than forty prisoners examined by him on that day, I had specially enjoined to say:

"That if General Lee did not come to my assistance with his whole army in less than fortyeight hours, God Almighty alone would save Petersburg and Richmond."

Lieutenant Chisolin saw General Lee, Colonel Roman did not. General Lee said to Chisolm, and his efficient chief-of-staff informed Roman, that General Grant's army was still facing the Army of Northern Virginia, and that the prisoners upon whose statements we appeared so much to rely had greatly exaggerated the danger of the situation, if they had not altogether falsified the truth. Major Cooke arrived at General Lee's headquarters, an hour or two afterwards, on the 18th. His diary of that date contains the following:

. . . "After talking with the general (Lee) for some time, and accomplishing in part my object in seeking him, I left for Petersburg."  $\uparrow$ 

A See in "Military Operations of General Beauregard," Vol. II., p. 579, extracts from Major Cooke's Diary. See also in same Vol., pp. 575-6-7-8, Colonel Roman's letter about his mission to General Lee at that time.

The firing lasted, on the 17th, until a little after 11 o'clock P. M. Just before that time I had ordered all the camp-fires to be brightly lighted, with sentinels well thrown forward and as near as possible to the enemy's. Then, at about 12:30 A. M., on the 18th, began the retrogade movement, which, notwithstanding the exhaustion of our troops and their sore disappointment at receiving no further reënforcements, was safely and silently executed, with uncommonly good order and precision, though the greatest caution had to be used in order to retire unnoticed from so close a contact with so strong an adversary.

The digging of trenches was begun by the men as soon as they reached their new position Avog of well of melling the line of the source of the



#### Battle of Petersburg

energetic action, to save Petersburg—and, therefore, Richmond—from the inevitable fate otherwise awaiting both. With such an army as the Army of Northern Virginia, and with such a commander to lead it, time lost was but rarely, if ever, irretrievably lost.

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General Kershaw's division, which proved to be, on this occasion, the vanguard of General Lee's army, reached Petersburg early Saturday morning, June 18th; it numbered about five thousand men, and was placed, by my orders, on the new line already occupied by our forces, with its right on or near the Jerusalem Plank road, extending across the open field and bending back toward the front of the cemetery. General Field's division, of about equal strength, came in some two hours after Kershaw's. It had not yet been assigned to its place on the line when General Lee in person arrived at 11:30 o'clock A. M. on that day.

When, early in the morning, the enemy was pushed forward to make the "grand attack ordered for 4  $\Lambda$ . M. on the 18th,"  $\Leftrightarrow$  the retirement of our forces

General Meade's report, dated November 1st, 1864.

on the previous night from their first positions to the new line of defenses selected by me, as already explained, had so much surprised the assaulting columns as to induce their immediate commanders to additional pradence in their advance and to a complete halt in their operations. The absence of the Confederates from positions in which they were expected to be found disconcerted the Federals in the extreme. They knew not what might be in store for them.

On that morning the troops arrayed against us consisted of Hancock's, & Burnside's and Warren's corps, with the larger portion of Smith's under General Martindale, and finally with Neill's division, from Wright's corps (the Sixth), strengthened by its whole artillery. This gave the enemy an aggregate of over ninety thousand effectives. We had on our side, after Kershaw's arrival, but fifteen thousand men; no deduction being made for the casualties of the three preceding days. It was only later on, somewhere between 12 M. and 1 P. M., that Field's command was put in position on the line; and from that moment to the end of the day our grand total amounted to about twenty thousand men. At noon-or thereabout-the predetermined "grand attack" was renewed, although partial, disconnected assaults had been made before that hour on several parts of our line, but with no tangible result of any This renewed attack had been mainly led by Gibbon's division of kind. Hancock's corps. It proved to be entirely ineffectual. And still another grand attempt was made at 4 P. M., with at least three full Federal corps coöperating: Hancock's on the right, Burnside's in the center, and Warren's on the left. General Meade, in his report, says it was "without success." And he adds these words: "Later in the day attacks were made by the Fifth and Ninth corps with no better results." The truth is that, despite the overwhelming odds against us, every Federal assault, on the 18th, was met with most signal defeat, "attended," says Mr. Swinton, the Federal historian, "with another mournful loss of life." This was, in fact, very heavy, and exceeded ours in the proportion of nine to one. "Indeed, it amounted to more than the number of men we had in action." J

t "Military Operations of General Beauregard," Vol. II., Chap. XXXVII., p. 249,

My welcome to General Lee was most cordial. He was at last where I had, for the past three days, so anxiously hoped to see him,—within the limits of Petersburg! Two of his divisions had preceded him there; and hi wholearmy would be in by evening of the next day, namely, the 19th of June. T felt sure, therefore, that, for the present at least, Petersburg and Richmond were safe; not that our forces would be numerically equal to those of the enemy, even after the arrival of the last regiment of the Army of Northern Virginia. But I was aware that our defensive line would now count more than one man per every four and a half yards of its length; and I felt relieved to know that, at last, the whole of our line—not portions of it only as heretofore—would be guarded by veteran troops alike, if not superior, in mettle to the veteran troops opposing them.

Scarcely two hours after General Lee's arrival I rode with him to what was known as the City Reservoir, on a commanding elevation, toward the right of our line. A good view of the surrounding country could be had from that point, and the whole field was there spread out before us like a map. I explained to General Lee and showed him the relative positions of our troops and of those of the enemy. I also pointed out to him the new and



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policy—one, he said, which had thus far proved successful to him—would be to maintain the defensive as heretofore. I urged that the Federal troops were at least as much exhausted as ours, and that their ignorance of the locality would give us a marked advantage over them; that their spirits were jaded, and ours brightened just then by the fact of the junction of his army with my forces; and that the enemy was not yet entrenched. But I was then only second in command, and my views did not prevail.

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The evening of the 18th was quiet. There was no further attempt on the part of General Meade to assault our lines. He was "satisfied" there was "nothing more to be gained by direct attacks."☆ The spade took the place

 $\bigotimes$  See his report.

of the musket, and the regular siege of Petersburg was begun. It was only raised April 2, 1865.

No event of our war was more remarkable than the almost incredible resistance of the handful of men who served under me at Petersburg, on the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th of June, before the arrival of General Lee. They knew they were fighting more than seven times their number. In fact, the disproportion of the first day had been much greater; and opposed to them were some of the finest and best disciplined Federal corps. My troops had had no regular sleep, and had hardly had a scanty meal once in twenty-four hours. And yet the courage, the endurance, and spirit of these men never quailed. They fought unremittingly until the end — until their opponents ceased to fight. Not one of them had left his post, except, perhaps, to remove the dead body of a fallen comrade, or to have his own wound bandaged. I am proud to think that I was the leader of such troops.