

53. Original not in General Lee's handwriting but signed by him.

Headqrs Savannah Ga
28 Feb: 1862

W. J. Magrath Esqr
Charleston S.C.

Sir

It is very important for the security of the C.&S. R.Road, and the protection of the cities of Charleston & Savannah, that we be provided with the means of moving the troops stationed along the line of the road rapidly, to any point that may be threatened. For this purpose I request that certain cars or platforms retained at the Charleston Depot, should be stationed near the Salkeatchi bridge, subject to the orders of Maj. Genl Pemberton - These cars could be used when required, for the movment of troops & etc, elsewhere, by the company, by notifying Genl Pemberton to that effect (page 2). In connection with this subject, I would propose that a telegraph be stationed at the Charleston depot, that Mr Hayne the Supt. might be in quick communication with Genl Pemberton - Mr. Hayne could also through the other telegraph offices along the road, be kept advised of the movements of all trains &etc, by which I should think the business of the road wd be much facilitated - If in addition to this, the bridge across the Ashley could be strengthened & widened by the removal of the lattice superstructure so as to admit the passage of engines & cars, the R.R., business community, Govt and State wd be much benefitted - It will save transshipment of freight etc & when necessary the rolling stock (page 3) of the road could be moved to the Charleston roads & thus be saved from the enemy-

I am very resp:
Your obtservt

R E Lee
GenlCmdg