

Hd.qrs: Jefferson

24 Aug. '62

His Excl

Jeffr. Davis

President C. States

Richmond

Mr. President

The enemy is in force before us occupying the left bank of the Rapp.R. & has greatly the advantage of us in Artl. (I send you an autograph letter from Gen. Pope to Gen. McClellan. It is of old date 4 July, but interesting as exhibiting his plan of campaign when you compare it with its failure.

I have another letter from Gen. Pope to Gen. Halleck dated 20th Inst; placing his whole force for duty at 43,000 independent of Burnside, & stating his plan to be to hold us in check until McClellan can join him from the ~~town~~ ^{lower} Rapp.) Gen. Fitz John Porter is to march from Falmouth and is the advance of McClellan. I think I can feed the

whole army here if Col. Northrop will give the necessary directions about collecting beef. If we can secure this county the millers will give us flour. At first there will be difficulties, but they will be softened as we advance. We shall relieve other parts of the county, enjoying what would be consumed and destroyed by the enemy. The theatre of war will thus be changed for a season at least, unless we are overpowered.

This last letter of Pope's I think makes it certain that McClellan's destination is to join Pope. The whole army I think should be united here as soon as possible. I have ordered up Riply whom I had advanced to Culpepper, and will direct Gen. G.W. Smith to send on McLaws, D.H. Hill and other available troops. Should you not agree with me in the propriety of this step please countermand the order and let me know. Gen. Loring should also be directed to operate northward and descend the Valley of Shenandoah, so as to threaten their possession of the Valley, in the event of the information

I sent you about the withdrawal of Coxe (~~of~~), proving true.
Hampton's cavalry I particularly require. The defences around
Richmond must be perfected and completed with hired labor and
held by the fixed ^{batteries} ~~battalions~~. I shall require Gen. Pendleton's
^{reserve}
~~usual~~ battalions.

I have the honor to be

Your obt. servt.

R. E. LEE

Genl.

P.S. I advanced the troops here last night and this was (~~of~~), in
consequence of ascertaining that the enemy feeling secure on their
left from the high water of the Rapp. R. was concentrating his force
upon Gen. Jackson.

R. E. L.