

Hdqrs. 23, Apl. '64.

Mr. President

Notwithstanding the numerous reports recd. of the 11th & 12th Corps having Come East, I do not think it certain. I have had very direct intelligence of the passage of the 9th Corps over the B.&O. R.R., about the last of March & first of April, & of the transporation of troops from the West to the East Since, but I cannot identify any particular Corps, so many numbers are given.)
The 11th & 12th, now 20th, may have passed over the Pennsylvania routes, but from an order reported in the Chattanooga paper of the 6th Apl. it would seem that that Corps was then in Tennessee. I do not think it has joined the Army of the Potomac. Two Corps are said to be with Burnside, & the 20th may be one. I have sent a man there to see. There has been some movement of the troops on the line of the B.&O. R.R. recently. They have gone Westward, Some report to New Creek, others to Grafton.) Averill himself with his Cavl. & some infy. marched on the road to Romney. His destination is probably Petersburg, whence he may make another expedition. Only one regt. of Infy. & two Squadrons of Cavl. are said to be at Harpers ferry & a sufficient garrison at Martinsburg. Their picket line is drawn close to the R.R. I have warned Genls. Breckinridge & Imboden. I am very anxious to get Hoke & Johnston's brigades back. Their divisions, Early's and Rodes are much weakened by their absence.) I am holding Longstreet for the present near Cobham till his troops shall

all arrive, & until I can ascertain where he will be most
required.

With great respect your obt. Servt.

R. E. LEE.

Genl.

His Excl. Jeffn. Davis

Pres: C. States.