

Beauvoir, Harrison, Co., Miss.,

1st Dec 1880.

Kind, and dear Friend,

Genl. Pendleton,

I received your note, and subsequently the fulfillment of the promise it contained of your letter of the 24th Inst. Did I not know that the labor you performed in preparing the sketch was for a cause as near to your heart as my own, I would apologise to you for the tax my application imposed.

I have not contemplated anything like a minute account of campaigns and battles because I knew that could, and I hoped, would be better done by those who were actively engaged in them.

I wish in general terms to correct some
prevailing errors, and to do justice to some
ground whom it has been withheld, also
to show under what great disadvan-
tages we labored from want of the means
of war, and some improvident waste
of the little we had.

In this last connection I would be
glad if you could give me a sum-
mary statement of our losses in heavy
guns by the retreat of the Army of
the Potomac & that of the Peninsula.

If you could add a sketch of the
battle of Gettysburg, & the condition
and probabilities of affairs at Dalton
when you visit it, say within the
next six weeks, if you could let
me have it, I should be very grateful.

I have devoted most of my time
and attention to the vindication of
our cause & conduct. Not being a
Barkwright, I am very apprehen-
sive that I shall feel not per-
sonal

of fulfilling the wish which stimulated me to write. The assistant whom I employed to collect material for the narrative portion of the work, has unfortunately failed me. He is however entitled to the excuse of finding those to whom I directed him to make application, either negligent or unwilling to incur the responsibility of a reply, so that when I expected it to be all ready, I have had to go to work as I would have done but for that dependence long ago, and so at the last moment find myself hurried.

Our People after making sacrifices and performing heroic deeds, are surprised in any age or country, seem like the ship which having braved the storm, goes down in calm, to be now ready to surrender their birthright for less than a snuff

of pottage.

My efforts to vindicate their cause will find therefore probably little favor with this generation. Perhaps they may arraign me for disturbing the harmony about which they prate, and of which the only evidence is to be found in their humiliating conceptions. If therefore my object had been to gain applause, reason would teach me that I had better burn what I have written than have it printed.

I have not lost my faith in the People, if they could only be crossed to the use of their sober Judgments. But grinding poverty on one side, and gilded wealth on the other has worked the corruption which precedes the downfall of all ancient republics, and the body of the People whose only interest must be in good government, run idly about

as in Athens to ask what news.

In the eternity of truth, and the Government of the world, by Him who "doeth all things well" rests the only hope which is left to me.

I do not expect to see a restoration but shall die hoping, almost believing that it will come, and that the example of our forefathers will in some future generation be emulated by their posterity.

I ardently desire to see you again and to hear again from your lips such prayers as you offered before we shared our narrow bed near to Freij's Farm & Melburn Hill.

My wife joins me in cordial wishes for you & yours.

Affectionately,
Your friend,
Lefferson Davis.