

Beauvoir, Harrison Co., Miss.,

21st June 1861

Genl. Pendleton,

My very dear friend,

With this I send the two Mss. the return of which you requested. In the work I have published and a copy of which I directed to be sent to you, there is an extract from your address. The report I have copied and though from want of room it was not used in the narration I have made of military events, it may serve in some other way to show what was done in the campaign you describe.

Though I am not at all enamoured of writing for the public, it is not probable that I shall be left to enjoy the repose desirable to me on many accounts. The lucid explanations contained in your report will be most useful to me if I have to answer criticisms. In like manner your paper on the Army of Tenn. is kept for a

time of need. It has been my purpose
to treat with gentleness any conduct of
a confederate which I could not approve
and necessarily regretted. If therefore it
shall be from any cause met in an un-
friendly spirit, the fixed ammunition
which I did not use, and would prefer
to leave in store, remained for hotter
fire. It may not appear to others as
it did to me, that I was very forbear-
ing to some who have been unfair &
even malignant towards me. I dislike
controversy even with the Yankees and
which I could give praise only to every
confederate. I have not forgotten the
unmanly assaults made on me when
in prison, suffering vicariously for
my assailants as well as others of our
people; but revenge is not mine, and
I do not seek it.

You will find your report in some
place so faded that it is already nearly
illegible. I was tempted to trace a word occa-

sionally to secure its preservation, but
remember that only the hand which wrote
it could do so without affecting the
character of the writing.

You mention a proposition to turn
over your papers to the Bureau of Archives.
To the military student especially to the
student of Artillery, your Pps. must have
much value. If they who felt its power
as used by you, will pay well for the
lessons you may give, there would be some
remuneration in the transaction. As a
gift would not the So. Hist. Society be en-
titled to preference? I have long regretted
that our poverty prevented that society from
employing phonographers who would go
through the country and get orally narrations
from actors in the war, which otherwise
from the unwillingness of our people to
write, well in the course of nature soon be
lost. With any probable degree of discretion
there would, ^{no doubt} be much of error thus collected
but the errors would correct each other, and

the future historian might by comparison of conflicting statements, eliminate the false and establish the true.

Mrs. Davis is always gratified by your kind letters, and responded cordially to your wish that we could again pray together on those memorable nights in the "winter days."

If we can make the needful arrangements for the expense of the trip, Mrs. Davis and I intend in the next month to leave for Europe to bring our youngest child home. She has just completed her four years course in the school at Karlsruhe.

My Wife joins me in affectionate regards to Mrs. Pundleton and yourself.

Ever truly your friend

Jefferson Davis

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