

[For the Register and Advertiser.]

At Home, SUMMERVILLE, June 16, 1862.

Messrs. Editors: I much dislike "newspaper notoriety," yet by the advice of some of my friends, I send you for publication the accompanying copies of communications addressed to me.

Is it not a burning shame, that with a seeming studied effort to bring obloquy and reproach upon me and mine, the tongue of malicious slander and vituperation should have been so riot at my own home in Mobile, during my absence, without any regard to truth—that it should be necessary for me to parade myself before your readers in my defense.

Since I have been in the military service of my country, I have a self-consciousness, worth more to me than the opinion of others, of having done my duty faithfully and effectively.

As soon as it became known in camps that in Mobile there was being circulated reports prejudicial to my character, Gen. Withers, commanding the division, and Gen. Jackson, commanding the brigade, of which my regiment formed a part, as well as the commanding officers of my own companies, were good enough to address me in writing as follows:

HEADQUARTERS, WITHERS' DIVISION,

Camp near Tupelo, Miss., June 16, 1862.

My Dear Colonel: You must not expect to escape detection, and you should not prove too sensitive under it. I was present when full explanations were made to the General Commanding of the occurrences which led to your arrest. You were most fully and honorably exonerated from all censure and promptly released from arrest. There is nothing to reflect on your gallantry as an officer, or honor as a man, and it is with pleasure that I do you this act of justice.

I am, Colonel, very truly, your friend,

J. H. WITHERS,

Brig. Gen. Com. Div.

CAMP NEAR TUPELO, June 16, 1862.

My Dear Sir: When recently on outpost duty at Blackland, I was surprised to learn that you had been placed under arrest by Gen. Bragg—Commanding the brigade of which your regiment constituted a part, I immediately instituted inquiries into the cause and circumstances of your arrest, and was informed that it was based upon a verbal report made by Gen. Chalmers, of the skirmish near Blackland, in which your regiment, that of Col. Strawbridge, and a section of Burtwell's battery were engaged. Gen. Chalmers was present, being in command of the cavalry forces at that point, and assumed command of the infantry and artillery also. No charges were preferred against you by Gen. Chalmers or any one else, and I am sure, from my conversation with him, that he did not intend to prefer any charge or desire your arrest. Although the enemy were driven back in confusion by the infantry and artillery, the skirmish was not as successful as could have been wished, but I am satisfied that it was from no fault or misconduct of yours—on the contrary, my information derived from Col. Strawbridge and Captain Burtwell, who were present, leaves no doubt that your conduct on this occasion was as usual since I have had the honor to command you, gallant and meritorious.

Leaving the outpost to join the main body of the army on its march, we were kept continuously moving until we arrived at this place, and as soon

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as I could make the explanations to Gen. Bragg of the localities and circumstances he immediately ordered your release. I regret, Colonel, that our constant march prevented my procuring your release sooner, which it would have afforded me great pleasure to do, and trust that your nominal confinement will produce no mortification to yourself or your friends.

I am, Colonel, very truly, yours,

JNO K JACKSON, Brig Gen. U S A.

To Col. Wm. A. Buck, Comd'g 24th Ala. Reg.

CAMP NEAR TUPELO, Miss., June 17, 1862.

Col. Wm. A. Buck.

Commanding 24th Reg't Ala. Vol.:

DEAR SIR: It is with surprise and regret that the undersigned have learned, through private sources from Mobile, that rumors detrimental to your character as an officer and a gentleman are rife in that city, growing out of your recent suspension from command by the General of this army. You are reported to have acted in a cowardly manner in a late skirmish with the enemy at Blackland, in which the 24th regiment was engaged, on the evening of the 4th instant; that such an assertion is false, those at all acquainted with the facts well know, and we beg of you to treat the same with that silent contempt which it deserves, for the report shows conclusively that the originator was ignorant of the whole affair, both as regards the skirmish and cause of arrest. In conclusion, Colonel, we would say that however much the vile tongue of slander may seek to defame your spotless character, our confidence in you as a gallant soldier and gentleman, remains unabated, and when the hour comes it will be with pride and pleasure that we will call upon you to lead us against the foe, satisfied that it will be through no fault of yours if victory does not perch upon our banner.

Yours, very respectfully,

BART S CHAMBERLAIN, Lt. Com. Co. A.

R. H. OLIVER, Captain, " D.

WILLIAM J O'BRIEN, Capt., " B.

L. A. LAVENDER, Lieutenant, " C.

THOS J KIMBALL, " " E.

GEO B ENHOLM, " " F.

ALPHONSE HURTEL, Capt., " G.

J. J. PIERCE, Captain, " H.

JNO. B. HAZARD, Captain, " I.

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It may be proper for me to explain that on the occasion referred to at Blackland, I was in command of all the infantry and artillery, and Gen Chalmers was in command of the cavalry. There was unfortunately no concert of action between us previous to nor after the attack of the enemy, and although there was some, almost unavoidable, confusion, yet we did rout the enemy and drive him back for more than a mile with a loss to ourselves of some fifteen wounded, of which, I think, two have since died. We lost not a single prisoner. The enemy's loss was two killed, two prisoners, and I learned of three wagons loaded with and carrying off their wounded in their hasty retreat. WM. A. BUCK,

Col Com. 24th Regt. Ala. Vol.

From Viet.