

This letter was found by Florida Canby of Van-  
den So. Co. in the Yankee Camp at that city.

It is directed to Mrs Thomas J. Meyers  
Boston Mass and corroborates what was believed  
at that time, that officers wore citizens and  
gentle's dress, in order to rob without compromis-  
ing their shoulder straps.

This was copied from the Journal  
of Miss Canby who found the original which  
was sent to the Medical Society at Richmond.

Feb 25 - 1865

My dear wife

I have no time for particulars  
We have had a glorious time in this State  
Universal license to burn and plunder  
was the order of the day. The chivalry have  
been stripped of most of their valuables.

Gold notched silver pitchers spoons forks etc  
are as common in camp as black berries  
The terms of plunder are as follows The  
valuables procured be estimate by Companies  
each Company is required to exhibit the re-  
sults of its operation at any given place.

One fifth and first choice falls to  
the Commander in Chief; to Staff officers one  
fifth, to field officers of Regiment one fifth  
two fifths to the Company. Officers are not allowed  
to join these expeditions without desquising themselves

H. Meyer's Letter

On <sup>Grand</sup> Columbia Bridge field

as private. One of our Corps Commanders  
bought a suit of rough clothes from one of my  
men and was successful in this place.

He got a large quantity of silver (among  
other things an old time milk pitcher) and  
a very fine gold watch from a Mr  
DeSnoover of this place. DeSnoover is an  
F. F. of St. Charles and was made to part over  
liberally. Officers of the rank of Captain are  
not made to part their plunder in the estimate  
for general distribution. This is very unfair  
and for that reason in order to protect  
themselves subordinate officers and privates  
keep back every thing they can carry about  
their persons, such as rings ear rings brooch  
pins of which if I ever live to get home, I  
have about a quart I am not joking.

I have at least a quart of jewelry for  
you and all the girls and some no one  
diamonds - pins and rings among them.

Gen Sherman has silver and  
gold enough to start a bank. His share  
of gold watches and chains alone at Columbia  
this state was 275. But I said I could  
not go into particulars.

All the general officers and  
many besides had volumes of every description  
to ladies embroidered handkerchiefs (I have  
my share of them) He took gold and  
silver enough from the d-d rebels to  
have redeemed their infernal currency twice  
over. This the currency they can across  
it. He took it as he consider it perfectly

Notless I wish all the jewelry this Army  
 has could be carried to the old Bay State  
 It would deck her out in glorious style  
 but alas! it will be scattered all over the  
 North and Middle States the d-d niggers  
 as a general rule prefer to stay at home  
 particularly after they found out we only  
 wanted their able bodied men and let  
 tell you the truth, their youngest and best  
 looking women

Some times we took off whole  
 families and plantations of niggers by  
 way of paying the Cessionist, but the  
 best part of those we soon managed  
 to lose sometimes in crossing river sometimes  
 by other ways. I shall write you again from  
 Hillington Goldboro and other places in  
 North Carolina. The order of March has arrived  
 and I must close hurriedly Love to grandmother  
 and Aunt Charlotte Jane Cole of yourself and  
 the children Don't show this letter to the family  
 Your affectionate husband

P.S I will send this by Flag Thomas L Myers. I  
 have a chance of sending it to Hillton I will  
 Tell Sallie I am buying a pearl bracelet and ear  
 rings for her Pearl Lambert got the best pin and  
 ear ring of the same set. I am trying to locate him  
 out of prison. These were taken from the  
 Misses Jamison daughters of the President of the  
 South Carolina Cessionist Convention  
 on our trip thro' Georgia we found them

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