

# **THE HUNTSVILLE HISTORICAL REVIEW**

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# HUNTSVILLE, ALA.

Copied from the Original Map  
Prepared under the direction of  
Col. W<sup>o</sup>E. MERRILL,  
by  
Maj. J. R. WILLETT, 1<sup>st</sup> Vet. Vol. Engrs.  
Surveyed by J. S. WILLETT and CHAS. PESEUX  
Scale.

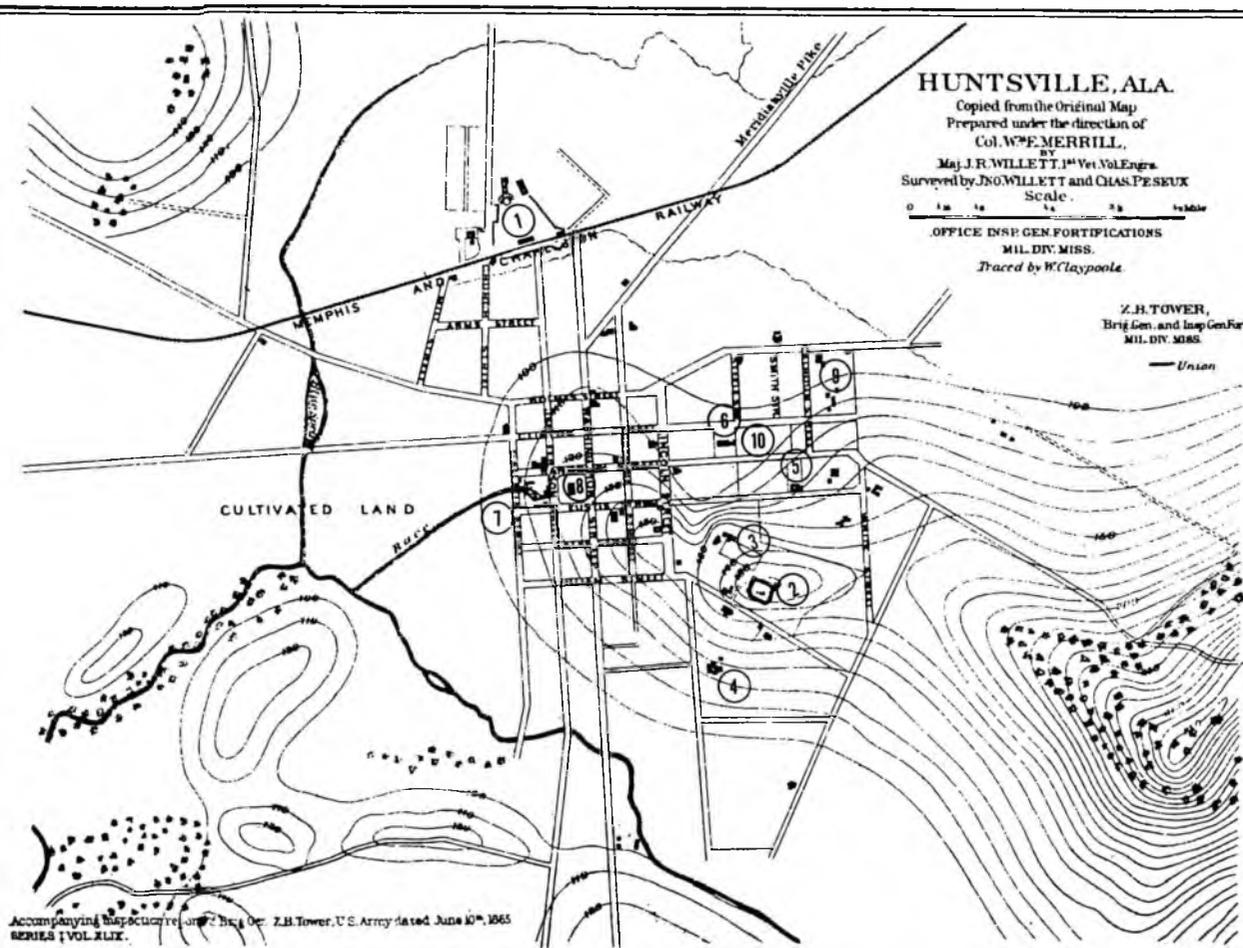
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Traced by W. Claypoole.

Z. H. TOWER,  
Brig. Gen. and Insp. Gen. Fortns.  
MIL. DIV. MISS.

— Union



## THE FINALE OF THE CIVIL WAR IN HUNTSVILLE

On May 26, 1865, Mrs. W. D. Chadick recorded her final entry in her four-year diary:

"The war being over and the dear ones returned, there will be little more of interest for these pages. Therefore, you and I, dear journal, close friends as we have been, united by every bond of sympathy, must part.

'We have shared each other's gladness and wept each other's tears.'

Whenever my eyes rest upon you, it will be with feelings of gratitude and affection for the consolation you have afforded me in these days of trial.

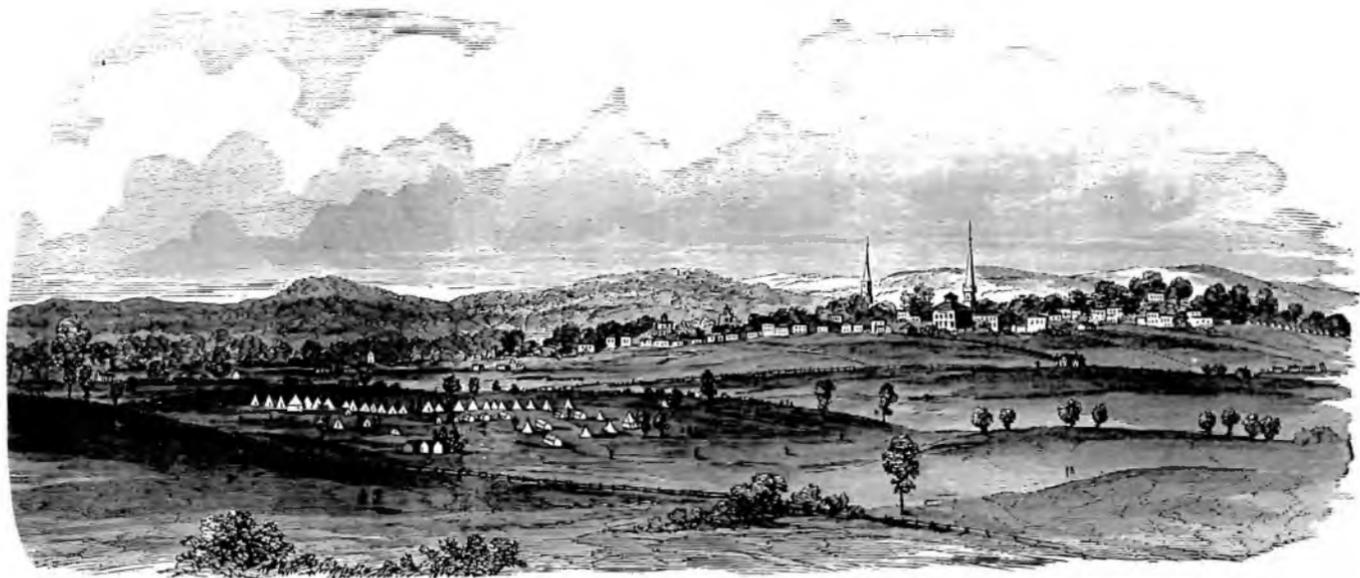
Farewell!"

At this time Huntsville was still occupied by federal troops. The map on the opposite page was prepared under the direction of Colonel William E. Merrill by Major J. R. Willett, and is dated June 10, 1865.

Numbered from 1 to 10 are the places that are mentioned in Mrs. Chadick's diary as the war came to a close: 1) the Huntsville depot complex; 2) Fort Taylor; 3) the Patton home (now Echols Hill) on the east side of McClung Street; 4) the Watkins home on Adams Street, used as general headquarters; 5) Huntsville Female Seminary on Eustis Street; 6) Huntsville Female College on Randolph Avenue; 7) the big spring; 8) the Madison County courthouse; 9) the site of Green Academy which had been burned in 1864; 10) the home of Mrs. W. D. Chadick (which no longer exists).

Events after the conclusion of the war which are discussed in the article written by Mary Tumlin concern the confused era under continued federal occupation from 1865 to 1874.

Frances C. Roberts, Editor



Birdseye view of occupied Huntsville during the Civil War,  
as published in Harper's Weekly.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA  
APRIL 1865 TO DECEMBER 1874

Mary G. Tumlin

The criminal justice system in Madison County, Alabama, was largely ineffective throughout Reconstruction. When the Civil War ended in April 1865, white citizens attempted to re-implement pre-war leadership within their local police, sheriff, and judicial systems. It soon became apparent, however, that restoration of civil authority under the supervision of respected officials would constitute a long struggle. Chaos during Reconstruction was primarily due to radicals who were determined to reconstruct local government under the leadership of men loyal to the Republican Party, rather than conservative Democrats who had controlled the criminal justice system prior to the war. Further complicating the situation, the citizenry was confronted with intervention from outside agencies such as the Freedmen's Bureau, the Union League, and the United States Army.

Thus, the period from April 1865 to December 1874 was one of the most chaotic in the history of Madison County. As federal authorities became more aggressive, inept civil officials were appointed or elected to positions within the justice system. Carpetbaggers, northerners who supported the Republican Party, and Scalawags, local Republicans who were loyal to the Union, dominated law enforcement and the court systems. Ku Klux Klan activity abounded due to public apathy and a lack of law enforcement. Many whites, nevertheless, continued their efforts to regain control of local government, and by December 1874 the criminal justice system in Madison County had gained stability under the leadership of men who represented a choice of the people.

Whites began their attempt to restore civilian leadership after the war, but the Freedman's Bureau and federal troops dominated local affairs from April 1865 to January 1866. There appeared to be very little animosity towards the Bureau during this period, for the organization distributed badly needed rations to destitute citizens. In the meantime, the commander of federal troops in Huntsville received numerous complaints from people throughout the county concerning cases of assault, theft, and drunkenness.

In their first effort to re-implement civil authority, whites went to the polls in November 1865, and elected Frank Gurley, a Democrat and ex-captain in the Confederate Army, as sheriff of Madison County. Shortly afterwards, according to local newspapers, Gurley was arrested by federal troops and taken to Nashville to stand trial for murder in military court. His accusers had asserted that while serving the Confederacy, Gurley had murdered a Union officer. Even though the sheriff was sentenced to hang, orders for his execution were suspended. Many whites were concerned about Gurley's dilemma and resented the fact that the county had finally gained an officer who represented a choice of the people, only to have him abruptly removed.

Some progress was made within the judicial system during this period. The County and Mayor's (City) Courts were reestablished for the first time since the war. These courts were responsible for hearing minor cases which occurred within the county and within the city. The Circuit Court, which handled serious crimes, was also re-implemented under the leadership of William J. Haralson. Although Haralson was a Republican, he was well respected and remained Circuit Court Judge throughout Reconstruction. The courts as well as local law enforcement exerted very little authority, and people were forced to rely on federal troops for protection.

Criminal justice remained in upheaval as citizens struggled through another period of uncertainty from January 1866 to March 1867. Problems mounted as the local Freedmen's Bureau began to dominate the judicial system. Consequently, whites viewed the Bureau, which was under the direction of John Callis, a northerner, as a nuisance. While civil courts remained ineffective, a Bureau Court was established and heard numerous cases that concerned complaints filed by freedmen. An example noted in the Freedmen's Bureau Papers involved Russell Sanford, a white, who was fined forty dollars after he refused to pay one of his ex-slaves back wages.

The Huntsville Advocate reported numbers of complaints filed against unruly soldiers. The problem was so bad in 1866 that the commander of federal troops forbade citizens to sell intoxicating beverages to soldiers. Troops often experienced difficulties in their relations with freedmen. One example reported by a local paper involved three drunk soldiers who interrupted a Negro baptism at the Big Spring. After soldiers pushed a freedman into the water, a fight ensued and the men were chased back to their barracks. Madison County, although stymied by federal authority, had an appointed sheriff, city police were reinstated for the first time since the war, and civil courts convened haphazardly during the latter part of 1866. These accomplishments would be nullified in March 1867 when Congress placed the South under military rule.

Passage of the Reconstruction Acts by a radical Congress not only declared local governments in southern states illegal, but they also authorized military authorities to remove civil officials. Furthermore, numbers of ex-Confederates were disfranchised as well as excluded from holding public office. The progress that had been made in Madison County's criminal justice system was nullified when elected officials were removed from office and replaced by military appointees. The Union League, an organization whose goal was to solicit Negro votes for the Republican Party, became active on the local level. Thus, disfranchised whites looked on with dismay as freedmen paraded around the courthouse square demonstrating their new political rights.

In the meantime, crime increased, and local jails overflowed as civilians within the criminal justice system were subjected to military authority. Newspapers reported

that troops were so unruly, citizens took the law into their own hands. After a soldier, James Hardy, was convicted of theft, his head was shaved, and he was tied to a cart and forced to march through Huntsville.

Problems continued as ex-Confederates were forced from the justice system. Sheriff John Coltart was removed from office by the military and replaced by a "loyal union" man. Shortly afterwards, Robert Coltart was ousted as Mayor's Court Judge. Coltart, a respected Democrat, was replaced by a staunch Republican, Elisha B. Clapp. The U.S. Army Commands stated that the newly appointed judge soon proved to be a very inept individual who received bribes from defendants for ruling in their favor. The Circuit Court was also in limbo. Federal officers suspended trials because the court failed to comply with military regulations.

With the implementation of a new state constitution in 1868, as well as Alabama's readmission to the Union, people could now go to the polls. As a result of the election held in February 1868, civil authority was restored. Since many whites were still disfranchised, the Republican Party, supported by freedmen's votes, elected Radicals to local offices. Military reconstruction ended in July 1868 when these newly elected civil officials assumed office.

The period from July 1868 to November 1870 was perhaps the most violent in the history of Madison County. Unqualified Carpetbaggers and Scalawags dominated positions within the criminal justice system. Lawlessness abounded as Ku Klux Klan activity reached its peak. The Huntsville Police Department was active but plagued by complaints. According to the Minutes of the Board of Aldermen, one instance involved policeman R. B. James, who shot a freedman for no apparent reason. Although James had been suspended five times for misconduct, no action was taken in this case.

The Sheriff's Department also experienced problems during this period. As a result of the February election, Joseph P. Doyle, a Republican, was elected sheriff of Madison County and assumed his duties in July 1868. The highest ranking law enforcement officer in the county was a weak, unstable individual who failed to act against troublemakers. Doyle's apathy towards his responsibilities disillusioned citizens who refused to accept his leadership.

An unqualified Carpetbagger was elected County Court Judge and took office in July 1868. Lewis M. Douglass, a carpenter from Oregon, had no prior experience in any judicial system. Since the Circuit Court remained under the jurisdiction of William J. Haralson, all of the judges in Madison County were now affiliated with the Republican Party. Thus, civil authority was reinstated on the local level; but the majority of office holders were inexperienced Radicals who did little to control the violence that erupted after July 1868.

The first official deaths connected to local Klansmen occurred in October 1868, when Judge Silas Thurlow, a Radical Republican, and a Negro died from wounds which they

received during a political rally. The Advocate and local court records noted that on the thirty-first of October a large number of people had gathered on the square for a Republican rally. Shortly afterwards, approximately 150 Ku Klux Klansmen rode into town. Several shots were fired by unknown persons which resulted in the two deaths. It was never proved that a robed Klansman fired the shots, and the case was finally dismissed in the Circuit Court.

Klan action increased during 1869 with the majority of reported cases filed by freedmen. It was during this period that respectable whites officially denounced KKK activity by claiming that the organization had become filled with ruffians who donned hoods and called themselves Klan members. In any event, lawlessness increased as Sheriff Doyle refused to investigate numerous complaints filed by members of both races. Since no arrests were made, Judge Haralson attempted to bring Klansmen to justice. Haralson vested a grand jury with power to summon witnesses in cases that involved Ku Klux Klan attacks. The decision was ineffective, for Sheriff Doyle failed to deliver the subpoenas.

Klan outrages increased, and citizens appealed to Governor William Smith for protection. According to the William H. Smith papers, neither federal troops nor the sheriff were reducing acts of violence. Since there was an insufficient number of troops to combat the problem, the local commander requested that Governor Smith utilize the state militia. The Governor then ordered Sheriff Doyle to assist troops in bringing outlaws to justice. There was no official indication that the Governor's orders were carried out.

Throughout 1869 and 1870, numbers of freedmen as well as some whites reported abuses by the KKK. Local papers noted one example of Klan harassment that involved a local troublemaker. Reverend A. S. Lakin, a northerner who shared a house with Judge Lewis Douglass, claimed that two men fired sixteen buckshot into his residence. Lakin was an ardent Republican who had supported the Union League.

Because of Klan outrages, Congress established a committee to take testimony from people throughout the South. The KKK Reports note the following examples of Ku Klux Klan harassment reported by citizens in Madison County. In July 1869, William Campbell, a Negro, was killed when he was shot six times by men dressed in black robes. Campbell had allegedly stolen chickens from a white farmer. Shortly afterwards, John Leslie reported that Klansmen broke into his house and shot at him eight times while they searched for guns.

The above cases are only a few of the many reported KKK abuses which occurred throughout 1869 and 1870. During such a period of crises, it was vital that respected and diligent men control the reins of government. Instead, incompetence and apathy within the hierarchy of the criminal justice stymied efforts of the few who attempted to execute their duties. Citizens, nevertheless, were determined to restore

order in Madison County, and the criminal justice system gradually regained stability during the next four years.

Violence subsided in Madison County between November 1870 and December 1874 as Alabama gradually returned to "home rule." As a result of the election in November 1870, Robert B. Lindsay, a Democrat, was elected governor, defeating the incumbent William Smith. White citizens in Madison County then turned their attention to incompetent officials within law enforcement and the court systems.

The first Radical removed from office was Sheriff Joseph Doyle. A local grand jury announced that Doyle had failed to enforce laws and to investigate crimes throughout his tenure as sheriff. Shortly thereafter, Doyle resigned, and Governor Lindsay appointed John Cooper, a Democrat, as sheriff of Madison County. People were obviously tired of inept officials, and the removal of Doyle reflected a trend towards pre-war leadership.

Richard Busted, Judge of the United States District (Federal) Court, was the next person forced from office. The District Court was responsible for those cases not covered by local or state law and was supposed to convene in Huntsville twice per year. The court had remained ineffective during Reconstruction due to Busted's behavior. The judge was a haphazard individual who had rarely convened his court prior to 1870. Consequently, he was very unpopular with the citizens of Madison County. Busted was finally forced to resign when faced with charges that would lead to impeachment.

According to the Advocate, unsettled conditions began to improve in Madison County although there was some evidence of scattered Klan activity. In July 1871 six disguised men fired into a passenger train for unknown reasons. Afterwards, several freedmen who lived on a farm stated that they were whipped by five KKK members. Another case involved Klansmen who invaded the houses of several Negroes for the purpose of harassment. Klan attacks virtually ceased by 1872, the sheriff announced that Madison County was more peaceful than at any time since the Civil War.

The Huntsville Police Department, which had been plagued with discipline problems throughout Reconstruction inherited a new City Marshal. It appears that Britton Franks was appointed to strictly supervise. Shortly after he assumed office, Franks suspended three policemen for drinking to excess, disorderly conduct, and associating with a woman of ill repute. Perhaps the marshal's actions had a positive effect upon his men, for records indicate that officers made numbers of arrests under Franks' supervision.

Although problems still existed, criminal justice had gained stability by November 1874. Since Madison County experienced relative calm, whites could turn their attention to the upcoming election. The majority of white Democrats could now vote, and they were determined to rid themselves of all remaining Carpetbaggers and Scalawags. As a result

of the election held in November 1874, the remaining Republicans, who had been elected in 1868, were removed from office. Louis Wyeth, a Democrat, succeeded William Haralson as Circuit Court judge. Lewis M. Douglass, who had been unpopular as County Court Judge was also relieved of his duties.

As Radical Reconstruction drew to a close on the local level, the criminal justice system was composed of men who represented a choice of the people. Thus, Madison County returned to "home rule" after nine years of upheaval, uncertainty, and outside intervention. Amidst this confusion, Radicals had accomplished one goal: blacks gained legal political and civil rights for the first time. Otherwise, the Reconstruction process was largely a failure, for ill-equipped Radicals failed to cope with the problems which they had created.

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Two homes on Adams Street used as headquarters for General Logan and General Stanley during the last part of the occupation of Huntsville by federal troops.

HOUSEWIFE'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE OCCUPATION  
OF HUNTSVILLE, PART VII

Jan. 1, 1865. What a contrast between this and a New Year's morning five years ago, before the advent of this miserable war! Then the house echoed with many voices crying to each other, "I wish you a Happy New Year!" But, this morning, each child seems to know and feel by common consent that there is no happy new year in store for us, and all such expressions are hushed.

When each day brings with it such terrible and startling events, what may be the record of the coming year? I dread to think of it. It is a sad day to me from many causes. Separated from my husband under the most trying circumstances, for I know not how long a period, with the cares of a large family upon my hands with the prospects the most gloomy. I am just recovering from another one of my nervous attacks, which are becoming more frequent of late.

Jan. 2. Spent the morning in making a necktie for W.D. and writing him another note to be sent by Miss Aggie Scott, who has not yet gotten off. Took it up to Mrs. Rice's and went from there to Miss McClung's, who is keeping house for Dr. and Mrs. Ross. Found Mrs. Mayhew and Miss Erskine there packing a truckful of things for them, which Gen. Steadman had permitted them to send for. They are quartered in the hotel at Decatur, the only building left standing in the town.

Jan. 5. Billy went down to Mr. Watkins' today and brought home Sue and Clara and Ada Watkins. Learned through them that their Pa spent the night there after running from here, and left the next morning for Athens. He also sent me some money. Heard also that Ed was safe, although there are rumors that he is a prisoner in Nashville.

The Fourth Corps (Gen. Wood) have gone into Winter quarters here and are tearing down the fences around private lots. Tearing boards off stables and everywhere else they can find them to build huts with. Destruction is the order of the day. As yet, they have not troubled me.

Jan. 7. I have given up my stable to a waggoner with six mules, who says he will take good care of it. This turns my poor cow out in all the bad weather.

An officer with two orderlies called this morning and sent word to the "lady of the house" that an "officer" desired to see her. Great honor! Presented myself uttering at the same time a bland good morning. He met me with a lofty, dignified manner and a stern countenance, which never relaxed a muscle, although the "lady of the house" was very smiling and pleasant.

Said that he wished me to furnish him a room. I replied that my house had but a ground floor and no upstairs, and that the rooms were all occupied save the parlor, and that was indispensable to me. He said that it had several wings and seemed to spread over considerable ground, and that he

thought some one of the wings would suit him exactly. I explained to him in the same pleasant manner the separate situation and use of each room, which left him no more to say unless he took forceable possession (which doubtless my politeness prevented him from doing). He then questioned me in regard to my neighborhood, and I could give him no satisfactory information, so he went to inquire for himself.

Thus far, I have escaped having my portion of the house taken. Mrs. Watkins has Gen. Steadman and staff, Mrs. McDowell has Gen. Wood, and every house on that street, except one or two, is occupied.

Jan. 8. Had just got the children washed and dressed for Sunday school when two soldiers came to request a room to write in for an hour or two. Having no fires but one and nobody to make any, I told them that the rooms were all occupied, which was strictly in regard to all except the parlor. They did not like this reception and went away saying that "there was not a house in town that could not afford them a room for so short a time."

Mrs. Pruitt and Xenia just called--they are going over the river and the latter is going to take W.D. his coat.

Dr. Ross and family have been permitted to return. He is paroled until May next, but not allowed to preach. Billy has just come in and says that he was told by a citizen (Picard) who acts as a scout for the Feds that Eddie was captured with 228 others day before yesterday in a fight at Mt. Hope, 50 miles the other side of Tennessee river. This is sad indeed if true, and it must be so since Picard knows him. He is in a block house in Decatur.

Wednesday, Jan. 11. Before breakfast, a colored man came and told us that Eddie was at the depot. Billy went at once to see him, also Dave and George. Jennie went also and carried him several things. Several ladies were down there today and carried the prisoners many things necessary to their comfort.

Yesterday, Miss Bradley, Miss Figures and Mr. Bannister started to go across the river to go South (the latter was ordered out of the lines), but an officer sent them word that they had better return and not think of starting for a week at least, as quite a large cavalry force had crossed the river on a raiding expedition. They accordingly returned. Mrs. Pruitt also returned and sent me W.D.'s coat.

Ed informs us that his pa has gone to Montgomery. This is the first information we have had of his whereabouts. Miss Lucy and Berrie Fearn came to see me today. Also Mrs. Watkins and Mrs. Cowles spent the evening. After supper, Mr. Hereford also called.

Jan. 16. Went this evening to see Dr. and Mrs. Ross for the first time since their return from Decatur. He is to receive his sentence day after tomorrow. A list of questions were sent to him, to which he replied this morning. Do not know the nature of them. Col. Sawyer (Sherman's adjutant general)

is in town and dined today at the college. Mrs. Ross says that this pulpit, the Episcopal and Cumberland, are to be filled by Northern preachers, and all such persons who refuse to go and hear them are to be sent South.

Jan. 19. Two wagons trains have been captured within the last two days. One near Meridianville by Col. Meade, consisting of 9 wagons and 18 men! The authorities are so exasperated that they gave an order yesterday that every house in the country for 15 miles around Huntsville should be laid in ashes. The country people are suffering dreadfully from the depredations of the enemy, and in many instances, not only all their stock, provisions and means of subsistence have been taken from them, but their clothing and bedding have been taken and the alleged excuse for all this is that they harbor bushwhackers! While those in command know very well that Meade and Johnson's men are regular cavalry, yet they persist in calling them bushwhackers and, if any of them are so unfortunate as to fall into their hands, they are treated as such! All the guards for the protection of the families in the country have been withdrawn and, when a lady called upon Gen. Wood, earnestly requesting one, his reply was that he came here with orders to devastate this country.

One hundred of our cavalry was captured a few days since on the other side of the river--(Col. Lyon's men)--and brought to town. One, named Bowers, made his escape between here and Whitesburg. When they arrived here, his mother was informed of his capture, went to see him and, lo and behold, he was not there. Being badly clothed, he had borrowed a blue overcoat from a nice-kind-hearted Yankee and, donning it, soon after walked off!

We have news that the celebrated Gatt house at Louisville has been burned. Mrs. Lane, who was sojourning there, lost all she had. Money, clothing, baggage, et cetera. Capt. Allen, who made himself notorious in appropriating Southern furniture when he was quartermaster here last Spring, was also a great sufferer. His nose was burned off and his fingers to the second joint. He is in the hospital at the place in a precarious condition. Surely there is retribution, even in this life, for evil deeds.

Mrs. Pruitt, Miss Sue Bradley and Miss Hattie Figures got off this morning for Dixie after surmounting all kinds of difficulties. They had an escort to the river.

Jan. 20. Sue came home this morning with Mrs. Watkins. I went with the latter to see Capt. Traelenbaugh, Gen. Wood's provost marshal, staying at Mrs. Fackler's. She went to ask that her guard be retained. It appears that all the guards were called in from the country because some eight or 10 or them had been captured by Rebel cavalry in the cost. The captain said that Gen. Wood was decided upon this measure and had refused admittance to all applicants to retain them. The captain is a pleasant, agreeable man, treats everybody with courtesy and kindness, censures the mode of warfare now carried on by officers and soldiers, and, when Mrs. Watkins related her trouble and the manner in

which she had been plundered and foraged upon, he would frequently exclaim, "My God!" and gave her orders to get back her cooking stove and other things which had been taken from her, writing a letter to the colonel of the regiment to which the soldiers belonged to that effect.

He said that he was going home on Monday next to remain, that their army had come here like a set of vandals and he blushed to wear their uniform, that since they had turned into robbing and thieving, he was done with it. Many others have resigned, and we fear that the prediction "that six months hence, there will not be a gentleman in the Yankee army" will come true.

The chaplain of the 13th Wisconsin came to my back door two mornings for milk, very meek and sanctimonious looking! Let him have it and try to mix it with a little of the "milk of human kindness," as he said it was for the sick. This morning, his wife came also at the back door, a neat, nice-looking woman dressed in furs. I treated her with great politeness, let her have the milk and showed her out at the front door.

Jan. 24. Have just risen from another nervous headache. Lay in bed all day yesterday, suffering and thinking of W.D. The old Bishop (Andrews) looked down upon me from his frame on the wall with an eye of tenderness and sympathy. The picture had a strange power over my eyes, for although my temples throbbed and my eyeballs ached with intense suffering, my gaze was constantly riveted upon it. I in turn must have presented a fascinating appearing woman with my pale face, half closed eyes, and head tied up with brown paper and vinegar! Dozing once, I thought W.D. approached and said in a kind tone, "How do you feel now?" And laying his hand gently upon my head, added, "Is there anything I can do for you?" I awoke to find that it was only a little novelette I had conjured up and was crying over! O, these sad, weary days of headache!

Jan. 27. Received a letter today from Julia by Mr. Herrick, written in September last. Also one from Mrs. Powers from New London, Conn. Heard also from Eddie through Lieut. Bailey who wrote to Jennie. He has gone to Camp Chase, was sick at Louisville.

Feb. 2. Night before last, four soldiers (regular burglars) came to the servant's room and, pushing the key out, unlocked the door and went in to pull off their shoes and light their lantern. They put a pistol to the servant's head and told her they would kill her if she made the slightest noise to alarm the family. They then proceeded to my safe, and unlocking it, took all my milk, three hams and dried beef and bottles of wine, my silver castor and everything eatable they could find. The servant succeeded in begging back the castor and a large bowl by promising that she would not let the "sesesh woman" have it. They then took from her a breast pin and a pair of shoes, and returned the latter for a \$1.50 in solver. A pretty enemy this to contend with. If we had had the least intimation in the house of what was going on, we could easily have called a guard. Col. Lyon,

our best friend, has been sent elsewhere with his command. The Fourth Corps (Gen. Woods) is soon to leave here, and we heartily rejoice at it.

Received a letter from Camp Chase, from Ed. Poor little fellow, he is sick at heart and sick in body, and had to be carried in an ambulance all the way after leaving the railway. He begs me to try and get him paroled. He says that he never knew before what a good home he had, and promised to be a better boy, if spared to return to it!

Mrs. Toney received a telegram this morning saying that her brother, Mr. Jim Rogers, was dead and her mother was on her way thither from Camp Chase with the body.

Sunday, Feb. 5. Major Fleming died last night. Yesterday was like a bright Spring day, but there has been a sudden change, and today is intensely cold. Drs. Ross and Bannister are again permitted to preach, through the clemency, I believe, of Gen. Stanley.

Feb. 6. The remains of Mr. Rogers arrived from Camp Chase last night, and the funeral obsequies took place today. The body was embalmed in Cincinnati, and he looked perfectly natural. More like one sleeping than dead. He was taken prisoner about four months since and died of pneumonia. Went to see Mrs. Rogers this evening. She says that our prisoners, both at Camp Chase and Rock Island, suffer both from the cold and from hunger, and the restrictions are very severe. No vegetable diet is allowed, and only 14 ounces of bread and eight ounces of meat are issued daily to each prisoner. No visitors or relatives permitted to see them except in extreme cases of illness. The diet has caused scurvy to prevail to an alarming extent, and the cold to which our poor Southern boys are so unaccustomed produces thousands of cases of pneumonia.

Mrs. Rogers says that they average 20 deaths per day at Camp Chase. This policy is pursued by the Federal government (they say) in retaliation for "Rebel barbarities" to their prisoners of war. Has been in operation about five months. Poor Harris Toney, an even, delicate and refined young man, told his grandmother that "he had eaten many a rat since he had been there and a dog never escaped from the prison alive!" Mrs. Rogers went to Washington City and made a personal appeal to President Lincoln to try and get her son and grandson paroled, but without success. The President told her "that no more Southern boys should be paroled, that they had given trouble enough and never would be conquered!"

Poor Eddie, my heart aches for him, so young, so inexperienced, who never knew a sorrow or a hardship in his life. I shall certainly make an appeal to the secretary of war in his behalf. Time was when Mr. Stanton would have granted me anything in his power, but times are sadly changed, and I have but little hope of success.

Feb 12, 1865. The children have all gone to Sunday school and I have taken up my pen to add a few lines to my journal.

The churches are again open, Dr. Ross' through the intercession of Mrs. Stanley, who is a Presbyterian.

The Fourth Army Corps have again returned to Huntsville. Why they have returned, or where they have been, is not known. There was a rumor on the street yesterday that Gen. Sherman had been killed. No particulars--it is probably "grapevine."

Mrs. Mayhew's school (Spring term) commenced this week. Have concluded to teach George and Clara at home, the tuition is so expensive. Twenty-seven dollars per session each. Quite a little charge with Davie and Mary. Sue has returned from Mrs. Watkins' to remain at home and will take this labor off my hands in a few days. We citizens are beginning to find it difficult to procure provisions for our table. Everything in the country has been taken, and the country people have not enough for themselves. True, the Yankees have plenty of everything in their sutler shops and commissary departments, but they are not accessible to us unless we have officers to board who can then draw them for us at army prices. Many families are filling up their tables in this way, the price of board being \$10 per week.

Col. Drake, who was provost marshal here under Gen. Mitchell, who was very hard upon the citizens and would grant them no favors, and who is now out of the army, has returned here and set up a large provision and commissary establishment for the alleged benefit of the citizens, selling at very high prices. He is now as bland and smiling as a May morning, extending the hand of courtesy and bowing gracefully and soliciting the patronage of the citizens. Pity our necessities force us to patronize such men.

We have just heard of another Yankee mode of making money off the South. A card appears in the Nashville paper, stating that there are a great number of fine plantations in North Alabama to lease, well stocked and with plenty of farming utensils and laborers to work them, and that any person in the North desiring to lease said plantation can get all the information they desire by enclosing \$10 to the undersigned! This is not true, as nearly all the plantations are stripped of everything, even the wood.

Our beautiful town is full of Yankee women. They are sweeping through the streets every evening on horseback. All the residences in town where the owners have gone out of town are called government houses and occupied by officers, and where they have been rented, the families have been ordered out, as at Mrs. Weeden's, Mr. Mosley's, Mr. Sledge's and Mrs. Spragins'.

Feb. 13. This morning, Capt. Fordyce, a retired officer of the Federal Army, called to ask for Eddie's address, saying that the officer in command at Camp Chase was a friend of his and under obligation to him. That he was going to write to him to try to have Eddie among the prisoners who are about to be exchanged, and in case this cannot be effected, to have him put upon double rations. This is exceedingly kind and generous in Capt. Fordyce, and properly appreciated

by us. He is singularly handsome and gentlemanly, has bearing, and is highly popular with both friend and foe. He is ever ready to do citizens and all a favor.

Wrote a letter this evening to W.D., having an opportunity to send it by the Misses Fearn. It was exceeding stiff and constrained, all my genius being cramped on account of its having to be subjected to the inspection of the provost marshal. Lieut. White read it carefully and approved it, asking me if he should seal it. Singular condescension as they always do this without giving you any option in the matter. Visited some of the trade stores with Mrs. Hereford, but felt ashamed to be seen on the square. It looks like Broadway, so thronged that one can scarcely make their way. Visited Mrs. Brickley in her new house and went to tell Miss Fearn "good-bye." Met Mrs. Mayhew on my way home and she insisted that I send Georgie to school, that his tuition would cost me nothing. News of another battle in Virginia, but no particulars.

Feb. 16. Capt. Fordyce and Mr. T. Barnum called last night to see the young ladies. While they were here, someone stole the armchairs from the front porch. Probably soldiers, for such a thieving set were never thrown loose upon any community as the Fourth Army Corps. This morning, Sue made me a present of a French merino dress. Am alone tonight. The children being tired went early to bed, and Sue and Jennie are to stay all night at Mrs. Hereford's.

Feb. 18. Received a handsome marble clock from Mrs. Cowles to take care of, as she is going to Mrs. McClung's plantation to live during the present year. It is very acceptable, as our own clock stopped when the war began!

Heard some news: the wife of the rebel Col. Johnson, whose cavalry has annoyed the Feds in the vicinity of Huntsville excessively was brought to town a prisoner a short time since and retained four days from her little infant, six months old. Johnson had been capturing several Federal prisoners, which so exasperated the authorities here that they sent over a company of soldiers to burn the houses of innocent people and lay waste the country, which they accordingly did. The women stood with their children around them, looking on and defying them, saying that they worked for what little they had and to burn it away! They could work for more and they would turn out and bushwhack them themselves! They laid Johnson's house in ashes, and Col. McDonald brought his wife to town saying if anything would bring him to his senses, he thought that would!

Walked to the graveyard this morning with Mrs. Mayhew and was surprised to find the fence around it entirely gone, the cattle and horses straying through the beautiful grounds. Such vandalism! The house of Judge Betts, who lives in the country, a beautiful brick edifice, which cost \$18,000, was torn down by the soldiers and the brick brought to town to build chimneys for the soldier's huts.

Feb. 20. Billy started for Dixie this morning, having a pass to go out of the lines and return. Thus another opportunity is afforded to communicate with W.D. There was quite a panic this evening among the enemy. Scouts came in and reported a very heavy force on the other side of the river, supposed to be under Gen. Kick Taylor, and that their camp fires extended 12 miles! It turned out to be the mountains on fire!

Feb. 21. This morning, the wife of the chaplain, who occupies the pulpit of W.D.'s church and who comes here sometimes for milk, came around and asked me in a modest way to lend her a child's dress with an infant body, to have a likeness painted of her child who was dead, to be copied from an ambrotyupe by Mr. Frye. She said she knew of no one to call on except me. I felt a pleasure in obliging her, knowing how lonely and isolated she must feel, here in an enemy's country without a single female friend. She seems a worthy and unpretending creature. Her husband, however, does not so much excite my admiration. He told Mrs. Robinson that he was preaching in a church, the pastor of which was absent instead of being at home attending to his duty. He evidently thinks us quite heathenish, and in his great zeal for the cause in which he is engaged, he thrust, one day, a child paper under the front door, for the benefit of the juvenile heathens of the family. Said paper was highly perfumed with the extract of abolitionism!

Feb. 22. We were startled this morning by the booming of cannon in the public square. We counted 57 guns and, at first, we surmised that the enemy might have heard of the fall of Charleston or Richmond, and were celebrating as they have frequently done before. Upon inquiry, found that it was to celebrate the birthday of the illustrious father of his country. Frank Peebles called to see us today and, after tea, Capt. Fordyce called to see Sue.

Feb. 23. Mr. Hereford came to bring me a letter from Tennessee. It was from Julia, containing tidings from every absent member of my father's family. All well and happy. A young man named Fry came here from the hospital for milk. He sat down and conversed a few minutes with Sue and, this evening, he sent me a bottle of Catawba wine to be given to her, hoping that she would not be insulted.

Feb. 25. Dr. Ross received orders again this week to leave the lines and go South at the end of five days, or abide the consequences. It appears that Gen. Stanley countermanded the previous order which gave great offense to Gen. Grainger, as he commands this district, and he resolved in his wrath that his authority should not be disputed. So that the question has resolved itself into a matter of "pique" between the two generals.

Called to see Dr. and Mrs. Ross this evening and found them very cheerful and rather uneasy over the circumstances. He said that he designed preaching on the morrow, as he could not be expected to travel on the Sabbath, and, if they interrupted him, he should politely ask them to be seated until he was through with his sermon! He has promised me a

copy of the "questions" which were submitted to him a short time since, with his answers. He also gave me a printed copy of a bulletin which appeared upon the Square in Oct. last. The following is an exact copy:

"Divine service will be dispensed with this evening at the Presbyterian church, while Dr. Ross explains to the congregation the difference between Tweedle-dum and Tweedle-dee.

TEXT

I am, Sir Oracle, and when I open my mouth let no dog bark.

First Head

A Southern Lady Must Not Look Upon a Yankee Officer.

Second Head

A Southern Parson May Call Upon a Yank Woman.

Conclusion

'Here's your mule!'

Notice

Weekly meetings of the faithful will be held at the house of Dr. Ross every Wednesday for consultation, where the names of delinquents will be reported. Tea being considered too strong a beverage, a harmless decoction, made from the leaves of 'Dr. Ross on Slavery,' will be served out. Ladies under 45 will not be allowed to vote."

Heard last night of the death of Dr. Leftwick, our family physician. A public as well as private loss, a good citizen and physician. A private soldier came to my front door this morning, bringing me a bag of corn, and said I could give him a little milk for his coffee and he would give me what corn I needed. In the evening, he returned with a bag of meal. Greater generosity than I have heretofore met with the privates.

Sunday, Feb. 26. The action in regard to Dr. Ross' banishment is again suspended and he preaches today.

Feb. 27. Clara resumes her music lessons tomorrow with Miss Ella. She is progressing rapidly. She commenced teaching the children this morning in her room.

March 1. Was surprised this evening by a visit from three soldiers who requested to hear some music, and one of them said that one of their number was a musician. Invited them in. They were gentlemanly in their bearing and conversation, and one of them performed upon the piano remarkably well. They were from Ohio, and the musician said that his mother had some knowledge of music and, having no daughters, had made a daughter of him and taught him to play. They seemed to enjoy their visit and stayed about two hours. They asked to hear the young ladies play, and I made some apology upon the score of their not being at home.

The chaplain's wife, Mrs. Foote, called again. She regards me as a friend and looks to me for sympathy in this land of strangers. She poured her sorrow into my ear, and recited to me the particulars of the death of her only child, a little girl of 18 months, weeping bitterly all the time. She

interests me very much. On leaving, she promised to procure for me some alum from the hospital for my sore mouth.

March 2. Mrs. Octavia Clay dined with me today, and I enjoyed her visit very much. It has been a miserably rainy day. Tonight, Mr. Shufelt, the commissary at the hospital, called sociably. Truly, I must be getting popular with the Yankees. Just as he rose to go, the door bell rang, and the chaplain called and left the promised alum and some pamphlets and papers for us to read. Mr. S. proposed selling me a barrel of flour for \$18. It is selling at the trade stores for \$23. At the commissaries, the officers draw it for \$11. Received a letter from Eddie and Mrs. Powers.

March 5. A beautiful bright Spring morning. The military bands of music are playing from different quarters of the town, and wagons and mules from different camps are moving toward the public square for inspection. We have news that Thomas has gone towards Knoxville with a heavy force, and it is supposed that Gen. Lee is moving in that direction. The Federal officers here are of the opinion that the latter general's movements may again compel the evacuation of Huntsville. Heaven send!

Monday afternoon, my three soldiers called again for some music. They were informed again, to their evident surprise, that the young ladies were not at home. One said that they met a young lady at the gate, and I informed them that it was Miss Jennie Watkins. They spent about an hour playing upon the piano and in conversation and, rising to take leave, begged pardon for the intrusion. They said that they found the Huntsville ladies different from the other places where their army had been quartered, although they had no visiting acquaintances among them. They treated the soldiers with kindness, whereas in other places, Mississippi, Nashville, they had been very abusive. They gave me their names, Lawrence, Mathews, and Austin, and, thanking me for my courtesy, took leave. On that same night, how shall I disclose my emotions upon waking at midnight and finding a Federal band actually in the front yard with their sheets of music and lights in the very act of serenading! It must have been the work of the aforementioned gentlemen, as we knew not any of the army in Huntsville! Such impudence. The whole transaction is impudent from beginning to end!

A terrible accident happened to Georgie this morning. One of his playmates, George Steele, hit him in his left eye with a rock, and we fear that it is seriously injured. Drs. Spottswood and Sheffey both examined it, and the latter has great fear from inflammation. He is very sick, vomiting constantly all day, and the eye is terribly swollen and black. This business of throwing rocks has become a terrible mania of the boys in Huntsville. It is time the police or military took it in hand.

March 9. Georgie's eye is badly inflamed and alarming in appearance, using slippery elm poultices and cold water alternately. Received a letter today from Dave by Mr. Carter. All communication by mail is cut off, owing to the washing away of the railroad bridge during the late heavy

rains. We have some "grapevine" to the effect that Lee has whipped Grant again in Richmond and Bragg has gained a victory at or near Wilmington!

The Feds have put forth a little sheet entitled the "Huntsville Union," in which it is announced that services will henceforth be held forth by "Father Tracey" in the Cumberland Catholic church! They have also appropriated the basement of Dr. Ross' church to the Rev. Foote.

March 10. Mr. Winston, who went to Camp Chase two weeks since to see his son, has returned and called today to bring us some messages from Ed, whom he saw, and said he was looking well and on the list of those to be exchanged through the influence of Capt. Fordyce, who accompanied Mr. Winston from this place and aided him in getting to see his son, as the rules are very strict. Capt. Fordyce is a retired Federal officer staying in Huntsville, and has been very kind to many of the citizens. He gave Ed an entire outfit consisting of a suit of grey, a pair of boots, two shirts, two drawers, two silk handkerchiefs and four pairs of socks and \$50 in money! The officer in command asked him why he was so much interested in the boy. He replied he knew and liked him, and he belonged to a nice family and he wished to do something for them. This is a specimen of noble generosity in an enemy, if such he could be called. Eddie has been fortunate in finding friends. Another Federal, Mr. Strickland, who has been out of the army for over a year, sent him \$20 enclosed in a letter and placed \$100 in the hands of Col. Richardson, who commands at Camp Chase, with instruction to let him have it as he needed it.

Mr. Strickland visited Sherman's army last Summer and was captured by the Rebels. They treated him very badly until he met up with Mr. Charley Bright, a cousin of Ed's, who immediately took him under his protection and treated him with great kindness, until Mr. Strickland made his escape at Savannah. After Ed was captured and on his way North, Mr. Strickland and Capt. Fordyce visited the depot in Nashville, where the prisoners were, offering him money or any assistance he might need. Mr. Strickland went to Gov. Johnson and Gen. Rousseau for their influence in trying to get him paroled, but failed.

There is a general exchange of prisoners going on. Those in dungeons and solitary confinement were the first exchanged. Frank Gurley, who was captured, tried and condemned to a felon's cell for the alleged murder of Gen. McCook, who was killed two years since by Confederate cavalry under Gurley's command, is among the number. Col. Anderson, who caused so many murders among innocent citizens last Summer and has been on trial in Nashville for the same, committed suicide lately. Supposed to be deranged.

March 12. Mrs. Otey and Mrs. Dr. Burke dined with me today. In great trouble about Georgie, all his symptoms being bad. Very high fever, constant vomiting. Imagined his brains affected and sent in haste for Dr. Sheffey. He thinks that the fever might have been produced by a chill, which affords a hope that his case is not so bad as apprehended.

March 13. Georgie better this morning. His fever greatly abated and his eye evidently better. Brother Mitchell and daughters from Athens called this evening to see us.

March 16. Arose this morning from another attack of nervous headache. Sent a letter to Nashville today by Sydney Dotmin. The Fourth Army Corps under Gen. Stanley are leaving for Knoxville, and all is commotion. Georgie's eye much better, and it is a source of joy to see that his sight is not injured.

March 17, 1865. Last night was an exciting one to Sue and myself. I retired early and, feeling very restless and nervous on account of my recent headache, I could not sleep. The night was dark, stormy, and the wind blew terribly, slamming the shutters, with occasional thunder and lightning. Before retiring, I secured the blinds in my room in a way in which they could not blow. But, about midnight, they were suddenly torn open and the window raised. Owing to my nervousness, I was wide awake and sprang up in the bed calling out in a loud voice, "George, call the guard! Where is my pistol?" George was in bed with me, owing to his illness, and immediately replied, "Here it is!"

There was no guard for us to call, neither had I a pistol, yet the ruse succeeded, and whoever it was went away. I immediately struck a light and passed by the open window in my night dress to Sue's room. She was up and terribly alarmed as we two were alone in the house with the smaller children. She went with me to the window, and I closed the blinds. In opening the window, they pushed out the sash, which I nailed down. Sue then loaded her pistol and, having recovered from her first panic, assured me that, if they returned, she would certainly fire! We dressed and sat up the rest of the night, but the burglars did not return. Mr. Tom Barnum is coming to protect us tonight.

There is a great stir among the enemy tonight, and they appear to be leaving in great haste. There is a rumor that Gen. Forrest is at Courtland with 15,000 men. Wonder if it be true. The wagoners, camped back of our lot, have hitched up and left since dark.

March 18. The Fourth Army Corps have nearly all gone. One of them offered me a load of corn for \$1.50. Took him up, and find that it was worth \$17. New troops are coming in to take the place of the old. Raw recruits. Gen. Thomas is massing his troops at Knoxville. It is all a myth about Forrest at Courtland.

March 19. We accidentally got hold of a Louisville Journal today, giving an account of the inauguration of President Lincoln and Vice-President Johnson. It appears that Andy Johnson was most gloriously drunk and demanded to make his speech before taking the oath of office! The speech was, of course, incoherent, and he began by the announcement that President Lincoln was a plebian and himself was a plebian, and they both glorified in it. He disgraced his country and his cause. His friends hung their heads in shame. Most of

the speech has been suppressed. Mrs. Lincoln presented quite a conspicuous appearance upon the occasion, robed in a black silk velvet dress trimmed with ermine. Judging from the description, the whole scene from beginning to end was quite a farce.

Have been very busy today having my yard cleaned up. One of my neighbors, Mrs. R., came along and said it was all nonsense and would let it go. It may be labor lost in times like these, but we cannot bear to see things neglected while in our possession.

March 20. Last night, Mrs. Figures' smokehouse was broken into, and she was robbed of all her meat and lard. These things occur nightly and are without doubt the work of the soldiers, and they have been on half rations for some time.

March 26. We have news of a battle between Johnson and Sherman. The Feds claim a victory, but the information is that it was the reverse. Also "grapevine" that Jeff Davis has resigned and that Gen. Lee is military dictator, that Richmond is evacuated. Wish we did know the truth. Everything looks dark for the Confeds, and the Yankees believe that there will be one more big battle, somewhere in North Carolina. Think, of course, it will result in their favor. We do not believe that our cause is hopeless; believe that it is a just cause and put our trust in the God of Battles. If it be a just one, He will surely not forsake us in the hour of trial, but will work out our independence for us in His own good time and way.

March 28. Spent the morning in trying to garden. Laid off the rows of peas, radishes and lettuce. Mr. Hereford gave me Irish potatoes enough to plant, and called today and brought me a great variety of seed. A valuable present, as they are very high and hard to get. Irish potatoes are \$7 per bushel. I fear the garden will cost me more than it is worth if I have to get a man to take care of it.

March 29. Gave a man \$1 today to plant my potatoes and plow a small piece of ground, which took him about a half hour. A nice looking white girl came this evening and offered her services as a servant, and the only compensation she asked was her board and clothes. It is a very long time now since we have had any tidings of this very dear person, W.D., since he left so unceremoniously in December last. A continued anxiety and heartache is the consequence. Neither have I had any tidings of Billy since he left.

March 31. Last night, we were all seated around the fire in my room when Sue turned to me and said, "Ma, do you know the state of literature at the North?" "I believe so," I replied, "they are a very intelligent people." "Well, she replied, "a lady in Huntsville received a letter today from her friend at the North, and how do you think she spelled cat?" "Kat." "No." "Catt?" "No." "Well, I give it up!" "She spelled it C-A-T!" We all laughed heartily at this and, this morning, I bethought me to pay her back. On awakening, was surprised to find it past 7:00 and everyone asleep. I rushed into Sue's room in my night dress, exclaiming: "Get

up, girls, O, wake up! The town is full of Rebels. The Yanks were caught sleeping upon their side arms and were completely surprised!" They sprang out of bed, "O, Ma, is it possible?" Rushed to the window, and then came George and Dave, "sans culottes," shouting, and just at this moment Margaret came in from the kitchen to see "if the house was on fire." When they discovered the joke, Sue passed it off pleasantly, but Georgie was so exasperated that he returned to bed, and Clara, in her indignation, waxed impertinent and said, "Ma told a story!" "The town is full of Rebs and if the Yankees' arms were not at their sides, where were they?" I replied.

Sue received a note this morning from Capt. Fordyce, written from Nashville, in which he said that he had again visited Eddie at Camp Chase and that he was not yet exchanged. We cannot account for the delay. Wrote him a letter this evening and, accompanied by Mary and Dave, took it to the provost marshal, who graciously approved and sealed it without examining the contents. Went from there to Mr. Barney's store, next to Mrs. Watkins'. She was absent, but found Miss Jennie at home, and she entertained me for an hour with an account of Gen. Stanley's sojourn for nearly three months in her father's house. The general and family made themselves agreeable to the family. His staff, most of them being young, attractive and elegant gentlemen, visited him daily and were very solicitous for an introduction to Miss Jennie, and the general used his influence to bring it about, but in vain. The young lady was obdurate and persisted in her allegiance to her Southern beaux.

Mrs. Stanley gave two large entertainments in the drawing rooms and went out repeatedly and urged Miss Jennie to come, but without success. When the general left, he said, "Well, Miss Jennie, I commend your course and admire you for it! You have excited the curiosity of my staff and they declare that, when the war is over, they are coming to Huntsville expressly for an introduction to you." They had probably heard that she was an only daughter of an heiress.

April 1. Mrs. Watkins came in town today and brought Jennie. Went up town with Mrs. M. shopping. Some of the restrictions of trade have been removed. All citizens within the picket lines are allowed to purchase to the amount of \$10 without a permit. Otherwise, they must purchase a permit and take the oath. In the evening, my friends poured in to see me in rather an unusual manner. All were greatly surprised to find me in health. Said that they heard I was dangerously ill! It proved to be an April hoax. Mrs. Foote came this evening to bring her child's picture--a beautiful, fancy piece, with the face of an angel.

The newspapers are meager of news. We are still kept in the dark. Rumors of three battles in which we have been victorious. A great many sick were removed from the hospital yesterday and sent to Nashville. The price of goods have fallen considerably in the last few days.

A funeral procession is passing, a poor soldier or soldiers from the hospital. There they seem to be dying off rapidly.

There has not failed to be a funeral every day for the last month, and the ambulance usually contains two or more coffins. Considerable pomp is kept up in burying their dead. A large, handsome bunch in attendance, their uniforms in dark blue, rather elaborately trimmed with gold lace, dark blue caps trimmed with the same material, and white gloves. They present an imposing appearance and precede the procession, playing a funeral dirge. Next comes a squad of soldiers detailed for the purpose, with reversed arms. Then the ambulance followed, surrounded on all sides by a body guard of "contraband" men, women and children, grinning and showing their tongues and keeping time to the music.

Tuesday, April 4. Went to the square this morning to make some purchases, having put Margaret and Georgie in the garden to plant corn. We are somewhat ignorant as to the mode, but trust to a kind providence to make it grow. Heard that Richmond and Petersburg were evacuated and in possession of the Feds! Can it be that so much precious blood has been spilt to hold our capitol, and that Gen. Lee has been obliged at last to abandon it? The Yankees are perfectly jubilant over it, and several ladies had to go to bed in consequence. For ourselves, we are not whipped yet, nor do we believe the Southern Confederacy is either.

Hark! A cannon is booming from the Fort--one, two, three, four. One hundred guns have been fired in honor of the momentous occasion. They ought to have fired 1,000 after the nearly four years they spent to obtain it. No thanks to their great Gen. Grant after all--it was the bold, hazardous and successful march of Gen. Sherman in the rear that compelled the evacuation at last! The Yanks do not seem to be apprised of Gen. Lee's whereabouts, and things may after all not be so desperate as they would have us believe.

April 5. Last night, sky rockets were sent up by the enemy, and there was universal rejoicing. Several entertainments were given and, doubtless, every officer got drunk from the excess of joy. The people of Washington are said to have embraced each other wherever they met. A Federal paper voices the war as now over. Not so fast, my lads, you may be mistaken! I say this to you in confidence, dear journal, but wait and see. They are already talking of fixing up another amnesty proposition, which they think will have the desired effect.

April 7. Was surprised by a visit from Rev. Leroy Wood, a Cumberland Presbyterian minister from the North. He came to inquire after the welfare of my husband and the family. Said that he loved him, though he thought him on the wrong side of the war. Said that he supposed that, as I was of Northern birth, my feelings on this subject were somewhat divided. Not in the least, I told him; I am the strongest Southern woman you ever saw! He sympathized with the Confederacy in their suffering, but said that he thought the leaders who brought on this war should be punished. I expressed it as my humble opinion that the Northern Abolitionists had brought on this war. Quite an animated discussion followed, but we parted friends. He is here on an errand of mercy to the Federal sick; he belongs to the Christian Commission.

April 10. Mrs. Figures sent for Sue and, when she returned, she was so overcome with emotion that she could scarcely tell me the news, which was that the Feds had just got a dispatch stating that Gen. Lee, with his whole army, had capitulated and surrendered! It was officially and generally believed! O, my God, can this be true?

April 11. The deepest gloom prevails in consequence of the news of yesterday. The Yankees have made no demonstration of joy, which leads us to doubt the truth of the news. Rev. Woods called again and said that, with all due deference to my feelings, he believed it to be authentic and that, furthermore, they had news to the effect that, in Wilson's raid, Gen. Forrest had been captured. Also heard that there was fighting in Decatur. Forrest must have driven them back, instead of being defeated and captured.

April 12. We are still incredulous with regard to the late news. There must be something of momentous importance pending. Federal papers say that Lincoln is in Richmond, but that no passing to and fro or any communication is allowed. Col. Horner arrived with regiment last night, proving the report of his capture a mistake. He brought 100 Confederate prisoners and 800 horses, all stolen from citizens between the river and Cornersville.

Evening. George comes in and says that peace has been declared on the following terms--that the U.S. expects a war with England and France and that the Confederate States, by returning to her allegiance, is to remain just as she was before the war. Every man to be restored to the rights of citizenship, his property to be replaced, slavery to remain as it was and the South to be united with the North in the threatened war! We are unwilling to believe a word of it. Tomorrow, perhaps, will remove our doubts, for if true, there will be great rejoicing except with the Abolitionists. It is raining terribly and has been for two or three days; some of the bridges are washed away upon the railroad.

April 13. As soon a breakfast was over, Sue went over to ask Mr. Figures if the news had been confirmed. He said that everybody had heard it, but nobody believed it or knew where it came from. The Yankees said they received a dispatch from Nashville today to fire 200 guns here today, without assigning the cause! Up to 4 o'clock this evening, not a gun had been fired, and they now say that the reason why it has not been done is that there is not an artillery man in town. Plausible excuse. If there was any truth in the late news, Huntsville would be vocal with the shouts of joy! Who knows but after all the star of the Southern Confederacy is in the ascendent! We will say to you in confidence, dear journal, right here that we in the Yankee lines have become so thoroughly accustomed to these lying rumors that, when they actually tell us the truth, we don't believe them. Keep this between the leaves and never divulge! Mr. Wilson called to see us today and says that there is "grapevine" to the effect that England and France and Spain had acknowledged our independence! A letter from Ed this evening.

April 14. The firing has commenced. Cannons are booming from the Fort. The brass band is playing, town bells ringing. Railroad engines are shrieking out a prolonged doleful whistle, and the confusion is worse than confounded, and all, they say, for the surrender of Gen. Lee and that of the Northern Virginia army. The boys have gone upon the houstopps, and the dogs have come into the house trembling with fear. Every boom comes to our ears like a knell, recalling our wandering thought for Gen. Lee, and that noble and devoted band of Southern soldiers. We have never yet learned the number that surrendered, as the papers are silent on that subject. Would we could know the truth. Bad as it may prove to be, would be infinitely better than this suspense. Clara has gone out into the back yard to ring the tea bell by way of burlesque. Called her in lest she incur the indignation of the Yankees.

Here comes Mr. Hereford. Says that there is a great demonstration going on among the negroes. Next comes Mrs. Lanice, all excitement, and next Mrs. Brandon. Our heart swells within us from conflicting emotions. The band is approaching. It is Col. Horner's regiment marching through the streets, himself mounted upon a fine black horse.

After dinner, started up town and met two soldiers carrying a drunken Yank to his quarters at the hospital, and a little farther, met Sue, who told me I had better not go, as Col. Horner had given the soldiers until 6 o'clock to get drunk in, and they were taking advantage of the indulgence. Turned my steps towards Mrs. Carter's, and from there to Mrs. Elgin's. While out, heard that Gen. Lee and staff and Gen. Grant and staff were gone to Washington. Came home heartsick and thoroughly disgusted with everything.

Saturday, April 15. All quiet today. News came that Ridgely Cruse had been killed in a skirmish near Mobile. Went to the provost marshal (Capt. Moore) this evening to get three letters approved. While examining them, he remarked to me, "We have just got news that I fear will be worse for you Southern people than anything that has yet happened. President Lincoln was shot last night, at the theatre in Washington, and died this morning. Seward was stabbed, but it is thought will recover." I asked him if it was supposed that a Southern man had done the deed. "O, no," he replied, "it was done by Booth."

I was exceedingly shocked, as might well be supposed, and felt in my heart that it must be bad news for the South, if Andrew Johnson was to succeed him. What startling events have crowded fast upon each other within the last few days! I little apprehended that the last page of my journal would record the death of President Lincoln. Mrs. Robert Fearn died today.

April 16. Gen. Grainger has issued an order to the effect that all persons exalting the death of President Lincoln shall be summarily punished. Mr. Parker was seen standing on the porch of his brother's house, laughing and talking with some young ladies, which excited suspicion that they were

rejoicing in regard to the above. The house was searched, and last night some of the furniture was moved out with a threat to burn the house.

Gen. Grainger's order follows:

"The same diabolical spirit which attempted the life of Mr. Lincoln in 1861, which organized expeditions for the burning of our towns upon the Northern frontier, and the assassination of thousands of women and children, organized under the auspices of the Confederate government, has at last culminated in the fiendish murder of the President of the United States by the hand of the assassin. It is hoped that this act, so savage and so brutal, will find none in this community who in any manner shall express approbation or approval of this most foul murder, they shall be immediately arrested and tried by a military commission, and if found guilty, they will receive the most summary punishment. Such treason shall have no home in the district of Northern Alabama"

Some further particulars have been received of the death of President Lincoln. It appears that the assassin stood behind the box in which he was seated, and shot him through the head. He was then seen to leap upon the stage, exclaiming "Sic Semper Tyrannis!" in front of the actors, and to then disappear, thus making his escape. An assassin entered the house of Secretary Seward and, rushing past the servants and those in attendance, made his way to the bed, where he was confined from his late injuries, and stabbed him, but it is hoped that he will recover. His son was knocked down and mortally injured. Mrs. Lincoln was in the box beside her husband when the shot was fired. Gen. Grant had been urged to go to the theatre that night, but declined and took the train for New York instead.

April 17. This morning, Miss Ella Scruggs and Miss Edmonia Toney were arrested and taken to the courthouse on a charge of having rejoiced at the late news. Col. Horner read them a lecture and dismissed them.

April 18. Today was set apart by the Federal authorities as a day of mourning for President Lincoln. A cannon was fired at 6 o'clock this morning and repeated at an interval of every half hour during the day until sundown. All business was suspended, and the business houses draped in mourning. The schools were all closed, and every mark of respect shown for the day by the citizens. The troops marched through the principal streets with arms reversed, the flags tied with crepe and the band playing a funeral dirge. Mrs. Sheffey, the Misses Withers and Sue Jolly and Mrs. Hereford called to see the procession.

April 19. Mrs. Pruitt returned from across the river today. Ran up to see her the moment that I heard she had arrived. She saw W.D. only 10 days since. He was well, but was on the point of leaving Marion, as there was a rumor that the Feds were approaching that point. Gen. Forrest was collecting his forces to drive them back. When they first heard of their approach, Gen. Chalmers was sent forward with a force to

check their advance, and was ordered by Gen. Forrest to move with all possible haste, but a party was given him in Marion and he stopped to attend it. The next day, a dinner was given him and he stopped to attend that! In the meantime, Gen. Roddy was sent forward for the same purpose, but proved inefficient to resist their progress. I have not learned all the particulars, but it appears that they took Selma, and that Gen. Forrest was there at the time, but made his escape, and is now concentrating his forces for another effort at a dinner at Dr. Cowan's. Mrs. Pruitt says he was sad and gloomy, and that he feared that he would not be able to hold that portion of the country, as he had not men enough. Mr. Ridgely Cruse was not killed, but is a prisoner. Willie Chadick came to the river with Mrs. Pruitt, but, as his business is not quite concluded, will not be home yet for two or three weeks. There is news today that Mobile has fallen. Fear that it is too true. Felt happy and buoyant tonight in the face of everything else, from having my anxiety relieved in regard to my dear husband and Willie.

April 28. Just arisen from a two day's spell of nervous headache. Trying to get my garden in order with the assistance of Frances, an intelligent contraband, who offered her services for a home and board. A coarse, bawling, loud-mouthed negro. Hope, however, that she may prove a help in the garden.

April 29. Mary and myself are lonely today. Clara, George and Davie have gone fishing with a party of children, with Mrs. Figures' protection. I fixed them off with a basket of refreshments. I made them a dish of tictac-parched corn, with molasses candy poured over it, of which they were particularly proud. They went off in high spirits, and I hope their enjoyment may equal their anticipation. They have been shut up inside the picket lines so long they are perfectly jubilant at the thought of escaping for one day. Both of the servants are at work in the garden trying to get it in order. Busied myself washing and dressing my butter. Sold Mrs. Figures two and one half pounds at 50 cents per pound. Have two splendid cows, having raised one of them through all the perils of the war and scarcity of food. Said calf took up quarters in the smokehouse every time a Yankee raid visited Huntsville.

We have news this morning that Gen. Johnston has surrendered to Gen. Sherman upon the same terms that were offered to Gen. Lee. It appears that Sherman's first propositions were so generous that it aroused the indignation of the authorities at Washington, and they were not recognized at that point, and Johnston had been obliged to submit on their own terms. This has ended the military power of the Southern Confederacy.

Went for my new bonnet this morning at Mrs. Carter's, and met Capt. Turner, who has just received a letter from his daughter, Mrs. Williamson, just married to Capt. Todd. Speaking of him in her letter, she said she had only one objection to him, and that was that he was a half brother of Mr. Lincoln! Stopped to see Mrs. Irby on my return. Many of

the boys belonging to Lee's army are arriving daily. It is said to be a sad sight to see them coming into the Yankee lines, under the circumstances, after fighting them for four years and leaving the bones of three fourths of their brave comrades bleaching upon the battle field. Can it be that this great struggle for independence is at an end?

April 30. Went to church this morning to hear Dr. Ross for the first time since the last occupation of Huntsville. After dinner, borrowed a Nashville Dispatch from Mr. Figures to read the news. It appears that Booth, the murderer of Lincoln, has been caught and shot, and his remains are now in Washington. He would not be taken alive, but before he died he said, "Tell my mother that I died for my country!"

President Lincoln's remains have been carried to his home in Illinois, and the demonstrations during the whole route have been a perfect ovation to his memory. Since the news of the surrender of Johnston, the North begins to feel that she has the South in her power, and very severe measures are beginning to be proposed in regard to Rebel leaders. Every precaution is being taken to cut off Jeff Davis' return, and he is denounced as the prince of traitors. The wife of Col. Horner arrived this evening, and they have taken up their quarters at Mrs. Bradford's, just opposite us.

Monday, May 1. Unusually cool for the first of May, and we have had fires all day. Went to see Mrs. Donnegan, who is quite ill. John Young called today. It was like seeing one from the dead, as he was reported killed in one of the battles before Richmond a year since, and it was probably recorded in this journal. Received a visit this evening from Mrs. Horner's baby. A glum looking little creature of five months. Used all the arts and fascinations at my command to win from it one smile, but failed. It would not smile upon a Rebel! Gave it a large bouquet of choice roses and sent it home. Image of its papa. A bright moonlight night. The band is serenading Col. and Mrs. Horner across the street. Contraband and children fill the street, listening.

May 3. Went out this morning to make some visits. Heard that Gen. Grainger had gone to Decatur to meet Gen. Roddy to submit the terms of surrender.

May 4. Mrs. Ross called this morning for me to assist her in cutting out some sleeves and mantle. Clifton Elgin, a returned soldier, called, and Frank Peebles and some other visitors, Col. Scruggs and Mr. Holden. Our returned soldiers look sad. For the most part, they have a noble bearing. Far superior in the personal appearance to the Feds. They, the Federals, do not manifest the right feeling towards the Southern boys. Clifton said that some of them were walking behind them (he and Col. Scruggs) yesterday, and he heard one of them say, "There goes two of them fellows!" Two or three days since, one of them attacked young Cochran and taunted him with having been whipped. He gave them a retort, courteous and scathing, and there is no telling what might have grown out of it had not an officer come along and taken the soldier into custody.

May 5. Sue and Mary have gone to Mrs. Watkins' to spend the day. Had my dining room carpet taken up and a general cleaning up. Heard that Col. Horner had been to Maysville to settle the terms of surrender with Col. Johnson and Meade and would not allow them to retain their horses. His terms were rejected. Mr. Mayhew returned this evening after an absence of nearly three years.

May 6. Sick in bed.

May 7. It is said that Col. Horner and an armed force have gone to take Col. Meade and Johnson. The U.S. government has offered a large reward for the apprehension of Jeff Davis, Breckenridge and other so-called prominent leaders in the rebellion. They are also accused of participation in the death of President Lincoln, which bears a falsehood upon the face of it, and shows the vindictive spirit at Washington now operating against the unfortunate people of the South. They had better take the advice of such men as Gen. Lee, who tells them that "unless they pursue a mild, generous policy toward the South, the war is not at an end!"

May 8. Received a letter this morning from Nashville, written in a strange hand. Looked at the signature--Austin! Who is he? Light breaks. O, yes, one of the three Federal soldiers who called and asked for music. Fears that he was neglected in thanking me sufficiently for my courtesy and hospitality, which he will ever remember. Offers his services in doing anything for me in Nashville, where his brigade is quartered. Bill returned last night. He brings no new tidings of my best friend.

May 9. Heard last night that our kind and disinterested friend, Capt. Fordyce, was lying dangerously ill in Nashville. Feel the deepest regret. Wrote him a note this morning, thanking him for all his kindness and generosity to Edwin, and expressing our sympathy for his illness. Wrote also to Mr. Herrick, asking him to show brother Dave the note and requested him to hunt up Capt. Fordyce, and show him every attention in his power.

May 10. Brother Mitchell and wife from Athens called to see us this morning. He says there is news that Gen. Forrest has been killed by one of his captains, whose son he had executed for desertion. It is rumored that Gen. Roddy will surrender after a few days. There has been a truce for 20 days, which will be out day after tomorrow. The "grapevine" also affirms that Jeff Davis, with 3,000 men, is safe across the Mississippi river. What Southern man or woman would not devoutly pray that this might be true?

May 11. Col. Johnson and his men came in today and surrendered to Col. Givens. He declined surrendering to Col. Horner, but said that he would surrender to a gentleman. Their request to retain their horses, which were their own private property, had been refused by Col. Horner. They came in on foot, and every man had sold his horse, and they had only a few old muskets, which, when they were ordered to "ground arms," they threw down with curses and imprecations.

The report of the death of Gen. Forrest has been contradicted.

May 12. Mrs. Bradford and Miss Figures returned last night from Dixie. Brought no tidings of W.D. Feel very anxious as to his whereabouts and his return home. Mrs. Bradford says that she heard he had gone to Texas to hunt him a home! Billy left yesterday morning, without letting us know that he was going to start South, or telling us goodbye. Expects to be gone all Summer. Perfectly in keeping with his eccentricity!

May 14. Have been very ill for the last two days. All restrictions in trade have been removed, and we can now buy without a permit. Can go where we please--no pickets out. The Federal authorities say that there are now no insurgents in North Alabama, and the necessity no longer exists. Col. Horner issued an order for all Confederate soldiers to lay aside their reinforcements and uniforms, and urged the people to try to be united, promising them protection, and asking them to assist him in putting down thieves and robbers, et cetera. News last night that Jeff Davis has been captured. News that causes the heart to ache. News confirmed in tonight's paper. He was taken with his family and staff and sent North, heavily guarded.

May 16. Archie Mills called to see me. Just from Camp Chase. Tells me that Eddie has been released and is on his way home.

May 18. Mr. Matt Steele came tonight. Saw him as he passed and ran out to inquire of W.D. Knew nothing about him. Where can he be? Some say that he has gone across the Mississippi. This we do not believe, but feel anxious and impatient for his return.

May 20. Capt. Fordyce returned to Huntsville last night, and this morning sent down a package of books and papers. Went this evening to see Sandy White to learn some tidings of W.D., but he could give me none. Capt. Fordyce called during my absence and left word that Ed had gone up to Lebanon to see his relatives.

May 21. Mrs. Watkins came in to spend the day. After dinner, we went on the square, shopping. Saw several returned soldiers, but could learn nothing of my husband.

May 22. Jim Matt Robinson called this morning, but had no late news from W.D. Heard that the state authorities had surrendered. What then keeps him from returning? Perhaps he is ill. The soldiers are still coming in every day, and the war begins to see like a frightful dream. We have no news. The papers continue to speak of Davis' capture and arrival at Fortress Monroe, but many doubt the truth of the whole affair. The papers also announce the capture of Clay and Gen. Wheeler. Gen. Kirby Smith has not yet surrendered, and the Federals are beginning to doubt whether he will do so. The Hon. Jere Clemens died on Sunday morning rather suddenly. He had just returned from the North, and has been in bad health for some time.

May 26. A memorable day, for, with it, ends all my suspense and anxiety with regard to the absence of the dear ones. Soon after the whistle of the evening train, Sue came in and said, "Ma, Eddie has come and is on his way here in the omnibus!" It was no surprise, as we were looking for him; but we were not looking for W.D., who got out of the omnibus at the same time, to our very great surprise. The meeting was one of great joy, mixed with sadness. When we thought of the painful weeks and months of separation, borne with patience and fortitude for the sake of the cause, and then the unfortunate result! He was surrendered by Gen. Dick Taylor and was paroled in Memphis, returning home by way of Nashville. He there met Eddie and thus they came together.

The war being over and the dear ones returned, there will be little more of interest for these pages. Therefore, you and I, dear journal, close friends as we have been, united by every bond of sympathy, must part.

"We have shared each other's gladness and wept each other's tears."

Whenever my eyes rest upon you, it will be with feelings of gratitude and affection for the consolation you have afforded me in these days of trial.

Farewell!

HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P. O. Box 666  
Huntsville, AL 35804

Membership Application 1992-93

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Manuscripts for possible publication should be directed to the Publications Committee at the same address. Articles should pertain to Huntsville or Madison County. Articles on the history of other sections of the state will be considered when they relate in some way to Madison County. All copy, including footnotes, should be double spaced. The author should submit an original and one copy.

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