Interviews: Charles A. Dana's Recollections of the Civil War

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It is not very swampy. Go around there -- I don't think you have any great difficulty. There are bushes. The only swamps that I remember distinctly are around the Yazoo River; they must extend up a great way -- dry land -- light soil -- a good many trees. It is not a charming country -- no rustic beauty about it.

There was no fighting at all -- I must have sent one or two dispatches, but there were several lost.

Hayne's Bluff is over on the Yazoo.

Well, that was not an unusual thing. He wanted the firing to stop as they were going to bury the dead.

There were always deserters, and beside there were a good many men who went there unwillingly. They took every opportunity to run away, and then 20,000 men, if two men ran away, come and tell you a story, why it makes a considerable impression upon your mind. It really may not be much at all. They might be lying all the time.

There was always a system of spies, but we never thought much of it. We never relied much upon it. I do not know how many spies were regularly employed. I do not remember. There may have been four or five men who did more or less spying, but it was not of very great importance. They would take a man in and ask him questions.
I do not remember whether she was raised -- the "Cincinnati". I think she was, but I do not recollect.

I do not think that went past the Vicksburg front -- we went out there and got the boat at some other place. There was an established system, so as not to expose the boats to the fire of the Vicksburg batteries. We had a regular line to follow.

Johnston was free -- he was not infested at all. Canton is ten miles north of Jackson. Johnston was there. We moved up and down. We woke up at two o'clock in the morning. There was no lack of ammunition.

From Hayne's Bluff, Catashma is about forty miles. That, I remember. Grant, I think, stayed at Hayne's Bluff and probably stayed in bed on board the steamer, and he asked me to go on this party and we went and conducted this pretty long reconnaissance.

Sherman had an unusual corps of good officers. I think he must have had more regular officers than could be found in any other corps. A regular officer is a man that knows his business. That was thought a good deal of -- it was the first demonstration that the darkies could be relied upon in fighting.