

"He never went among the ancients for figures" he used to say. Instead he drew them from his own experience. That experience had been humble enough but it yielded in his hands a fruitful crop of powerful illustrations. Some of the most typical of these occur in his dispatches to officers during the war. Such was his dispatch to Hooker in June of 1863; fearing that Hooker might cross to the South of the Rappahannock and give Lee a chance to get behind the Federals, he wrote: "I would not take any risk of being entangled upon the river, like an ox jumped half over a fence and liable to be torn by dogs front and rear without a fair chance to gore one way or kick the other." Equally pertinent was his message sent a few days later to the same general :-- "If the head of Lee's army is at Martinsburg and the tail of it on the plank road between Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, the animal must be very slim somewhere. Could you not break him?". And nothing could have been better than his advice to Grant in '64, "Hold on with a bulldog grip and chew and choke as much as possible."

Best int to swap Jones in crossing the stream