

# United States Military Telegraph.

RECORD & PENSION OFFICE

JAN 27

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1861

WAR DEPARTMENT

Inc 6

Sent War Dept Washington  
Thursday Sep 26<sup>th</sup> 1861

To

Today is the day of humiliation, prayer and fasting, appointed by our worthy President, so that the united prayers of the nation, bent upon one object might ascend to heaven, imploring that God would assist in putting down the unholy rebellion. Telegraphers not being either very humble or very prayerful and far from being factors remained in their offices. We of the Army corps, whilst the Army was having holiday, more than usually vigilant at our posts. It was past noon. Sam Gilmore (our chief) and myself smoking the inveterate briar pipe (all army telegraphists are inveterate pipers) were lounging watching for calls. My two colleagues sitting reading papers at their instruments. George (one of our messengers) sitting on

The floor mixing the chemical  
compound necessary for a  
"Daniels" battery - In fact Mr  
President familiarly termed "Old Abe"  
with his well worn linen coat ~~and~~  
Coat could not originally have cost more  
than \$2.00 all in specie - He drew his  
long form down and "ducked" himself  
into the office - Spying George, he said  
"Well sorry mixing the juices eh?"  
Then seating himself on a chair he put  
on his specs remarking, "Gentleman,  
fast day, work as fast as you can,  
the proclamation was wise and that  
my interpretation of its bearing upon  
you" - ~~Then~~ the fluffed and we all  
"fluffed" - Then says he "now we will talk  
a little to Gov Morton at Indianapolis  
I want to give him a lesson in Geography"  
"Regarding Green affair I set him all  
right off" now I will tell him a little  
something about Kentucky" (That Morton  
is a good patriot but at times he they  
"speechedest" (the very word he used) man I  
know of" - Done talking. Done telegraphing  
he removed his good honored <sup>immensity</sup>  
from one little room to a larger one  
at the White House

Wm Wilson  
Operator No 48