

you - May know
keenly felt, but the more experienced men knew that every now
and then something happened, that there was good cause for
suspicion. *From the beginning of the campaign*
~~They knew that Grant's movements were being re-~~
ported in the Richmond papers when the North knew nothing about
them. Oddly enough, the Army of the Potomac received the Rich-
mond papers more regularly than it did those from the North,
and again and again orders which headquarters had supposed
to be absolutely secret were spread out in the Confederate
press. Obviously there was a traitor in the camp. As a mat-
ter of fact one was discovered in one of the earliest days
of the Wilderness campaign. Grant with his staff and cer-
tain officers had left their tent and gone out for discussion
to a spot which they believed to be quite safe, when Gen. ^{*seeley*} Rollins, ^{*awful*}
who had the eyes of a hawk, suddenly discovered behind a nearby
stump an eavesdropper. The man was pounced upon and summarily
sent to a safe place. The incident naturally increased the
suspicion of those that were responsible. They were an unsafe
lot, these correspondents, and particularly unsafe in this cam-
paign ~~which they had on foot.~~

Henry Wing learned from the first day he was with the
army how summarily a man would be dealt with who was suspected
of sending out anything which headquarters did not want to be
reported, even though the thing might be true. The night that he
had brought to the Cabinet in Washington the news of the lost

reported, even though the thing might be true. The night that he had brought to the Cabinet in Washington the news of the lost army, and afterwards he had told the President when he was alone with him, what he certainly believed to be true, that in the uncertainty and disorganization which followed the first day of fighting in the Wilderness, Meade had proposed that the army fall back north of the Rapidan, reorganize and try again, and that Grant had vetoed the suggestion, Wing had had the wisdom to

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repeat this not even to the Cabinet. But he somehow had felt that it belonged to the President, as indeed it did. He did not put it in his dispatches, but there was a correspondent that was no indiscreet enough to do so, and a few days after Cold Harbor and after Henry had come back to the army, carrying that order of the President to act as eyes and ears for him, he saw what happened to those that told things that were not to be known.

Gen. Meade was furious that the report that he wanted to fall back had gone out. He declared it was not true, and the correspondent that made the slip was ordered punished. He was paraded through the army as it lay at

a week after Cold Harbor, bearing the inscription, 'Libeler of the Press' and after everybody had seen his disgrace, he was shipped back to Washington. It was lesson that no newspaper correspondent was apt to forget. It tended of course to increase the general

attitude of distrust of the fraternity among officers and men.

Young Henry Wing was in little danger of getting into trouble by any indiscretion, but the head of the Tribune news battery

9 Young Henry Wing was in little danger of getting into trouble by any indiscretion, but the head of the Tribune news battery at that time was His dispatches were censored. Moreover, quick to see and quick to judge as he was, with all the tendency of enthusiastic youth to take things as they looked and not as in the judgment of those at the top they should be made to appear, he had a very real sense of responsibility. The idea that by too quick speaking out he might injure the whole campaign was thoroughly burned into his mind. But from the start Henry had a strong hold on both headquarters and the rank and file. They knew his story and that went a long way - knew where he got his limp. In a very real way he was one of them