Any illustrations of the abuses of cotton trading through the army?

Not one, except what is indicated by General Grant, and every officer -- every general officer particularly in whom I had any great confidence, spoke to me about it. It opened the means of giving money to the rebels and of their getting information about what we were doing inside of our lines. There were at that time in the newspapers -- they had begun to print complaints, and especially charges of favoritism, one man being allowed to go in and receive a permit to get out cotton, and another being refused; and it had been beginning to be a subject of unpleasant discussion, so that when ~~they~~ We went to General Grant — Elaborate he had already given me a letter, you know, that I was to have free command ; I came with the Secretary's letter; and that I was to Grant gave order have every privilege that anybody could have; ~~and~~ I think he gave to me one day, and I went to him the next, and says I, "General, I don't like it, and if you would like I will go to Washington directly and endeavor to get it stopped altogether." That was (Quote Lincoln's letter re cotton trading to Dana) all after I had gone back to Washington. Then the policy was fixed. The policy (Cotton trading) had originated very much with Secretary Chase, the industrial people -- manufacturers -- they were stopped, you see -- could not get out any cotton, and there was a great outcry that we could not make any -- could not manufacture anything on this account. But the experiment was fairly tried, and then

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they stopped it. I do not know, I could not say, that I knew of one attempt to over-reach the law. What I tell you is substantial. You may get individual facts, but I do not believe it would be worth the labor of digging them out. That would be a very considerable labor.

Where did you go after the cotton episode - to N.Y.?

I must have done that, you know; I came back and went first up to Connecticut, where I had a little country place, where the family went in the Summer, and I stayed there some time. I must have stayed there after I came back from Cairo until I went down the river ~~after the~~ with ~~of~~ Chadwick, ~~and~~ when I came back from that I went there, but it was not a great while before the Secretary sent for me, to offer me the place of Assistant Secretary. I think this was in September that I went with them. Conklin did not go, you know, he was one of the capitalists of the firm. We put up the money. Chadwick was a rich man, but his services as an expert in cotton -- those were considered to be equal to our capital. We came down -- the family moved down from Connecticut about the middle of October, when the children had to go to school and what I was doing in between, I do not know. I should have to ask my wife, and probably she would not remember. I rather think that this thing which I now tell you, happened in that time. Mr. Watson telegraphed for me to come to Washington. I went to Washington and this was before

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the cold weather came on, before the Winter weather, and Secretary of War wanted to see me and he offered me the place of Assistant Secretary, and I said I would take it. "All right," said he, "consider it settled." Then I went out into the street and I met Charles G. Halpin. He was the Major in some New York Regiment, at any rate he was a military officer whom I knew very well as a newspaper man here in New York, and I told him of this thing and he told it immediately to some newspaper people, and it was reported in the New York papers next morning and the Secretary was greatly offended and he withdrew the appointment because I had gone and told it. Well, when I told him I had no idea he was going to tell of it, besides I did not think there was any harm in telling of it; so then I went back to New York and stayed until I was sent for to go down the Mississippi, and that was a sort of function that they could not confide to everybody, and I went on, and Mr. Stanton said: "Will you do this?" "Yes," says I. Says he, "I will have to think what ostensible function I will give you." Well, I had been there in Cairo looking into the Quartermaster's Department, as into every other department, but the Quartermaster's was bigger and had been more talked about. Said he, "I will appoint you a Commissioner to examine the Quartermaster's Department especially, and the Commissary Department". That is the good department in Mississippi Valley, in the armies

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of the Mississippi Valley; and so I went down with that commission in my pocket and I investigated these things all around and reported from time to time; and then, I do not know whether I went back to Washington, but at any rate I was sent to General Grant's headquarters and I may have gone back to Washington, but that appointment was made before I got orders to do that, and I was there through the whole campaign of Vicksburg, on the ostensible duty of looking after these supply departments of the army, but in reality to report to the Secretary the battles and the military proceedings, so that they could get an immediate word about them, and also so that they could settle their minds as to Grant. There had come a great complaint about Grant, and it was reported in the newspapers that he was beginning to drink again. He had been a drunkard and had to leave the army in consequence, twenty years before, but my principal -- my regular duty was to report these things and I went through the whole campaign, reporting every day to the Secretary, what had been done during that day, and that duty I discharged until after the surrender of Vicksburg, and the next day after that, the second day after that, I went straight to Washington. I think that one of my predecessors as Assistant Secretary, was Mr. Scott, of the Pennsylvania Railroad. He had been appointed an Assistant Secretary because of his familiarity with everything relating to railroad transportation, and

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he had been down perhaps in Buell's Army, and in Grant's army at Shiloh, and then I had been inspecting the Quartermaster's Department at Cairo and it was natural enough that the War Department should send me to inspect it further on, investigate it, and especially that they should ascertain from me whether Grant was all right. Did you talk with L. before you about the V. campaign? Nothing is in my memory. Very likely I did, because I was in the habit, or rather he was in the habit of talking with me. Whenever we met he always had something to say, or some question to ask, and after this Vicksburg campaign he was anxious to have me go wherever there was a great military operation, because he got information at once and did not wait for the General's report, and the Generals were all delighted too, because they did not have to sit down and accumulate information in their minds and write out a report. They were every night or every morning. During the battle of Chicamaugua I must have sent a dozen telegrams. There were a great many.

I never heard him say anything about it in that direction, that I can remember, and that is one of the first things that I looked after and that I sent word about every day, because that was one of the things that were doubted about -- whether Grant was judicious in that undertaking, and he finally abandoned it. Well, those were earlier, but when I went down there during the building of the canal, I lived in a tent with the

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officer who had charge of the digging of the canal. I guess it was his idea as much as anybody's -- Colonel George Pride. I lived in his tent at Milliken's Bend; in Memphis, I lived in a hotel while I was there. It was from the headquarters, I went right to General Hurlbut. They always told me everything. There never was any unwillingness to show me the inside of the cars. I had been at Cairo, ~~during~~ that thing ~~that~~ had been talked about everywhere, and the people that were concerned -- those that wanted ~~to go~~. Many were delighted because they got their pay; previous to that it had all been locked up by the failure to pay attention to the army regulations. So they were all pleased. I do not think anybody, in the whole of my experience, ever said a word in the way of criticism or of anything, except General Rosecranz, and he never reported it. Well, then, when I went there, though I had a commission as Assistant Secretary of the War, and I had a letter to General Rosecrans saying: I send my assistant to see if in any way we can do anything to strengthen your position and to render your campaign more certainly successful, and so also that you may have the means of instant communication with the administration, with the government.

There were several officers there, at Memphis several Generals, and it was probably on Hurlburt's statement, or of some other man of very high authority, that I said that. Those were probably

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men that I knew personally. I did not come much in contact with the people in the South. Those that I did see were men who had come to headquarters for some favor and they were all loyal men. I had stayed in Memphis because it was between that and Grant's headquarters -- there was no place -- and there were a good many things that centered there at Memphis, and below at Grant's headquarters there was nothing. I knew Porter personally. I knew him very well indeed, and I think I had known him before a good deal. I do not remember certainly about that, but Porter was a very active, courageous, fresh-minded man. He was an experienced naval officer. I had no particular relations, except that I would go to him as I would to Grant, and he would tell me -- These were all sent to in cipher. I have the cipher book still. Stanton was a very curious fellow, secretive man, and he may not have preserved them (semi-official letters), I don't know. There were some quite important letters. There are some letters that were sent to Mr. Stanton, and that he could regard as entirely personal, if he chose. There was one letter -- there were several about the qualities of Generals -- their peculiarities; such things as you would write in an essay on the man; and they were quite long, many pages long.

I never saw any mutiny -- I think I never saw any case, no I never did.

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I think I had not met Sherman before this time. These are daily reports and they vary from day to day, and when I sent that word, it was because Grant had told me, so; either Mr. or ~~Rollins~~ Rawlins -- and then he reflected upon it and concluded he would not do it, and I do not know who made the political suggestion to him. I do not know that he was, but he had Grant. Importance was due in a degree to Rawlins. Rollins would take that into consideration. Rollins never exhibited himself but his suggestions were always listened to and they were always entirely without any desire to get any glory for himself. It was to carry on the war, and such a suggestion as that would have come from him. That thing must have come from Rollins first.

I did not see much of the negroes in Memphis. They were not much in the town; they were still on their plantations. They had quit -- a good many of them, and gone with the army, but they found work there in various ways, but they were not much seen -- they were not evident in town, in the city, very much. There could not be any disorder because the police was in the hands of the army and they were very strict.

I arrived on August 6th at Milliken's Bend. I went down the river -- there was no other way absolutely. On the left bank of the river there were many swamps. They began immediately below Memphis, and extended to Vicksburg, almost on the

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other side of the river was Arkansas, and there was no such thing as a road leading parallel to the river. It was a partially civilized country. Milliken's Bend was a plantation, a large plantation; I do know -- a great many negroes had it and it was not a high bluff; it was rather a low bank -- low, but not swampy; there were swamps behind it. And I lived in a tent with Colonel Pride.

That is, after I reported he was going to march up Memphis. There were no excavations; the digging did not seem to have amounted to very much -- it was not a very big thing that had been done. Before, yes, I went several times, repeatedly with Pride, and I used to ride every day, and went with him, went with Grant; I had every opportunity of going around in that back country, and I saw a great deal of it. My dispatches were from my personal observations and from the information that I got from General Grant or Colonel Pride or General Rollins. General Sherman was a first rate talker. He was very agreeable, genial and unaffected and unpretentious man. His information was very great and he stated it always in an agreeable and impressive way. He was very loyal to Grant. He always was loyal to him -- I do not think he was ever disloyal to anybody. At the same time, he criticised Grant's mode of conducting these canal operations, but it was always with entire loyalty. There on the Mississippi

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they were always engaged in transportation. The amount of supplies that had to be brought down was very great, and that had to be done by the boats -- flat boats -- tow boats were going back and forth, so that you could always get the opinion of many experienced men as to any proposition. They were loyal men.

Anybody could not, but if you were known to the officers, you could. I never had any difficulty. It was not dangerous, and yet, if you would go -- and I remember going with General Wilson one day -- he was a Major -- and we went to a spot directly opposite to Vicksburg, and we were behind a breastwork, behind a levee. Well, we were there and we were looking across with a glass. Well, that was dangerous because they might have shot across at us. I do not remember whether they did or not. They shot at you all the time -- you didn't mind that -- there was no difficulty as soon as you knew the roads and the windings, and if you did not know, you could always get an orderly to go with you -- a man at headquarters, who knew them. If you went with Colonel Pride, for instance; he knew the whole thing perfectly, because he had planned the canal. We ran the same danger as the Generals did in reconnoitering. If you were in the war you would be shot at often enough; you do not get to mind that -- you get not to mind it.

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fled into the woods -- those who were not shot or captured. They were fugitives, and most of the officers were fleeing also. Colonel Major Horace Porter drew his sword. He belonged to Rosecranz's staff, and Captain B a regular officer who was attached to Rosecranz's staff, drew his sword and they halted the men and halted them fugitives; and they would halt them and put them in a line and make an order -- a sort of beginning of an order among them -- and then where would come six or eight or ten pounds of shot through the treetops over their heads, and the men would turn and run again. I saw Porter and Rosencranz plant themselves in front of a body of these men and command them to halt -- the men who were running -- and one man took his bayonet and threatened Porter, but the man gave in. Porter held his ground and talked to him -- probably swore at him -- (if he did not, he ought to) and that is the only case of real mutiny that I ever saw anywhere, and that was in those circumstances -- men fleeing pursued by the rebel batteries. Standing there with your gun in your hand, in an attitude of attention, and there comes a shot right through the treetops right over your head, and you have then been running away from that, -- so that the men were excused. That is the only instance of mutiny that I ever witnessed.

I think the first time that I saw any considerable

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bloodshed was after Grant had crossed the Mississippi and gone in back of Vicksburg and they were fighting. I could not go with him when he went across -- they had hardly room enough to carry the men. I did not get over until an hour or two perhaps, and they were fighting, and I came right along, going toward Grant's headquarters. I came to a field hospital. The first thing that I saw was a heap of legs that had been amputated. I arms They threw them out in piles as ~~fast~~ soon as they took them off. I think that was rather realistic. I had seen men shot before, and dead men, plenty. but this gave me a wild sense of war that I had never had before

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