J. C. Randall in Vol.23 of the American Historic Review has an article on news publishing in the Civil War. This article shows with ample illustration the exasperated temper in high circles against newspapers in general, and gives the various reason for it.

There of course was the divulging of military secrets. Sec'y Welles was made furious by the revelation to the enemy of all the plans of his carefully prepared and intended secret attack on Wilmington in '64. The New York papers announced that the attack was to be made, announced how large it was to be, when it was to sail and when it was to reach Wilmington. These papers came into the hands of the Confederates as all our papers did, and the secret expedition was properly met when it reached Wilmington.

It was little wonder that under these circumstances Welles should have denounced the newspaper tribe as disloyal pests.

Correspondents of local papers naturally enough

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Correspondents of local papers naturally enough flattered the vanity of their constituency by telling how superior some local officer was to the head of his corps or division or head of the army itself. He cried down the men in position to push his favorite in his attempt to please his local pride readers. Often, too, he took out his grudges against those in authority, building up suspicion and antagonism to superior men. The basis of this was often the man's grudge, wounded vanity - he had not been asked to mess with the general - he had been refused some favor - he had been reprimanded. Grant was so disgusted and hurt at one time by hostile newspaper comment that he considered leaving the army ~~entirely~~.

As for Sherman he was kept in a state of violent and profance indignation - they were fools, those newspaper reporters -

men who will not fight but who follow the army, insisting on all kinds of favors, in order to pick up news for sale, and are more used to praising idle and worthless officers than to notice the hard working and meritorious whose modesty is equal to their courage."

This feeling was at its height when Grant's campaign of '64 was undertaken, and never had the strictures against the news gatherers been more severe, both in Washington and at headquarters than at that time.

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