

The War correspondent was not in good odor in the Army of the Potomac. News had a way of leaking which made Mr. Stanton furious and antagonized officers in charge of movements. Just how it happened that plans which were believed to be kept sacred to a necessary few in the administration and at headquarters seeped through to the public, and, what was more serious, to Richmond, was hard to find; but the fact remained, that sometimes precious information did get out. And, what was quite as trying, rumors or utterly false reports were published from time to time, with every exterior sign of authenticity. Of course the army and the newspapers had fundamentally different objects in view - one was to conceal, the other was to reveal. In order to reach its objective, the army must surprise its enemy; in order to satisfy the public the newspapers must tell how and when they were to surprise the enemy. That the majority of the correspondents with the Army of the Republic were honest and discreet is certain, but that every now and then an indiscreet and even traitorous reporter did succeed in getting in, there is no doubt. Secretary Stanton, as well as Grant, Meade, all of the important officers in the Army of the Potomac had agreed before the movement against Lee was made in May of 1864 that there was to be no leakage this time. Mr. Stanton had redoubled orders, exasperating the old and trusty correspondents. Suspicion at headquarters against the fraternity was