

# United States Military Telegraph.

RECORD & PENSION OFFICE

LT JNR

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Secy

Received Aug 27 1861.

WAR DEPARTMENT

From War Dept Washington

To  
Our pickets beyond Balls  
Cross roads were driven in  
by the enemy numbering 200  
Infantry 500 Cavalry and  
2 field pieces - Our troops  
were all prepared for the  
anticipated attack by  
enemy who were reported  
advancing in force along the  
Railroad - Gen McClellan  
was on the Virginia side  
looking after matters - About  
9 o'clock in the evening the  
President in company with  
2 other gentlemen came into  
office to "get posted" - It fell  
to my lot to make the report -  
I told him Gen McClellan  
was on his way from  
Arlington to fort ~~Ball~~ ~~the~~

Digital Image, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pellerin Library

Coreoran, that our pickets  
still held possession of Balls  
& Baileys Cross roads -  
that no firing had been  
heard since sunset - He  
asked me whether there had  
been ~~been~~ any heard before -  
I told him no one had  
heard any - He laughed  
& said that put him in  
mind of a party who was  
~~examining a~~ speaking  
of a freak of nature, a  
child that from the hips  
down was black. "Well  
(interposed a bystander) and  
what was the color from  
the hips up" "Why black  
as a matter of course"  
rejoined the narrator -  
The President smiled a  
ghastly smile <sup>Wm J Wilson</sup>  
& left - <sup>Govt Telegrapher</sup> We boys  
as a matter of course smiled and stayed -