

NO June 2<sup>d</sup> '62

Gen Shepley Dear Sir

"Error ceases to be dangerous when reason is free to combat it" but it must also have the will to combat I see the stereotyped remark in a late paper "That if slavery was abolished no cotton c<sup>d</sup> be made" There are in the cotton region more white people who labor than there is slaves & if that matter had been enquired into by the census <sup>of 1860</sup> it w<sup>d</sup> have shown that they make the most <sup>cotton</sup> of weeks ago a paper c<sup>d</sup> not have s<sup>d</sup> this with safety But there are many other, oft repeated & never contradicted sayings that I well know & c<sup>d</sup> prove false, regarding africans & Slavery. I have been an observer of these things for 37 years

I noticed also a leader on the subject of \$200 millions of debt & quite a lamentable prospect of the effects of on labor & capital It c<sup>d</sup> be made plain to the meanest capacity that the author was either an ass, or was willing to risque a lie to damage the union cause I c<sup>d</sup> tell him how <sup>million</sup> \$200 pr. an. c<sup>d</sup> be raised without any laborious statistical examination & calculation The 4 million slaves sh<sup>d</sup> pay a pr capita tax equal to \$4 million. 5 million bales cotton taxed \$10 pr bale w<sup>d</sup> be 50 million more. That w<sup>d</sup> be 3/4<sup>ths</sup> of the amt. But I w<sup>d</sup> first reduce the capital of the debt 500,000,000 by confiscations. He assumes the debt at \$200,000,000 at 6 pr ct It c<sup>d</sup> be shewn that this debt will neither diminish the quantum of capital nor price of labor

These falsehoods & flings at the federal gov<sup>t</sup> sh<sup>d</sup> be met with copies of the Souther Review & De Bow's review & a few

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Date: June 2, 1862  
Description: Col. George F. Shepley received this letter of advice, from Henry A. Staples, on how to conduct the occupation of New Orleans.

others of the same kidney the editor of paper published here  
c<sup>d</sup> show not only what kind of a gov<sup>t</sup> was intended here,  
but the absurd theories & false statements on which they were  
based & a yankee newspaper published in N.O. w<sup>d</sup> be read  
from intense curiosity, and thereby probably enlighten the  
obfuscated brains of secessiondom The whining of these  
papers in same doctrines that they lately asserted in bully style  
w<sup>d</sup> furnish an opportunity for administering some bitter but  
wholesome truth

If you had a full copy of the census of 1860 of this city  
it w<sup>d</sup> show the nativity of each person as well as many other  
things. But the nativity is a clue to his present opinions  
The Germans are all union The British islanders much mixt  
The natives of the N States often renegades of the Southern  
all secession. I see frenchmen about Gen Butler It w<sup>d</sup> take  
more proof than c<sup>d</sup> be found, to cause me to believe their friend-  
ship to the Union was aught else but profound dissimulation

Why not put in training the free blacks they were used in  
1814 & 15 Even contrabands c<sup>d</sup> be learned gunery for defence of  
the forts The British garrison their W. India forts with such  
& secession w<sup>d</sup> use them if they dare In Brazil nearly the  
whole army officers as well as privates are of the same color  
It seems but affectation to say it degrades the profession of arms  
No necessary social equality need result Becoming members of  
the same church w<sup>d</sup> seem to indicate a closer contact.

I think great preparation needed to meet possible contingencies  
I think I see & hear what you w<sup>d</sup> not be likely to see & hear  
There are motives for making you think many loyal who are not

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that the papers never had represented  $\frac{1}{2}$  the mortality so that  
25000 died in less than 3 months & over 50000 sick & that in a  
reduced population The aid that might come from the country at  
an appointed time &c I hear it s<sup>d</sup> every day that there is a determination  
to try some plan but what kind of strategy is undetermined  
It however may be, that secession armies elsewhere all defeated  
this feeling may die out

I find no chance for lodging without musketoes having a  
full chance at me Therefore I suffer constantly from want of sleep &  
this hot weather it is oppressive

I w<sup>d</sup> truly rejoice if I had some occupation in which I  
c<sup>d</sup> perform satisfactorily

I have ventured to suggest a few crude & torn  
random way & they may be of little utility yet every  
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to me

Yours truly  
Henry A. Sa[torn]

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