


4-23-1865

Letter from Joseph E. Johnston to Winnie

Joseph Eggleston Johnston

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AMs

John A. &
John A.

Charlotte N.C.

April 23^d 1865

My dear Willie

I have been detained here longer than
was expected when the last telegram was sent you.

X X X X X

The dispersion of Lee's army and the surrender of the
remnant which remained with him destroyed the hopes
I entertained when we parted. Had that army held together,
I am now confident that we could have successfully executed
the plan which I sketched to you, and would have been today
on the high road to independence. Even after that disaster
if the men who straggled, say thirty or forty thousand in num-
ber, had come back with their arms and with a disposition to
fight, we might have repaired the damage; but all was
sadly the reverse of that. They threw away their arms and were
uncontrollably resolved to go home. The small guards al-
ong the road have some times been unable to prevent
the pillaging of trains and depots. Panic has seized the
country.

X X. ~~John A. & John A.~~ ~~any~~ ~~Benjamin~~ ~~well~~ ~~hope~~ X

X X X X X X X

The loss of arms has been so great that should
the spirit of the people rise to the occasion, it would
^{be} not at this time possible adequately to supply them with
the weapons of war.

The above is an accurate extract
from the publication in the Globe-Democrat.