

8-23-1861

Leonidas Polk letter to an unidentified Confederate general, addressing various issues of command and supply. Fort Pillow, Tennessee, August 23, 1861.

Leonidas Polk
Confederate States Army

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Head-Quarters, Department No. 2.

To
Genl. Pillow. Memphis, Tenn. Aug 23. 1861.

General

Your despatch of the 21st
is received.

In reply I have to say that
I am gratified to find your expeditious
what other wise would seem to be
the only construction to be put upon
the course pursued by you in regard
to Col Steeles Regiment - & with a
disposition to credit you own con-
victions, to gratify your own wishes,
and to let up your own judgment in
opposition to the positive orders of
the Commanding General.

You speak more than half of the
incurious of being "tied down
and allowed no discretion" and suggest
that your "Energy should not be
crippled."

I am not aware of the existence
of any evidence of a disposition to
do any thing of that kind at Head

Quarters, On the contrary, I am
convinced by the desire to give you the
largest discretion and the most efficient
support in the sphere entrusted
by your commands, and I may add you
will never find the exercise of your discretion
contested except when there seems to be a
disposition manifested to extend your faithful
authority.

But your explanation is satisfactory and
I waive the transmission of the correspondence
& return and all further notice or recollection
of the matter, and hope you may have
a brilliant and successful Campaign.

I send you by the Ohio Mills 40
mules, the large part of which were to
be put on shoes here or allowed
to escape in the landing of the Hill.

I send you a copy of an order
sent by me to the Q^r Master Anderson
at Memphis in regard to other transportation
let me know if you will want what is
ordered.

I desire to correct a remark of yours in
reference to your lack of facilities since the
surrendering of Q^r Master Adams. Your facilities
shall be as great here after as they have been

(D. 21)

interest, and you have only to send
forward your requisitions and they shall
be promptly responded to.

I remain

Respectfully

Yours etc.

Edwin S. Holt

May - June

Comm. on S. D. P.