

Retirement of Gen. Scott.
Gen. McClellan Assumes Command:

The following letter from Lieut. Gen. Scott was received by the President on Thursday afternoon:

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,

Washington, D. C., Oct. 31, '61.]

The Hon. S. Cameron, Secretary of War.

Sir:—For more than three years I have been under your a hurt, to mount a horse or walk much, to many races at a time, and that with much pain. Other and new infirmities, dropsy and varicose, admonish me that a repose of mind and body, with the appliances of surgery and medicine, are necessary to add little more to a life already protracted much beyond the average of man.

It is under such circumstances, made doubly painful by the unnatural and unjust rebellion now raging in the Southern States of our late prosperous and happy Union, that I am compelled to request that my name be placed on the list of army officers retired from active duty.

My General, very sincerely, your friend and servant,

(Signed) Simon Cameron, Secretary of War.

To Lieut. General Winfield Scott.

Gen. McClellan Assumes Command:

Major General McClellan on Friday night issued the following order:

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,

Washington, D. C., Nov. 1, 1861.]

GENERAL ORDER, NO. 19.

In accordance with general order,

No. 94, from the War Department, I hereby assume command of the armies of the United States.

In the midst of the difficulties which accompanied the war, and which have already manifested themselves in the discretion and skill with which they have been hitherto directed. Its advice has been freely taken, and in several important particulars acted upon, favorably to the health of the army, by the Government. There has scarcely been a company of volunteers in the nation. The Secretary of War and Maj. General McClellan have both recently acknowledged, in the war estimates, the assumption of the responsibility; but confiding as I do in the loyalty, discipline and courage of our troops, and believing as I do that Providence will favor ours as the just cause, I cannot doubt that success will crown our efforts and sacrifices.

The army will unite with me in the feeling of regret that the weight of many years, and the effect of increasing infirmities, contracted and intensified in his country's service, should just now remove from our head the great soldier of our nation—the hero who in his youth raised high the reputation of his country in the fields of Canada!

And to you, Mr. Secretary, when I now officially address you for the last time, I beg to acknowledge my many obligations for the unusual high consideration with which you have always been patriotic and sectional difficulties or prejudices, to be highly conscientious in the performance of every duty, and of unrivaled activity and perseverance.

And to you, Mr. Secretary, when I now officially address you for the last time, I beg to acknowledge my many obligations for the unusual high consideration with which you have always been patriotic and sectional difficulties or prejudices, to be highly conscientious in the performance of every duty, and of unrivaled activity and perse-

verance.

Mr. President, the command of the army would be devolved upon him.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon the Cabinet again waited upon the President and addressed to the residence of Gen. Scott. On being seated, the President read to the General the following order:

On the 1st day of November, A. D. 1861, upon his own application to the President of the United States, Brevet Lieut. Gen. Winfield Scott is ordered to be placed, and hereby is placed, upon the list of retired officers of the army of the United States, without reduction in his pay, subsistence or allowances.

The American people will hear with sadness and deep emotion that Gen. Scott has withdrawn from the active control of the army, while the President and the unanimous Cabinet express their own and the nation's sympathy with him in his retirement, the natural course of the important public services rendered by him to his country during his long and brilliant career, among which will ever be gratefully distinguished his faithful devotion to the Constitution, the Union and the flag, when assailed by a purblind rebellion.

(Signed) Geo. B. McCLELLAN,
Major General Commanding U. S. A.

AN APPEAL FOR OUR ARMY.

What is Wanted for the Winter.

The Sanitary Commission to the Women of America.

The Army Sanitary Commission has

issued the following appeal to the women of America in behalf of the soldiers of our army. The approach of the cold season requires the immediate adoption of measures for the protection of our troops against the discomfiture of winter campaign, and this appeal will be well calculated to hearten the friends of the cause.

Mr. President—This honor over-

whelms me—it overpowers all services I have attempted to render my country. If I had any claims before, they are all obliterated by this expression of approval by the President, with whom I must say, of his Cabinet. I know the President and this Cabinet well.

I know that the country has placed its interests in the trying crisis in safe keeping. Their counsels are wise, their labors are untiring, as they are loyal, and their cause is the right one.

Mr. President, you must excuse me. I am about to go to New York to give testimony to the feelings of gratitude which oppress me. In my retirement I shall offer up my prayer to God for this Administration and for my country. I shall pray for it with confidence in its success over its enemies, and that speedily.

The President then took leave of General Scott, giving him his hand and saying he hoped soon to write him a private letter expressive of his gratitude and affection. The President added:

General: You will naturally feel solicitude about the gentlemen of your staff who have rendered you and their countrymen so much service. They have taken that subject into consideration. I understand that they go with you to New York. I shall desire them at their earliest convenience after their return to make their wishes known to me. I desire you, however, to be satisfied that, except the unavoidable despatch of your counsel to the country, the time may be propitious for the provision which will be made for them, as well as to render their situation as agreeable heretofore as it has been heretofore.

Each member of the Administration then gave him his hand and retired in profound silence.

The Secretary of the Treasury and Secretary of War will accompany Gen. Scott to New York to-morrow by the early train.

Response of Secretary Cameron.

The following is the response of the Secretary of War to the letter of Gen. Scott.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

Washington, Nov. 1, 1861.]

General:—It was my duty to lay before the President your letter of yesterday, asking his permission to visit the recent session of Congress. In separating from you, I cannot refrain from expressing my deep regret that your health, shattered by long service and repeated wounds received in your country's defense, should render it necessary for you to retire from your high position at this momentous period of our history. Although you did not concur in my opinion, I yet hope that while I continue in charge of the department over which I now preside, I shall at times be permitted to avail myself of the benefits of your councils and sage experience.

It has been my good fortune to en-

joy a personal acquaintance with you for over thirty years, and no pleasure can compare with that of your having greatly strengthened by your cordial and active co-operation in all the great questions which have occupied the Department and convulsed the country for the last six months.

I parting from you I can only express the hope that a merciful Providence, which has granted you almost as many trials, will insure your health, and continue your life long after the people of the country shall have been restored to their former happiness and prosperity.

I am, General, very sincerely, your friend and servant,

(Signed) Simon Cameron, Secretary of War.

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The Sanitary Commission has established its right to claim the confidence of the nation. The Secretary of War and Maj. General McClellan have both recently acknowledged, in the war estimates, the assumption of the responsibility; but confiding as I do in the loyalty, discipline and courage of our troops, and believing as I do that Providence will favor ours as the just cause, I cannot doubt that success will crown our efforts and sacrifices.

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And to you, Mr. Secretary, when I now officially address you for the last time, I beg to acknowledge my many obligations for the unusual high consideration with which you have always been patriotic and sectional difficulties or prejudices, to be highly conscientious in the performance of every duty, and of unrivaled activity and perse-

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