

## Abraham Lincoln papers

From Joseph Hooker to Abraham Lincoln, June 10, 1863

In Cipher

Recd 510 PM

June 10. 1863.

Hd Qrs. A of P

2.30 P. M June 10,

Gen. Pleasanton<sup>1</sup> by telegraph forwarded to the Maj. Gen. Comdg the army this morning reports that he had an affair with the rebel Cavalry yesterday near Brandy Station which resulted in crippling him so much that he will have to abandon his contemplated raid to Maryland which was to have started this morning. I am not so certain that the raid will be abandoned from this cause. It may delay the departure a few days.

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1 Alfred Pleasanton

I shall leave the Cavalry which is all that I have mounted, where they are — near Bealton, with instructions to resist the passage of the River by the Enemy's forces. If to effect this he should bring up a considerable force of Infantry to force a passage, that will so much weaken him in my front that I have good reason to believe that I can throw a sufficient force over the River to compel the enemy to abandon his present position.

If it should be the intention to send a heavy column of Infantry to accompany the Cavalry on the proposed raid he can leave nothing behind to interpose any serious obstacle to my rapid advance on Richmond.

I am not satisfied of his intention in this respect, but from certain movements in their Corps' I cannot regard it as altogether improbable.

If it should be found to be the case will it not promote the true interests of the cause for me to march to Richmond at once?

From there all the disposable part of this army can be thrown to any threatened point north of the Potomac at short notice, and until they can reach their destination a sufficiency of troops can be collected to check if not to stop his invasion.

If left to operate from my own judgement with my present information I do not hesitate to say that I should adopt this course as being the most speedy & certain mode of giving the Rebellion a mortal blow.

I desire that you<sup>2</sup> your reflection.

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2 The telegraph operator omitted the words "will give it." See *Official Records*, Series I, Volume 27, Part I, 34-35.

At present the Enemy have one Corps of Infantry at Gordonsville with the advance at Culpepper with the manifest tendency of other Corps' to drift in that direction. I now have two Bridges across the Rappahannock ready to spring over the River below Fredericksburg, and it is this, I believe, that causes the enemy to hesitate in moving forward. Maj Genl Dix informs me that he intends moving two columns up James River tomorrow. But, if organized to correspond in number to the troops as they have of late been posted neither column will be successful — the one on the north side of the River will be too small, & on the south side with his whole column. I Question if Richmond can be taken at all, provided two or three thousand men could be assembled to defend it. The columns should unite at City-Point, or below, and move on the north bank of the river. From information which I deem reliable the only troops remaining in Richmond is the Provost Guard 1.500 and all the troops between here & there are brought well to the front. It would be of incalculable service to this army to be transferred to some more remote point from Washington and Alexandria

The stampedes gotten in town, gotten no doubt by people in the rebel interest, have their influence on my men; for many of them have no means of knowing whether they are with or without cause They think there must be some fire where there is so much smoke.<sup>3</sup>

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3 Lincoln's June 10 reply is in this collection.

Jos. Hooker M. G.