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14th 2nd Army 1864 ✓
21st Jan'y 1864

Maj Gen J A Early
Comd^g of
Hampton.

General

Your letter of the

17th inst with General Kosse's dispatch enclosed, is
received.

I hope that you will bear in mind the great im-
portance of obtaining supplies of subsistence for the
Army. I fully appreciate the great difficulties that
attended the late expedition to Hardy's Hampshire,
and have no doubt that the men brought out all
that the cattle that they could under the circumstances.

But I am informed by Maj Hawkes & others that
there are many cattle in that region still, which
might be obtained, and which we should spare no
effort to get. Owing to the condition of the roads, and
the intense cold, unobscured rapid movements necessary
those parts of the country where most of the cattle are
said to be were not visited. The cattle brought out
were obtained generally on the line of march as I am
informed by Maj Gilmer. In sending any expedi-
tion into that country, care should be taken to select
men well acquainted with it, and who know where
the cattle are to be found. I desire that if you find the
weather & roads unsuitable for the movement of an orga-
nized body of troops, you will endeavor to get all the cattle
that can be brought out by intelligent and active

individuals, giving them all the assistance in
your power. Maj A H Johnson, C S, Harrisburg,
Capt Conroy A C S, New Market, & Captain Ross
of Gilmer's Command have been named to me
as well qualified to aid in this work by their energy,
intelligence & knowledge of the resources of the country.
I wish you to put them, and other suitable per-
sons at this important business as soon as pos-
sible.

Very respectfully
Yours
R. M. G.

P. S. I have just received a letter from Gen Sedg-
wick dated the 20th inst; which shows that he is
present himself on the other side of the Rapidan
Command in the absence of Gen Meade.
Two thirds of his Corps has been sent to the
Valley in uncertainty. Some reports say a brigade,
others a division, & others still a brigade & a
division. The camps are said to be still standing,
so that it is certain that the whole Corps has
not gone.

General Lee's Autographs