

*Historical Notes* to accompany letter dated:

07/12/62: 030

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As might be expected after the dismal results of the *Seven Days Battles*, the continued tenure of the Union commander George B. McClellan was a ongoing controversy. In Cyrus Hardaway's July 12, 1862 letter, Hardaway acknowledged the presence of President Lincoln at Harrison's Landing and the conferences between McClellan and Lincoln. The meetings were not only about military strategy but also included McClellan's presumptuous suggestions to the President regarding their respective duties.

In McClellan's opinion the recent Union *Peninsular Campaign*, and the dismal *Seven Days Battles*, were exacerbated by Lincoln's refusal to provide more troops for McClellan's strategy to capture Richmond. During these conferences McClellan delivered a letter to Lincoln educating the President on the inadequacies of Lincoln's then current military and political strategies. McClellan desired the President to adopt a more conservative role with regard to military affairs. Most interestingly, McClellan advised Lincoln that his approach to the war was too aggressive. Specifically, McClellan suggested that in conducting the war, care should be exercised and that the war "should not be at all a war upon population, but against armed forces and political organizations."

On July 11, 1862 Lincoln appointed General Henry Halleck to the vacant position as General in Chief of the Federal Army. Halleck had been successful in the western theater of the Civil War and was promoted over all other officers in the Union army.

Hardaway's July 12th letter exhibited few of the admirable traits found in earlier letters. He is obviously homesick, depressed, critical, and discontent with many people, events, and affairs. Gone is the optimist and positive thinker that anticipated the war would be over in time for spring planting. It looked increasingly likely that his three year enlistment would actually be three years. It was not the high point in this excellent adventure anticipated by Cyrus Hardaway when he enlisted many months ago in late 1861.