

## SERIES 1, VOLUME 10

### VOLUME OVERVIEW

Volume 10 of this series covers the month of December. It starts off with critiques of Rebel (MSG) Maj. Gen. Sterling Price's proclamations, one which he addresses to "the Army of Missouri,"<sup>1</sup> and the other to the "People of Central and North Missouri."<sup>2</sup> One correspondent mocks Price's repetitive and leading tones as he begs for volunteers — "Men, more men. I must have 50,000 men!"<sup>3</sup> Price attempts to tempt the men with a share in the plunder if they reenlist. An editorial notes that even though Price's proclamation to the people of Missouri is addressed as such, it is only intended for "that abandoned class of adventurers to whom plunder and devastation may be inviting pursuits to the scoundrels, felons, and outlaws."<sup>4</sup> Another editorial, in making fun of Price's proclamation," points out that the lack of response to the original request for 50,000 men, made by Gov. Claiborne F. Jackson, was a sign that Missourians "mean to remain heirs of the glory and freedom of the land of Washington."<sup>5</sup>

According to one report, Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck has confided his plans only to Gens. Schuyler Hamilton and George W. Cullum. Halleck sent out two divisions under Gen. Franz Sigel and Col. John B. Wyman, to Springfield and Osceola, to cut off Price's retreat. He plans not to leave St. Louis until the expedition moves down the river, and he will assume full command of the land forces while U.S. Navy Commander Andrew H. Foote will command the naval fleet, and "both cooperate with each other."<sup>6</sup> Halleck also orders the wealthy secessionist sympathizers of St. Louis, who are found guilty of aiding the enemy, to provide for the fugitive Union families that are coming to the city after being driven out of their homes by rebels. He further entreats them to open their homes to these fugitives and provide for them before being ordered to do so.

Despite the fact that Maj. Gen. John C. Fremont was replaced a month previously as commander of the Western Department, the papers continue to show interest in him and the actions affecting him. Fremont arrives in New York where he declines any public demonstration honoring him, due, as he explains, to his present circumstances. However, a banquet is held in Brooklyn, in honor of both him and Mrs. Fremont. One article reports that the U.S. government's counsel, from St. Louis, is in Washington for the case against Fremont. An editorial says a statement has been prepared, which exposes "several men high in position," and "completely refutes the many charges" against him. It also quotes another paper, which says that President Lincoln is blaming "some of his Cabinet," in an attempt to escape his own responsibility.<sup>7</sup> The *Missouri Democrat* announces that the *Atlantic Monthly* will contain a series of articles<sup>8</sup> by an officer on Fremont's staff, describing the general's one hundred days as commander in Missouri. It uses excerpts from some letters to refute the accusation that Fremont commissioned officers without authority. The paper notes that even though Fremont could not commission an officer, the letters prove that he was given the authority, by Sec. of War Simon Cameron, to "appoint" them, which is how Fremont worded the forms he used, also noting on those forms that the president, if he approved the appointment, would commission them accordingly.<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, a telegraph from President Lincoln affirms that he would commission the officers of Missouri volunteers. An excerpt from the report of the Van Wyck Congressional Committee notes that the Sec. of War ordered Fremont, back in October (Vol. 8), to discontinue all work on fortifications, and the Congressional Committee discusses the cost and continuance of the building of these fortifications and those involved in the works, "generally Hungarians, Austrians, and Prussians..., none of them connected with the engineering department of the Army of the United States."<sup>10</sup> The Committee finds, however, that Maj. Franz Kappner,

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<sup>1</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Dec-Annex-1).

<sup>2</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Dec-Annex-2).

<sup>3</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Dec#1).

<sup>4</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Dec#2).

<sup>5</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Dec#8).

<sup>6</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Dec#4).

<sup>7</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Dec#10.5).

<sup>8</sup> See (FLP: Ser 7FR-V2P1-Dec#15) and (FLP: Ser 7FR-V2P1-Feb62#1).

<sup>9</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Dec#30).

<sup>10</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Dec#68.4).

involved in the construction of the fortifications in St. Louis, was “a man of evident ability and integrity of character.”

Also remembered in this volume is the late Gen. Nathaniel Lyon. Col. Frank P. Blair, Jr., in his capacity as a U.S. congressman, offered a resolution, which was adopted, recognizing the patriotic services of the late general, and to commemorate the victory at the Battle of Wilson’s Creek, each regiment engaged in that battle will bear a flag with the word “Springfield” in letters of gold. Congress passes a joint resolution to honor Lyon, and speeches are made by several senators.

The train on the Platte County Railroad is seized by the rebels at Weston and the freight stolen. One report states that “Price’s intention is to march into Kansas and make that state the field of his future operations,”<sup>11</sup> and the country between Lexington and Independence is almost deserted, possibly because the men have either joined Price or attached themselves to the various rebel commands throughout the area. Reports accuse rebels committing “daily outrages”<sup>12</sup> in the vicinity of Lebanon and relate that refugees are crowding into Jefferson City. Another report clarifies that marauding bands are the ones committing the robberies at Lebanon, and not C.S.A. Gen. Benjamin McCulloch’s men. Another correspondent also observes that violence on Union men was enacted by “unauthorized bandits.”<sup>13</sup> In Steelville, rebels plunder and steal horses, and it is reported that hundreds of the town’s citizens have entered the service at Rolla to rid the town of these rebel thieves. One correspondent alleges that Price has avowed “his purpose to carry on the war by sending out marauding parties, cutting off supplies and harassing” the Union army.<sup>14</sup> However, the same correspondent also reports that rebels are arriving in Jefferson City daily, “declaring that they are sick of the rebellion and wish to return to their allegiances.” A later report contradicts this, stating that the “large numbers reported as deserting him [Price] have simply gone home for the purpose of inducing enlistments.”<sup>15</sup>

Rebels at Columbus, Kentucky have received a large number of heavy anchors and cables, its purpose reported to be to obstruct the navigation of the river at that point. An attack is expected at Cairo, and Gen. Ulysses S. Grant has set a number of Camp Jackson prisoners to work on the fortifications.

Later in the month, the rebels burn a bridge on the North Missouri Railroad, destroy the tracks, and tear down the telegraph line, but men from Col. William Bishop’s regiment repulse those responsible. One editorial suggests these rebels be hung while another suggests they be put to work on repairing the railroad bridges and telegraph wires they destroyed. More bridge burnings are reported in northeast Missouri at Sturgeon, Centralia, Mexico, Jeffstown, and Warrenton, and there are reports that Price plans to destroy all the railroad bridges.

On December 26, Halleck declares martial law will be enforced in St. Louis and “in and about all railroads” in Missouri.<sup>16</sup> Several days later, Rebel (MSG) Gen. M. Jefferson Thompson and his gang attempts to burn and plunder the steamer, *City of Alton*, but their plan is thwarted by a woman, who yelled a warning at the ship and later stood up to Thompson, insulting him and his men, calling them “cowardly dogs,” and challenging them when she was threatened, saying “she would take the contract of whipping every mother’s son of them.”<sup>17</sup>

This volume covers the Battle of Salem, the Skirmish at Blackwater Creek, and the Battle of Mt. Zion Church, each with its own special section describing the event and listing the articles relevant to that event.

Included in this volume is a special letter to the editors, comparing Christmas 1861 with that of the previous year.

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<sup>11</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Dec#4.3).

<sup>12</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Dec#6.3).

<sup>13</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Dec#15.3).

<sup>14</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Dec#14.2).

<sup>15</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Dec#21).

<sup>16</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Dec#56).

<sup>17</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Dec#72).