very large, including not only the plunder of Richmond banks, but previous accumulations. A dispatch received by this Department from Richmond says:

It is stated here by respectable parties that the amount of specie taken south by Jeff. Davis and his partisans is very large, including not only the plunder of the Richmond banks, but previous accumulations. They hope, it is said, to make terms with General Sherman or some other Southern commander, by which they will be permitted, with their effects, including this gold plunder, to go to Mexico or Europe. Johnston's negotiations look to this end.

After the cabinet meeting last night General Grant started for North Carolina to direct operations against Johnston's army.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

BEAUFORT, N. C., *April 23, 1865—6 p. m.*

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War, Washington:

Have just reached here and will start for Raleigh as soon as a train can be obtained. No news here from Sherman. I shall not telegraph to him that I am on the way.

U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant-General.

HDQRS. MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Raleigh, N. C., April 23, 1865—7 a. m.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Commanding Confederate Army, Greensborough:

GENERAL: Your communication of 2.30 p. m. of yesterday is received. My line of communication with General Wilson is not secure enough for me to confuse him by a change in mere words; of course the "statu quo" is mutual, but I leave him to apply it to his case according to his surroundings. I would not instruct him to undo all done by him between the actual date of our agreement and the time the knowledge reached him. I beg therefore to leave him free to apply the rule to his own case. Indeed, I have almost exceeded the bounds of prudence in checking him without the means of direct communication, and only did so on my absolute faith in your personal character. I inclose a dispatch for General Wilson in cipher, which translated simply advises him to keep his command well together, and to act according to the best of his ability, doing as little harm to the country as possible until he knows hostilities are resumed.

I am, with respect,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General, U. S. Army.

[Inclosure.]

HDQRS. MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Raleigh, N. C., April 23, 1865.

General WILSON:

Cipher dispatch received. There is a general suspension of hostilities awaiting the assent of our new President to certain civil points before making a final military convention of peace. Act according to your own good sense until you are certain the war is over. Keep possession of some key point that will secure your present advan-

tages, rest your men and horses, and in a few days you will receive either positive information of peace or can infer the contrary. My messenger should be back from Washington to-morrow.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General.

UNOFFICIAL.] HDQRS. MILITARY DIV. OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Raleigh, N. C., April 23, 1865.

Generals JOHNSTON and HARDEE:

I send bundle of papers for you jointly. These are the latest. Telegraphic dispatches are here to the 19th. Young Fred. Seward is alive, having been subjected to the trepan, and may possibly recover. There appears no doubt the murder of Mr. Lincoln was done by Booth, and the attempt on Mr. Seward by Surratt, who is in custody. All will sooner or later be caught. The feeling North on this subject is more intense than anything that ever occurred before. General Ord, at Richmond, has recalled the permission given for the Virginia Legislature, and I fear much the assassination of the President will give such a bias to the popular mind which, in connection with the desire of our politicians, may thwart our purpose of recognizing "existing local governments." But it does seem to me there must be good sense enough left on this continent to give order and shape to the now disjointed elements of government. I believe this assassination of Mr. Lincoln will do the cause of the South more harm than any event of the war, both at home and abroad, and I doubt if the Confederate military authorities had any more complicity with it than I had. I am thus frank with you and have asserted as much to the War Department. But I dare not say as much for Mr. Davis or some of the civil functionaries, for it seems the plot was fixed for March 4, but delayed, awaiting some instructions from Richmond. You will find in the newspapers I send you all the information I have on this point. Major Hitchcock should be back to morrow, and if any delay occurs it will result from the changed feeling about Washington arising from this new and unforeseen complication.

I am, yours,

W. T. SHERMAN.

HDQRS. MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Raleigh, N. C., April 23, 1865—8 p. m.

General JOE E. JOHNSTON, C. S. Army:

Major Hitchcock reports his arrival at Morehead City with dispatches from Washington, and will be here in the morning. Please be in readiness to resume negotiations when the contents of dispatches are known.

Very respectfully,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General, U. S. Army.

HDQRS. MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Raleigh, N. C., April 23, 1865.

SUPERINTENDENTS OF RAILROAD AND TELEGRAPH,
Weldon, N. C.:

General Sherman requests most urgently that you will put the telegraph wire in working condition from Weldon to connect with the