

positive orders for detachments to stay by their posts and never leave them, not a single detachment that I remember was captured in its block-house or stockade. With the small force we had it would have been impossible to maintain our mail, telegraph and overland routes successfully, if it had not been for our system of block-houses and stockades, dotted for thousands of miles over each of the overland routes. It is evident from our experience in the West that our block-house and stockade system of defending our lines of communication was a great success, not only as against raids of cavalry, but from attacks of infantry and artillery, and saved to us a very large force for the field. I left on the line of the railway from Nashville to Athens during the Atlanta campaign only two regiments of negroes, taking with me my entire corps, and without the block-houses to defend the lines from Nashville to Stevenson and Stevenson to Atlanta, it would have taken a thousand men without block-house protection for every hundred required with it.

—*From the Army and Navy Journal.*

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HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS may consist of a wide range of objects, representing not only America, but the nations with which the U. S. have relations, and particular interest attaches to such things as have been associated with prominent national personages or with great national events; these are of lasting interest. Among specimens may be mentioned weapons and munitions of all kinds—cannon, rifles, pistols, projectiles, torpedoes, swords, knives, etc.; all kinds of minor devices and appliances employed in navigation, land transportation, signaling, engineering, etc.; banners, uniforms, costumes, and separate parts of costumes; medals, coins, badges, books, documents, maps, and photographs, in fact anything that may serve as a representative of historical personages or events.—*Smithsonian Institution Instructions to Collectors.*

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