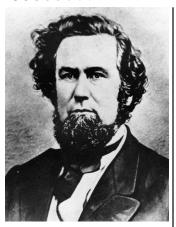


JUNE 8 - 14, 1862



On a June 13, 1862, trip to Yorktown, Norfolk and other recent battlegrounds, Gov. Francis H. Pierpont suggested rounding up as many slaves as possible to do "all the fatigue duty" at Union encampments. After all, Pierpont argued, that's what the Confederacy was doing and it was helping to keep their soldiers "fresh for duty" on the battlefield. He was particularly worried about

Union soldiers having the energy to fight when they had to "take up the spade and do the work of common laborers," according to a letter published in the New York Tribune and the Wheeling Intelligencer. "This he thought unjust as impolitic." Pierpont was talking to several congressmen who joined him on the excursion by steamer and rail from Washington, D.C., to recent scenes of interest in the campaign of the peninsula. Pierpont also "demanded that every house, horse, mule, cow or chicken, or anything else" should be used to provide aid and comfort to Union soldiers.

This sesquicentennial moment is brought to you by the West Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, Archives and History Section.

For more information, visit www.wvculture.org