COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, Sept. 12, 1866.

At the request of General Longstreet, and with his assistance, I have undertaken to prepare for publication a History of his Command during the war. The task was assumed with diffidence and reluctance, and it can only be completed with very considerable aid from those who took part in the operations to be detailed. This aid I now appeal for, with every confidence that those who gave the Corps its reputation will take the little trouble necessary to place its actions on record. It is not intended to produce a general history of the campaigns, or to criticise the grand operations of the army, or even to narrate them any further than will be necessary to an understanding of the marches and battles of the First Corps. Such a history will doubtless be prepared by an abler pen. I propose to write for the Corps, and to produce a simple but detailed narrative of the part borne in the various campaigns by every organisation in it;—one in which each man may trace out his career to his children.

To accomplish this, I require the official reports of every Division, Brigade, Regimental, and Battery commander, or equivalent narratives from those competent to furnish them. I have already those official reports of the battles of 1862, which were published in two volumes by the Confederate Congress, and which probably embrace all which were actually made; but I have none, and I want all of date subsequent to December, 1862. I therefore earnestly beg the co-operation of every one who may be able to assist me in obtaining help in any of the following forms:

1. Official reports of every organisation for every battle, skirmish, and campaign, since 1862, or equivalent accounts. They should always include statements of the position in which the command was engaged, (with diagram, if possible,) of what troops were on the right and left, the hour of the action, the effective strength of the command, the numbers killed, wounded, and captured, the names of officers and men complimented for gallantry, and incidents of general interest.

2. Accounts of prominent events in the history of the Corps written at the time, either for publication or for private reference, by those who saw or participated.

3. Particular accounts of skirmishes not mentioned in general reports, including those in 1862.

4. Topographical sketches of the ground occupied in battle, showing woods, houses, streams, roads, etc, however roughly.

5. Brigade, Regimental, and Battery histories.

A statement at least of the Regiments comprising Brigades, and of the commanders of Regiments and Batteries at different actions, is very necessary; and many other things may be well added, if circumstances permit—such as character of arms at different times, number of rounds fired in engagements, original strength, number of recruits and conscripts received, and total numbers of those killed, wounded, captured, died, discharged, and deserted during the war. Interesting statistics can be prepared from such data.

All papers sent me will be carefully preserved, and returned if desired. Any relating to events in 1862 should be forwarded as soon as possible. Those of later date may be sent at any convenient period before January next.

My address is "University of South Carolina," Columbia, S. C.

E. P. Alexander,

Late Chief of Artillery, 1st Corps A. N. V.
Dear General, this circular will explain how & why I trouble you & when I asked that I depend upon you for the power to do justice to your old command & that I hope that your cooperation will be secured. I appeal to you for help as follows.

1st. Your old regimental reports - if you haven't got them please fill some blank forms & send in another envelope with a sort of equivalent account. 2nd. Your Brigade reports - if you haven't them the blanks may be filled with what facts you recollect.

3rd. A list of surviving officers to send can report their regimental battles for me & whom you may be able to put down. Just like this #12 [Name Regt.] Brevet Battalion each Present can instantly address & Hope, if you know

He can you suggest where I may buy a copy of a printed volume of Reports of Capt. Williams & Lieut. Prices - Please let me hear from you by return yours (I'm in London)

F. T. Alexander

To Mr. L. Bennett)