

1864

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Headquarters Department of the Gulf, New Orleans

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,

New Orleans, December 28th. 1864.

GENERAL ORDERS }
No. 179. }

I. The following Executive General Order, is re-published for the information and guidance of all officers and soldiers in this command :

EXECUTIVE MANSION,

Washington, November 16, 1862.

The President, Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, desires and enjoins the orderly observance of the Sabbath by the officers and men in the military and naval service. The importance for man and beast of the prescribed weekly rest, the sacred rights of Christian soldiers and sailors, a becoming deference to the best sentiment of Christian people, and a due regard for the Divine will, demand that Sunday labor in the Army and Navy be reduced to the measure of strict necessity.

The discipline and character of the national forces should not suffer, nor the cause they defend be imperilled, by the profanation of the day or name of the Most High. "At this time of public distress"—adopting the words of Washington in 1776—"men may find enough to do in the service of God and their country without abandoning themselves to vice and immorality." The first General Order issued by the Father of his Country after the Declaration of Independence indicates the spirit in which our institutions were founded and should ever be defended: "*The General hopes and trusts that every officer and man will endeavor to live and act as becomes a Christian soldier defending the dearest rights and liberties of his country.*"

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

II. The spirit and effect of this order require that those who are excused by its terms from labor, shall not profane the day of rest by dissipation, and frivolous amusements.

III. Attendance on Theatres, Billiard Rooms, and other places of amusement on Sunday, although tolerated in this community by local custom, is dishonorable and contrary to orders, and to the duties which officers and soldiers owe to themselves and the country, and will not be permitted.

IV. Local officers will make necessary orders for carrying these Regulations into effect, and the proper Provost Guard will arrest all officers and soldiers found in violation of this order, after the 1st day of January, 1865.

V. This order will be read to all Regiments, Batteries and Detachments, on the first Dress Parade, after it is received.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL HURLBUT :

JOSEPH HIBBERT, JR.,

Captain and Assistant Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL :

Captain and Assistant Adjutant General.