

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 23.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, March 3, 1862.

I..The eastern limits of the Department of Western Virginia are extended so as to embrace the valleys of the South Branch of the Potomac and of the Cow Pasture Branch of James River; the valley of the James River to the Balcony Falls; the valley of the Roanoke west of the Blue Ridge; and the New River valley. The eastern boundary of the said Department will be, then, as follows: commencing at the North—the Flinstone Creek, in Maryland; the South Branch Mountain; Town Hill Mountain; Branch Mountain, or Big Ridge; the North, or Shenandoah Mountain; Purgatory Mountain; Blue Ridge; Alleghany Mountains to the borders of North Carolina.

II..By direction of the Secretary of War, the following addition is made to paragraph 9, page 10, Revised Regulations for the Army: Except commissions issued by the President to officers of Volunteer Regiments, which will be considered the same as if issued by the Governors of States.

III..In order to guard against the loss of valuable letters mailed by soldiers in the various Camps, the following order is given, on the recommendation of the Post Office Department: The Commander of each Regiment or Brigade will appoint a trustworthy agent to receive all letters from soldiers containing valuable enclosures. Each letter must be prepaid by postage stamps, together with the registering fee of five cents. A failure to register valuable letters increases the danger of their loss. It will be the duty of the agent to deliver the letters entrusted to him at a convenient post office daily, or as often as mails are forwarded therefrom. He will, with the letters, deliver duplicate lists of the same, giving the names of the writers, and the address upon the letters; one of which lists, with the registering fee, will be retained by the postmaster. The other copy, signed by the postmaster or registering clerk, will be returned to the agent, as his voucher for the faithful execution of his office.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL McCLELLAN:

L. THOMAS,
Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:

Assistant Adjutant General.