

MG0115_F003_In06

Lancaster July 11, 1863.

dear Sir—

I have just received the first communication from my manger since the rebels visited him, as he has been cooped up. They were led to where our teams were, on Tuesday, by some friend, and took all my horses, mules & harness, even the crippled horses that were running at large. They then seized my bacon (about 4,000 lbs.), molasses and other contents of the store & took about \$1,000 worth of corn in the mills, and a like quantity of other grain

On Friday, they burned the furnace, saw:mill, two forges and rolling mill. They slept in the office and storeroom on that night, and burnt them with books & all on Saturday morning.

They even hauled off my bar iron, being as they said convenient for shoeing horses & wagons about \$4,000 worth They destroyed all my fences (I had just built a large quantity of post & rail fence, as I was clearing out a farm.) My grass (about 80 tons) they destroyed : and broke in the windows of the dwelling houses where the workmen lived. They could not have done the job much cleaner. It is rather worse than I expected. All the bellows & bellows houses, and [run] out establishment are gone.

They finally expressed great regret that they were not so fortunate as to meet the owner, who seems to be very popular with the [chivalry]. I know not what the poor families will do. I must provide for their present relief.

[Yours]

Thaddeus Stevens

Col. S. Stevens