

**November 19, 1863 - Federal measures to clothe and feed contraband slaves in Middle Tennessee**



[CIRCULAR. ] LEFT WING, SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS,

Pulaski, Tennessee, November 19, 1863

It being impossible to feed the large number of negro women and children coming to our lines, and it being a part of the policy of the Government to protect them, it is hereby ordered that the commanders of posts and provost-marshals return them upon their plantations with written instructions to the proprietors to feed and protect them. Stock, produce, and forage will be left on such plantations in sufficient quantities to support them. Where negro women and children come from so great a distance that it is impossible to return them, they will be quartered upon deserted farms, and grain, abandoned stock, and sufficient supplies left to support them. When abandoned [farms] are not convenient, they will be quartered upon known rebels.



All able-bodied negro men will be received and disposed of as heretofore ordered.



*OR*, Ser. 1, Vol. 31, pt. III, p. 198.