

Engineer Office,
Mobile, Jan. 18, 1864.

Governor: It is my imperative duty to call your Excellency's attention again to the imminent danger which is threatening this point, and unless the working-force, in the employ of the Engineer Department, be increased, without delay, the consequences will be such as I have predicted in my former letters.

Although too much time has already been lost, we might even now be able to strengthen our defences considerably; but we must have laborers, and must have them immediately: 266 negroes - the force at work, at present, - are not sufficient to complete a single one of our works, how then is it possible for the Engineer Department, under such circumstances, even to think of the construction of new works, necessary, as they are, for the successful

defence of this point.

The work is going on day and night: Sundays and holidays not excepted - and I am justified in making the assertion that it is not want of judgment, action or energy on the part of the Engineer Dept, that shall have suffered another calamity to befall us, which could have easily been avoided.

I have the honor to be, Governor,

H. C. Gov. J. H. Watts,
Montgomery, Ala. }

Very respectfully,
Your obt. sv't.

J. H. Shreve

Lt. Col. & Chief Eng.
Dept of the Gulf.

Lt. Col. J. Shreve
Jan'y 1871.
Ans. by Gov. Watts
and enclosed