THE HARPER'S FERRY REBELLION.

Northern Abolitionists Apparently Implicated.

A New Constitution for the United States.

Revelations of Captain Brown.

[Correspondence of the Boston Courier.]

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18, 1859.

By an energetic movement on the part of the authorities here, the civil war at Harper's Ferry has been promptly brought to a close. You have had details in abundance by telegraph, which as you are well aware are but very partially reliable. Although comparatively near the scene of action, even here the rumors are so various and contradictory that the truth is not easily ascertainable. And now that the war is ended, the *casus belli*, as is common with all wars, more or less, is still involved in uncertainty and mystery.

Despatches were received to-day at the War Department from Col. Lee, who went up yesterday in command of the United States marines, from this station, in which he states that he had captured all the insurrectionists, with the single exception of one of the white ringleaders, by the name of Cook, said to be from Connecticut, who fled—where of course he cannot long be safe—into the adjoining county of Loudon. How many have been captured is not known; but it is understood that all the leaders and desperadoes of the mad enterprise are prisoners, without conditions; and that a few lives only have been taken, including one of the marines.

The story of this strange affair has assumed many forms, and has produced much excitement here. In the absence of mails, and connected and reliable telegraphic despatches, and direct communication with the scene, the circumstances have been the subject of swiftly flying rumors, swelled by all the natural tendencies to exaggeration, and magnified by the apprehensions which are peculiar to this latitude. The excitement has been increased by the information which has just transpired, that a few months ago the Secretary of War was apprised by an anonymous letter, which he did not deem it worth while at the time to notice, that about this time just such an insurrection would be developed, and that it would extend to this region and this city. In all its length, such information was too absurd to be credible. A slave insurrection in the District of Columbia would be an impossible event, as indeed it would in any locality in this immediate neighborhood. And in the vicinity of Harper's Ferry, where the slave population is sparse, a rising is at least among the improbabilities. The presence of the Armory, and the facility afforded thereby for arming insurgents, as well as the proximity of that point to the Pennsylvania line, could have been the only motive for selecting that place as the centre of such an operation. There has been some difficulty and disaffection among the Armory workmen, arising from the fact that in the absence of the usual appropriation by Congress for continuing the works there, many of the men have been discharged, and also from a failure of a contractor on the public works there, and the consequent loss of pay by some of the employees. But there is as yet no evidence that these discharged or disaffected men were engaged in, or in any way accessory to the present outbreak.

As far as it is now understood here, this extraordinary affair appears to have originated with abolitionists of the mad and impracticable sort. The leaders are said to be from various Northern States—the notorious Brown of Kansas memory, being one of the moving spirits, and perhaps the leader. He is almost literally a madman, and has lost two sons in his acts of outlawry in Kansas. A third son who was present with him in this last enterprise, it is said has been killed. He himself was severely wounded; and if he survives it will only be to meet certain death in a still more ignominious form at the hands of the law, or perhaps, of an outraged and infuriated Southern community.

The plan of these foolish men, according to present report and belief, was to collect together at Harper's Ferry a large number of slaves, and then, by obtaining possession of the armory and the government funds, to the amount of forty or fifty thousand dollars, perhaps, which, as they anticipated, would be there at this time, arm them, and assist them to fight their way across Maryland into the State of Pennsylvania, and afford them the immediate means of setting themselves up in freedom, or escaping still further beyond the reach of their masters. Brown and others have been some time in the neighborhood, and they had, as is said, rented a farm near the Ferry, which has been the headquarters of their plottings, a rendezvous for their associates, and a place of general counsel. Clothing for the runaway negroes had even been prepared, in anticipation of their coming, so that on assuming the privileges or the liberty of freedom, they might be furnished with the habiliments of freemen.

How many victims to their folly they had secured, or had reason to count upon at the time appointed for the grand stampede, is not known; but according to the most reliable information, it appears that as a general thing, the black followers were wiser than their white leaders, and concluded to decline the proffered opportunity for freedom altogether, or to move with more caution and circumspection than was compatible with the success of this grand *emeute*. There appears to be no doubt that many blacks were engaged, more or less actively, in the outbreak; but the belief is that they acted for the most part under duress, and upon compulsion more than otherwise.

With whatever force the madcaps were enabled to concentrate at the Ferry, they possessed themselves of the Armory, of the arms, and of the government funds, and held possession against the unarmed and peaceable and surprised inhabitants. Either in waiting for reinforcements or for their expected freedmen, they held possession too long, committing sundry outrages, and holding prisoners, and taking life in one or more instances, of which the authentic particulars are yet to be learned. They continued to act like mad men, even after the arrival of the troops, by whom they must have seen that they could easily be subdued. They refused some proffers made to them by Col. Lee, in behalf of certain citizens who were prisoners in their keeping, and suffered their fortress to be besieged and assailed by our indomitable marines, who of course made short work of the conquest.

If the blacks had been found willing and ready to engage in the enterprise, it might have been successful, so far at least as to afford them safe conduct into Pennsylvania. The distance from Harper's Ferry to the Pennsylvania line is scarcely more than twenty miles, through a portion of Maryland, which an armed body could easily have passed without molestation. But the assent and hearty and prompt and eager cooperation of the blacks was an essential prerequisite to the success of this grand scheme of liberation. That being wanting, the undertaking was an act of stupendous folly and wickedness, for which the participators in it will be justly held to pay a dear price.

CATO.

[From the New York *Times*.]

The name of John Brown is not unknown to the American public. It was he who became the scourge of Southern Kansas, and with his band of outlaws pillaged Kickapoo City. Since then he has not been heard from until now, when he turns up in a new quarter, but at his old game—not appreciating, however, the difference between an unprotected frontier village and a town in Virginia.

The following commission, taken from the pocket of Anderson, after death, will give an idea of the character and extent of this new organization:

[Number seven.] GREETING.
HEAD-QUARTERS, WAR DEPARTMENT,
Near Harper's Ferry.

Whereas, Jere G. Anderson has been nominated a Captain in the army established under the "Provisional Constitution."

Now, therefore, in pursuance of the authority vested in us by said Constitution, we do hereby appoint and commission the said Jere G. Anderson a Captain.

Given at the office of the Secretary of War, this day, Oct. 15, eighteen fifty-nine.

JOHN BROWN, Commander-in-Chief.

H. Kagi, Sec'y of War.

Here we have developed a new government, under a constitution, a printed copy of which was also found and delivered to the federal authorities. This "Headquarters" is a small tract of poor land, rented by Brown under the name of Smith, for the ostensible purpose of farming, but planting or reaping was never done upon it. It lies six miles northwest of Harper's Ferry, in the State of Maryland. Here was to be the general rendezvous of the conspirators, and from this point they marched on Harper's Ferry on Sunday night last.

To Mr. Mills, Master of the Armory, who was captured and kept in custody by Brown, this ringleader said:

"We are Abolitionists from the North; we come to take and release your slaves; our organization is large and must succeed; I suffered much in Kansas, and expect to suffer here in the cause of human freedom; slaveholders I regard as robbers and murderers, and I have sworn to abolish slavery, and liberate my fellow man."

Such are the purposes declared by Brown himself to one of his prisoners. To your correspondent he stated, after his capture, that it was no part of his purpose to seize the public arms. He had arms and ammunition enough, furnished by the Massachusetts Emigrant Aid Society. He only intended to make *the first demonstration at this point, when he expected to receive a rapid increase of allies from Abolitionists everywhere settled through Maryland and Virginia,* sufficient to take possession of both States, with all of the negroes they could capture.

I asked if he did not expect to encounter the Federal troops.

"Not if I had followed up my plans. I intended to remain here but a few hours, but a lenient feeling towards the citizens led me into a parley with them as to compromise, and by prevarication on their part I was delayed until attacked, and then in self-defence was forced to entrench myself."

"What course did you design taking from this point?" I asked.

"I had only a general idea on that point, but do not wish to be too closely questioned, lest I should say something which might compromise me hereafter. But to your inquiry I answer, I purposed a general southwest course through Virginia, varying as circumstances dictated or required."

This was the scheme as developed by the notorious outlaw himself, and is confirmed by the other prisoners. He was adverse to the unnecessary shedding of blood, and during the whole fight, peremptorily forbid his men shooting at any one unarmed and peasant from curiosity. The demonstration made with twenty-two men was only the signal for action. The great body of his army remained to be enrolled, and recruits were expected to pour in from all directions.

Edwin Coppie, the only captive not wounded, states:

"I am from Cedar county, Iowa, and am twenty-four years old; I am a Republican philanthropist, and came here to aid in liberating negroes; I made the acquaintance of Capt. Brown in Iowa, as he returned from Kansas, and agreed to join his company; Brown wrote to me in July to come on to Chambersburgh, where he first revealed the whole plot; the whole company was opposed to making the first demonstration at Harper's Ferry, but Capt. Brown would have it his own way, and we had to obey orders; he promised large reinforcements as soon as we made a demonstration; our rifles are some of those furnished by the Massachusetts Emigrant Aid Society and sent to Kansas; they were reshipped to Chambersburgh, and thence hauled with ammunition by teams to our 'headquarters.'"

All these statements were fully confirmed by Capt. Aaron Stevens of Norwich, Conn., who is supposed to be mortally wounded. Stevens is twenty-eight years old, and has a father, sister, and stepmother at Norwich.

The cool bravery displayed by Mr. Russell in entering the engine house in advance of his men, was the subject of special praise. While the gallant Major thus risked his own life, he was aiming to prevent unnecessary bloodshed. A number of shots had been fired on both sides, when some one in the house cried for quarters. Instantly Major R. commanded the marines to cease firing, but seeing another volley about being shot, he snatched a Sharpe's rifle from one of the insurgents, and turning to his own men declared he would shoot the first man who fired another gun. This ended the desperate struggle, which had continued for about two minutes with rifles muzzle to muzzle.

Lieut. Green also displayed great coolness and daring during the short but terrible encounter with these desperate men.

Mr. Washington, who was confined with the other prisoners in the engine house, and all of whom, it was feared, would be shot in the melee, reports that all the insurgents wished to surrender but Brown; that he never quailed, but exhibited a coolness and courage seldom equalled. He ordered and arranged the port-holes drilled in the wall with as much composure as if it had been an ordinary transaction of every day business. During the firing he never faltered. He also says the prisoners were treated by Brown with great consideration and kindness.

Capt. Anderson, on whose person the commission was found, had also a letter from his brother, John J. Anderson, of Chillicothe, Iowa, urging him to remove there and study law with an uncle. This officer, under the "Provisional Constitution," seems to have been quite a poetical character, judging from his memorandum book. From a quantity of verses written in pencil, I copy the following lines:

"I look upon her as she stands,
Free from all woman's tricks of art,
And in my own I clasp her hands,
And lay them on my beating heart."

But that heart is now still in death, and his body lies upon the grass surrounded by those of his deluded and miserable companions, and no more cared for than the carcases of so many dead swine.

Watson Brown, the mortally wounded son of the leader, has a wife in Essex County, New York.

Elbert Hazlett, one of the killed, had nothing upon his person but an empty pocket-book and a lock of lady's hair.

Captain Brown had near $350 about him when wounded. His money is now in the Paymaster's strong box. He fell under two bayonet wounds—one in the groin, and one in the breast—and four sabre-cuts on the head. During the fight he was supposed to be dead, or, doubtless, he would have been shot. He was not touched by a ball, and will probably recover.

It is not true that the Government funds were touched, or the Pay-office interfered with.

Brown says he has no regrets to express, or apology to offer for his conduct.

A chest of pistols, caps, blanks, &c., arrived at "Headquarters" on Friday last from Boston, in care of Marion, one of the killed rebels.

One white insurgent and one negro are now in Jefferson Jail. Five of them—four white and one black—were shot one mile above Harper's Ferry, and their bodies thrown into the Shenandoah.

The Examination of Brown's Dwelling—Implication of Northern Abolitionists.

BALTIMORE, Wednesday, Oct. 19.—We have received the following important intelligence from Harper's Ferry:

Last evening a detachment of marines and some volunteers made a visit to Brown's house. The first visit was to the school-house, and not Brown's, as was stated yesterday. They found a large quantity of blankets, boots, shoes, clothes, tents, and 1500 pikes, with large blades affixed. They also discovered a carpet-bag, containing documents throwing much light on the affair, printed constitutions and by-laws of an organization, showing or indicating ramifications in various States of the Union. They also found letters from various individuals at the North—one from Fred. Douglass, containing $10 from a lady for the cause, also a letter from Gerrit Smith, about money matters, and a check or draft by himself for $100, indorsed by the cashier of a New York bank, name not recollected. All these are in possession of Gov. Wise. The Governor has issued a proclamation offering $1000 reward for Cook, and a large number of armed men are now scouring the mountains in pursuit of him.

HARPER'S FERRY, Wednesday, Oct. 19—P. M.—The killed and wounded in yesterday's conflict is as follows: Killed, six citizens and fifteen insurgents; wounded, three insurgents, prisoners five.

The prisoners have been committed to Charlestown Jail, to await the action of the Grand Jury. They will be indicted and tried in a few days. The question of jurisdiction has been settled in this way: the local authorities are to try the prisoners for murder, and meanwhile the United States authorities are to proceed on the charge of treason. Gov. Wise said to U. S. District Attorney Ould that he has no objection to the general government proceeding against the prisoners, that is, what will be left of them by the time the Virginia authorities have done with them.

Brown is better, and has made a fuller statement, in which he says he rented the farm from Dr. Kennedy six months since, and the rent is paid till next March; he never had over twenty-two men at the farm at one time, that belonged to the organization, but he *had good reason to expect reinforcements from Maryland, Kentucky, North and South Carolina and Canada*; he had arms sufficient for fifteen hundred men; he had two hundred revolvers, two hundred Sharpe's rifles, and a thousand spears; he left them at the farm; he had abundance of powder and other ammunition; he brought all the arms from time to time, from Connecticut and other eastern points to Chambersburgh, Pennsylvania; they were directed to J. Smith & Sons, Kennedy Farm, his assumed name. They were packed in double boxes so as to deceive the parties who handled them on their way to the farm. He says he made one mistake in either not detaining the train on Sunday night, or permitting it to go on unmolested. This mistake, he seemed to infer, exposed his doings too soon and prevented his reinforcements from coming.

The names of all the parties on Sunday night, except three white men, whom he admits he sent away on an errand, are as follows, with their proper titles under the Provisional Government:

WHITES.

Officers—Gen. John Brown, Commander-in-Chief, wounded, but will recover, Capt. Oliver Brown, dead, Capt. Watson Brown, dead, Capt. Aaron C. Stephens of Connecticut, wounded badly—he has three balls, and cannot possibly recover. Lieut. Edwin Coppic of Iowa, unhurt; Lieut. Albert Hazlett of Pennsylvania, dead, Lieut. Wm. Leman of Maine, dead, Capt. John E. Cook of Connecticut, escaped.

Privates—Stewart Taylor of Canada, dead; Charles P. Tidd of Maine, dead, Wm. Thompson of New York, dead, Adolph Thompson of New York, dead; Capt. John Kagi of Ohio, raised in Virginia, dead, Lieut. Jeremiah Anderson of Indiana, dead.

With the three whites previously sent off, these make a total of seventeen whites.

NEGROES.

Dangerfield, newly of Ohio, raised in Virginia, dead; Emperor, of New York, raised in South Carolina, not wounded but a prisoner. The latter was elected a member of the Provisional Government some time since. Lewis Leary, of Ohio, raised in Virginia, dead. Copeland of Ohio, raised in Virginia, not wounded, prisoner at Charlestown.

Gen. Brown has nine wounds, but none fatal.

Bushels of letters have been discovered from all parts of the country. *One from Gerrit Smith informs Brown of money being deposited in a bank in New York to the credit of J. Smith & Sons.* It appears to be one of many, informing him from time to time as money was received.

The Frame-Work of the Proposed Revolutionary Government.

BALTIMORE, Oct. 19.—The following documents, found among Brown's papers, were endorsed: "Provisional Constitution and Ordinances for the people of the United States:"

PREAMBLE.

Whereas, Slavery throughout its entire existence in the United States is none other than the most barbarous, unprovoked and unjustifiable war of one portion of its citizens against another portion, the only conditions of which are perpetual imprisonment and hopeless servitude, or absolute extermination, in utter disregard and violation of those eternal and self evident truths set forth in our Declaration of Independence;

Therefore, we, the citizens of the United States, and the oppressed people who, by a recent decision of the Supreme Court, are declared to have no rights which the white man is bound to respect; together with all the other people degraded by the laws thereof,—do, for the time being, ordain and establish for ourselves the following Provisional Constitution and Ordinances, the better to protect our people, property, lives and liberties, and to govern our actions:

ART. 1. QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.—All persons of mature age, whether proscribed, oppressed and enslaved citizens, or of proscribed and oppressed races, of the United States, who shall agree to sustain and enforce the Provisional Constitution and ordinances of organization, together with all minor children of such persons, shall be held to be fully entitled to protection under the same.

ART. 2. BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT.—The provisional government of this organization shall consist of three branches, viz: the Legislative, the Executive, and Judicial.

ART. 3. THE LEGISLATIVE.—The Legislative branch shall be a Congress or House of Representatives, composed of not less than five nor more than ten members, who shall be elected by all the citizens of mature age and sound mind, connected with this organization; and who shall remain in office for three years, unless sooner removed for misconduct or inability, or by death. A majority of such members shall constitute a quorum.

ART. 4. EXECUTIVE.—The Executive branch of this organization shall consist of a President and Vice-President, who shall be chosen by the citizens or members of this organization, and each of whom shall hold his office for three years, unless sooner removed by death, or for inability or misconduct.

ART. 5. JUDICIAL.—The Judicial branch shall consist of one Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and four Associate Judges of the said Court, each of them constituting a Circuit Court. They shall each be chosen in the same manner as the President, and shall continue in office until their places shall have been filled in the same manner by an election of citizens.

Articles 13 to 25 provide for the trial of the President and other officers and members of Congress, the impeachment of judges, the duties of the President and Vice President, the punishment of crimes, army appointments, salaries, &c. These articles are not of special interest, and are therefore omitted.

ART. 26. TREATIES OF PEACE.—Before any treaty of peace shall take full effect it shall be signed by the President, Vice President, Commander-in-Chief, a majority of the House of Representatives, a majority of the Supreme Court, and a majority of all the general officers of the army.

ART. 27. DUTY OF THE MILITARY.—It shall be the duty of the Commander-in-Chief, and all the officers and soldiers of the army, to afford special protection, when needed, to Congress, or any member thereof, to the Supreme Court, or any member thereof, to the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary of War, and to afford general protection to all civil officers, or other persons having a right to the same.

ART. 28. PROPERTY.—All captured or confiscated property and all property the product of the labor of those belonging to this organization and of their families, shall be held as the property of the whole equally, without distinction, and may be used for the common benefit or disposed of for the same object. And any person, officer or otherwise, who shall improperly retain, secrete, use, or needlessly destroy such property, or property found, captured, or confiscated, belonging to the enemy, or shall wilfully neglect to render a full and fair statement of such property by him so taken or held, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be punished accordingly.

ART. 29. SAFETY OR INTELLIGENCE FUND.—All money, plate, watches or jewelry captured by honorable warfare, found, taken, or confiscated, belonging to the enemy, shall be held sacred to constitute a liberal safety or intelligence fund, and any person who shall improperly retain, dispose of, hide, use or destroy such money or other articles above-mentioned, contrary to the provisions and spirit of this article, shall be deemed guilty of theft, and on conviction thereof shall be punished accordingly. The Treasurer shall furnish the Commander-in-Chief at all times with a full statement of the condition of such fund and its nature.

ART. 30. THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AND THE TREASURY.—The Commander-in-Chief shall have power to draw from the treasury the money and other property of the fund provided for in article 29, but his orders shall be signed also by the Secretary of War, who shall keep a strict account of the same, subject to examination by any member of Congress or general officer.

ART. 31. SURPLUS OF THE SAFETY OR INTELLIGENCE FUND.—It shall be the duty of the Commander in Chief to advise the President of any surplus of the Safety and Intelligence Fund, and he shall have power to draw the same, his order being also signed by the Secretary of State, to enable him to carry on the provisions of article 17.

ART. 32. PRISONERS.—No person after having surrendered himself a prisoner, and who shall properly demean himself or herself as such to any officer or private connected with this organization, shall afterwards be put to death or be subjected to any corporeal punishment without first having the benefit of a fair and impartial trial, nor shall any prisoner be treated with any kind of cruelty, disrespect, insult, or needless severity, but it shall be the duty of all persons, male and female, connected herewith, at all times and under all circumstances to treat all such prisoners with every degree of respect and kindness that the nature of the circumstances will admit of, and insist on a like course of conduct from all others as in fear of the Almighty God to whose care and keeping we commit our cause.

ART. 33. VOLUNTARIES.—All persons who may come forward and shall voluntarily deliver up slaves, and have their names registered on the books of this organization, shall, so long as they continue at peace, be entitled to the fullest protection in person and property, though not connected with the organization, and shall be treated as friends, and not merely as persons neutral.

ART. 34. NEUTRALS.—The persons and property of all non-slaveholders who shall remain absolutely neutral, shall be respected, so far as circumstances will allow of it, but they shall not be entitled to any active protection.

ART. 35. NO NEEDLESS WASTE.—The needless waste or destruction of any useful property or article by fire, throwing open of fences, fields, buildings, or needless killing of animals, or injury of either, shall not be tolerated at any time or place, but shall be promptly and peremptorily punished.

ART. 36. PROPERTY CONFISCATED.—The entire personal and real property of all persons known to be acting either directly or indirectly with or for the enemy, or found in arms with them, or found wilfully holding slaves, shall be confiscated and taken whenever and wherever it may be found, in either Free or Slave States.

ART. 37. DESERTION.—Persons convicted, on impartial trial, of desertion to the enemy, after becoming members, acting as spies, or treacherously surrender property, arms, ammunition, provisions or supplies of any kind, roads, bridges, persons or fortifications, shall be put to death and their entire property confiscated.

ART. 38. VIOLATION OF PAROLE OF HONOR.—Persons proven to be guilty of taking up arms, after having been set at liberty on parole of honor, or after the same, to have taken any active part with or for the enemy, direct or indirect, shall be put to death, and their entire property confiscated.

Articles 39, 40 and 41 require all to labor for the general good, and prohibit immoral actions.

ART. 42. THE MARRIAGE RELATION—SCHOOLS—THE SABBATH.—Marriage relations shall be at all times respected, and families be kept together as far as possible, and broken families encouraged to reunite, and intelligence offices shall be established for that purpose. Schools and churches shall be established as soon as may be, for the purpose of religious and other instructions, and the first day of the week shall be regarded as a day of rest, and appropriated to moral and religious instruction and improvement, to the relief of the suffering, the instruction of the young and ignorant, and the encouragement of personal cleanliness; nor shall any persons be required on that day to perform ordinary manual labor, unless in extremely urgent cases.

ART. 43. TO CARRY ARMS OPENLY.—All persons known to be of good character and of sound mind and suitable age, who are connected with this organization, whether male or female, shall be encouraged to carry arms openly.

ART. 44. NO PERSON TO CARRY CONCEALED WEAPONS.—No person within the limits of conquered territory, except regularly appointed policemen, express officers of army, mail carriers, or other fully accredited messengers of the Congress, the President, Vice President, members of the Supreme Court or commissioned officers of the army, and those under peculiar circumstances, shall be allowed at any time to carry concealed weapons; and any person not specially authorized so to do who shall be found so doing shall be deemed a suspicious person, and may at once be arrested by any officer, soldier or citizen, without the formality of a complaint or warrant, and may at once be subjected to thorough search, and shall have his or her case thoroughly investigated, and be dealt with as circumstances on proof shall require.

ART. 45. PERSONS TO BE SEIZED.—Persons living within the limits of territory holden by this organization, and not connected with this organization, having arms at all concealed or otherwise, shall be seized at once, or be taken in charge of by some vigilant officer, and their case thoroughly investigated, and it shall be the duty of all citizens and soldiers as well as officers, to arrest such parties as are named in this and the preceding section or article, without formality of complaint, or warrant, and they shall be placed in charge of some proper officer for examination or safe keeping.

ART. 46. THESE ARTICLES NOT FOR THE OVERTHROW OF GOVERNMENTS.—The foregoing articles shall not be construed so as in any way to encourage the overthrow of any State government, or of the general government of the United States, and look to no dissolution of the Union, but simply to amendment and repeal, and our flag shall be the same that our fathers fought under in the Revolution.

ART. 47. THE PLURALITY OF OFFICES.—No two offices specially provided for by this instrument shall be filled by the same person at the same time.

ART. 48. OATH.—Every officer, civil or military, connected with this organization, shall, before entering upon the duties of office, make a solemn oath or affirmation to abide by and support the Provisional Constitution and these ordinances. Also, every citizen and soldier, before being recognized as such, shall do the same.

SCHEDULE.

The President of this Convention shall convene, immediately on the adoption of this instrument, a Convention of all such persons as shall have given their adherence, by signature, to the Constitution, who shall proceed to fill, by election, all offices specially named in said Constitution, the President of this Convention presiding and issuing commissions to such officers elect, all such officers being hereafter elected in the manner provided in the body of this instrument.

[By Telegraph.]

BALTIMORE, Oct. 20.—Gerrit Smith's letter of the most importance is as follows:

CAPT JOHN BROWN — PETERBORO, June 4, 1859.

My Dear Friend,—I wrote you a week ago directing my letter to the care of Mr. Kearney. He replied, informing me that he had forwarded it to Washington, but as Mr. Morton received, last evening, a letter from Mr. Sanborn, saying your address would be your son's home, viz: West Andover, I therefore write you without delay, and direct your letter to my son. I have done what I could thus far for Kansas, and what I could to keep you at your Kansas work. Losses by endorsement and otherwise have brought me under heavy embarrassment the last two years, but I must nevertheless continue to do in order to keep you at your Kansas work. I send you herewith my draft for two hundred dollars. Let me hear from you on the receipt of this letter. You live in our hearts, and our prayer to God is that you may have strength to continue in your Kansas work.

My wife joins me in affectionate regard to you, dear John, whom we both hold in very high esteem.

I suppose you put the Whitman note into Mr. Kearney's hands. It will be a great shame if Mr. Whitman does not pay it.

What a noble man is Mr. Kearney. How liberally he has contributed to keep you in your Kansas work.

Your friend, GERRIT SMITH.

BALTIMORE, Oct. 20.—It is generally conceded that Cook is still in the mountains on the Virginia or Maryland side of the Potomac. The neighborhood is so closely guarded that he can hardly escape. The description of Cook is as follows: Five feet four to six inches high; weighs 132 pounds; walks with his breast projecting forward, and his head leaning towards the right side; has light hair, with a small growth around the upper lip; is of a sallow complexion, and has a sharp, narrow face.

In a conversation held with old Brown yesterday, in the presence of Senator Mason, Messrs. Faulkner, Vallandingham, and others, he made several answers which clearly demonstrate the complicity of numerous persons in the Northern, Western and Eastern States. He refused to answer a question as to whether he had a conference with Mr. Giddings about his Virginia expedition, but admitted that he had correspondence with parties at the North on the subject, and that he had numerous sympathizers in all the Free States.

Despatches have been received to-night from Hagerstown, which declare that Cook's wife certainly went to Harrisburg on Tuesday, and took boarding at the same house with old Brown's daughter-in-law. The Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff of Hagerstown followed Cook as far as Greencastle to-day, and the impression there is that Cook had left for Chambersburg. The impression at Hagerstown is that Cook passed through there last night. The Sheriff was credibly informed at Greencastle that a load of boxes passed through there on Tuesday for Washington City, loaded with rifles, pistols and pikes. The Sheriff is going for them in the morning.

The stage driver of the Chambersburg line also confirms the statement as to Cook's wife.

HARPER'S FERRY, Oct. 20.—Col. Lee, with his troops, has returned from the valley. All is quiet there. He found the Garrett family safe.

HARPER'S FERRY, Oct. 20.—The excitement here has not abated in the least, and rumors are multiplying every moment. We have some authenticated statements from Chambersburg, showing that more supplies of arms and accoutrements have been traced to that neighborhood. The people will persist in believing that they are surrounded by spies and accomplices of Capt. Brown. The withdrawal of Col. Lee and the Washington marines, last night, has increased the general consternation, and the citizens are to-day under Col. Barbour of the armory, endeavoring to form companies for general defence. The Virginia militia, however, are not very tractable material for the formation of efficient companies, as all hands want to be captains. Scouts are out in the mountains to-day searching for Cook, but there is no doubt but that he has ere this passed the Pennsylvania line and is far on his way towards Canada.

Every stranger that comes here is looked upon with suspicion, and several have been arrested on the charge of being spies. Mr. William Lee, a gentleman from Charlottsville, was brought in to-day under arrest, causing great excitement. He was soon recognised and discharged.

Mr. Ould also left for Washington last evening, thus virtually leaving the prisoners in the hands of the Virginia authorities.

It is said that Gov. Wise is very complimentary to the people of Harper's Ferry, imputing to them cowardice in allowing such a handful of men to hold a population of nearly two thousand inhabitants as prisoners for twenty-four hours. He also spoke of the fact of eight or ten men keeping forty or fifty citizens in confinement. One replied, "Well, Governor, but you must remember that they were packed together like sheep." His reply was, "Yes, I know that, but I must say you *acted* like sheep also."

The hearing of the case before the examining Court of Justice will probably take place to-morrow, when the prisoners will probably be removed to Wytheville for trial.

Capt. Brown is not considered in any danger from his wounds, though Stevens will, it is thought, not survive. He, however, has a powerful constitution, and may recover.

CHAMBERSBURG, Oct. 21.—Our community were considerably excited to-day by the appearance at noon of one of the fugitives from Harper's Ferry, supposed to be Cook. A gentleman from Quincy overtook the man on the road leading from Waynesboro' to this place, and carried him some distance in his buggy. When about three miles from town the man got out of the vehicle under pretence of taking another road. About an hour afterwards the gentleman saw him on one of our streets. He informed two others who tracked him to a house at which Brown's men boarded. Leaving one man as a guard, the other went for assistance, but before he returned, the man escaped at the rear of the house, passing through a garden. At the foot of the garden a blanket containing a Sharpe rifle, unloaded, was found, and the rifle is known to have been in Cook's possession. Immediate pursuit was given by a number of men, but no track could be discovered. The blanket was marked E. H., and, together with the rifle, is now in Sheriff Brown's possession. The man has other weapons. Cook's wife and child are now and have been for the past week at the house through which the man passed, but she denies that he is her husband.

The general impression, however, is that it was him. He had on a black slouched hat, high crowned, a somewhat faded black frock coat with outside pockets, light brown pants, very large heavy boots, and a red and white striped calico shirt. He is about 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high, sallow complexion, light hair, cut straight across, and light sandy beard and moustach. His general appearance was very rough and shabby. Parties are now in pursuit of him, and others will leave in the morning. It is supposed that other fugitives are in the neighborhood. Efforts are now being made to ferret them out, and if caught, there will be no favor or protection extended to them by any of our citizens.