

midnight found the bridge lights all out, and was immediately seized. Supposing it an attempt at robbery, he broke away, and his pursuers stumbling over, he escaped.

The next appearance of the insurrectionists was at the house of Col. Lewis Washington, a large farmer and slave owner, living about four miles from the Ferry. A party, headed by Cook, proceeded there on Sunday night, and told him he was their prisoner. They also seized all the slaves near the house and took the carriage and horses, and a large wagon with two horses. When Col. Washington saw Cook, he immediately recognized him as a man who had called upon him some months previous, to whom he had exhibited some valuable arms in his possession, including an antique sword, presented by Frederick the Great to General Washington and a pair of pistols presented by Gen. Lafayette to Washington, both being heirlooms in the family. Before leaving, Cook invited Col. W. to a trial of skill at shooting, and exhibited considerable certainty as a marksman. When he next visited Sunday night, he alluded to his previous visit and the courtesy with which he had been treated, and regretted the necessity which made it his duty to arrest Col. W. He, however, took advantage of the knowledge he obtained by his former visit to carry off all the valuable collection of arms which Col. Washington did not re-obtain till after the final defeat of the insurrection.

From Col. Washington's party proceeded with him as a prisoner, in his own carriage, and twelve of his negroes in the wagon, to the house of Mr. Allstadt, another large farmer on the same road. Mr. Allstadt and his son, a lad 16 years of age, were taken prisoners, and all the negroes within reach being forced to join the movement, they returned to the armory at the Ferry. All these movements seem to have been made without exciting the slightest alarm in the town, nor did the detention of Capt. Phelps' train at the upper end of the town attract attention. It was not until the town thoroughly waked up and found the bridge guarded by armed men and a guard stationed at all the avenues that the people found they were prisoners. A panic appears to have immediately ensued, and the number of the insurrectionists at once increased from fifty, which was probably their greatest force, including the slaves who were forced to join them, to from 500 to 600. In the meantime, a number of workmen, knowing nothing of what had occurred, entered the Armory, where they were successively taken prisoners, until they had at one time not less than sixty men confined in the Armory. Among those thus entrapped, were Armstrong Hall, Chief Draughtsman of the Armory, Benjamin Mills, Master of the Armory, and J. E. P. Dangerfield, Paymaster's Clerk. These three gentlemen were imprisoned in the engine-house, (which afterwards became the chief fortress of the insurgents,) and were not released until after the final assault. The workmen were imprisoned in a large building, farther down the yard, and were rescued by a brilliant Zouave dash, made by the Railroad Company's men, who came down from Martinsburg. As this was a condition of affairs at daylight, about which time Capt. Cook, with two white men, and accompanied by thirty slaves, and talking with them Col. Washington's large wagon, went over the bridge and struck up the mountain on the road towards Pennsylvania.

It was then believed that the large wagon was used to carry away the Paymaster's safe, containing \$17,000 Government funds, and also that it was filled with Minie rifles, taken out to supply other bands in the mountains, who were to come down upon Harper's Ferry in overwhelming force. These suppositions both proved untrue, as neither money nor arms were disturbed. As the day advanced, and the news spread around, the people came into the Ferry, and the first demonstrations of resistance were made to the insurgents. A general warfare commenced, chiefly led on by a man named Chambers, whose house commanded the Armory yard. The colored man, Hayward, a railroad porter, was shot early in the morning, for refusing to join the movement. The next man shot was Joseph Burley, a citizen of the Ferry. He was shot standing in his own door. About this time, Samuel P. Young, Esq., was killed, while coming into town on horseback. The insurrectionists, by this time finding a general disposition to resist them, had nearly all withdrawn within the Armory grounds, leaving only a guard on the bridge. About noon, the Charlestown troops, under command of Col. Robt. W. Bayler, having crossed the river some distance up, marched down on the Maryland side to the mouth of the bridge; firing a volley they made a gallant dash across the bridge, clearing it of the insurrectionists, who retreated rapidly down towards the armory. In this movement one of the insurrectionists, William Thompson, was taken prisoner. The Sheppardstown troops next arrived, marching down the Shenandoah side and joining the Charlestown forces at the bridge. A desultory exchange of shots followed, one of which struck Mr. Fortin, Beckham, Mayor of the town, and agent of the Railroad Company, in the breast, killing entirely through his body. The ball was a large elongated slug, making a dreadful wound. He died almost immediately. Beckham was without arms, and was exposed only for a moment, whilst approaching the water station. His assailant, one of Brown's sons, was shot almost immediately, but managed to get back into the engine house, where his dead body was found, to-day. The murder of Mr. Beckham excited the populace, and a cry was immediately made to bring out the prisoner, Thompson. He was brought out on the bridge, and shot down from the bridge. He fell into the water, and, some appearance of life still remaining, he was again riddled with balls.

Sharp fighting ensued, and at this time a general charge was made down the street from the bridge towards the Armory gate, by the Charlestown and Sheppardstown troops and the Ferry people from behind the Armory wall. A fusillade was kept up and returned by the insurrectionists from the Armory buildings. Whilst this was going on, the Martinsburg companies arrived at the upper end of the town, and, entering the Armory grounds by the rear, made an attack from that side. This force was largely composed of railroad employees, gathered from the tonnage trains at Martinsburg; and their attack was generally spoken of as showing the greatest amount of fighting "pluck" exhibited during the day. Dashing on, firing and cheering, and gallantly led by Captain Alburts, they carried the building in which the Armory-men were imprisoned, and released the whole of them. They were, however, but poorly armed, some with pistols and others with shot-guns, and when they came within range of the engine-house, where the elite of the insurrectionists were gathered, and became exposed to their rapid, disastrous use of Sharp's rifles, they were forced to fall back, suffering pretty severely. Conductor Evan Dorsey, of Baltimore, was killed instantly, and Conductor Geo. Richardson received a wound from which he died during the day. Several other men were wounded, among them a son of Dr. Hammond, of Martinsburg.

A guerilla warfare was maintained during the rest of the day, resulting in killing two insurrectionists, and the wounding of a third. One crawled out through the culvert leading into the Potomac, and attempted to cross to the Maryland side, whether to escape or to convey information to Cook is not known. He was shot while crossing the river, and fell dead on the rocks. An adventurous lad waded out and scoured his Sharp's rifle, and his body was afterwards stripped of a portion of its clothing. In one of his pockets was found a captain's commission drawn up in full form, and declaring that the bearer, Capt. Lehman, held that command under Major-General Brown.

A light mulatto was shot just outside the Armory gate. The ball went through his throat, tearing away all the great arteries and killing him instantly. His name is not known, but he was one of the free negroes who came with Brown. His body was left exposed in the street up to noon yesterday to every indignity that could be heaped upon it by the excited populace. At this time, a tall, powerful man, named Evan Stephens, came out from the Armory conducting some prisoners, it was said, and was shot twice in the side and breast. He was captured and taken to a tavern, and after the insurrection was quelled, was turned over to the United States authorities in a dying condition.

During the afternoon a sharp little affair took place on the Shenandoah side of the town. The insurrectionists had also seized Hall's Rifle Works, and a party of their assailants found their way in through the mill race and dislodged them. In this rencontre it was said three of the insurrectionists were killed, but we found but one dead body (that of a negro,) on that side of the town.

Night by this time had set in and the operations ceased. Guards were placed around the armory, and every precaution taken to prevent escapes.

THE NIGHT PASSED.

The night passed without serious alarms, but not without excitement. The marines marched over immediately after the arrival of Col. Lee, and were stationed within the armory grounds, so as to completely surround the engine house.

Occasionally shots were fired by the country volunteers—for what purpose was not understood; but there was only one return fire from the insurrectionists.

The broken telegraph has been repaired, through the exertions of Superintendents Westcott and Talcott, who accompanied the expedition, and the announcement that communication was opened with Baltimore, gave the press representatives abundant employment.

There was no bed to be had, and daylight was awaited with anxiety. Its earliest glimpses were availed of to survey the scene. A visit to the different localities in which the corpses of the insurrectionists were lying, stark and bloody—a peep, close or far, according to the courage of the observer, at the Malakoff of the insurgents—was the established order of the eight-seeing, varied with the discussion of all sorts of reliable rumors.

NOTICE FOR ARREST—ATTACK AND CAPTURE.

Shortly after seven o'clock, Lieutenant B. Stuart, of the First Cavalry, who was acting as Aid for Col. Lee, advanced to parley with the besieged, Samuel Strider, Esq., an old and respectable citizen, bearing a flag of truce. They were received at the door by Captain Cort. Lieutenant Stuart demanded an unconditional surrender, only promising them protection from immediate violence and trial by law.

Capt. Brown refused all terms but those previously demanded, which were, substantially, that they should be permitted to march out with their men and arms, making the prisoners with them; that they should proceed, unpursued, to the second toll-gate, when they would free their prisoners. The soldiers would then be permitted to pursue them, and they would fight if they could not escape.

Of course this was refused, and Lieutenant Stuart pressed upon Brown his desperate position, and urged a surrender. The expostulation, though beyond ear-shot, was evidently very earnest, and the coolness of the Lieutenant and the courage of his aged flag-bearer, was warmly praised.

At this moment the interest of the scene was intense. The volunteers were arrayed all around the building, cutting off escape in every direction. The marines, divided in two squads, were ready for a dash at the door. Finally, Lieut. Stuart having exhausted all argument with the determined Capt. Brown, walked slowly from the door.

Immediately the signal for attack was given, and the marines, headed by Col. Harris and Lieut. Green, advanced in two lines on each side of the door. Two powerful fellows sprung between the lines, and with heavy sledge hammers attempted to batter down the doors. The doors swung and swayed, but appeared to be secured with a rope, the spring of which deadened the effect of the blows.

Failing thus to obtain a breach, the Marines were ordered to fall back, and twenty of them took hold of a ladder some forty feet long, and,

advancing at a run, brought it with tremendous effect against the door. At the second blow, one leaf falling inward, in slanting position, the Marines immediately advanced to the breach, Major Russell and Lieutenant Green leading. A marine in the front fell, and the firing from the interior was very severe. They fired with deliberate aim, and for a moment the resistance is serious and desperate enough to excite the spectators to something like a pitch of frenzy. The next moment the marines pour in, the firing ceases, and the work was done, whilst cheers rang from every side, the general feeling being that the marines had done their part admirably.

A LETTER FOUND IN CAPT. BROWN'S POCKET, RESPECTING FREIGHT ON THE U. G. RAILROAD.

BALTIMORE, Oct. 18.—The following fragment of a letter was found in Brown's pocket. It occupies a page of fine note paper, straw tinted, and is written in pencil, evidently by a person of education. It is without date. The "freight" alluded to was doubtless of that sort usually carried on the "Underground Railroad."

"CAPT. BROWN—Dear Sir: I have been disappointed at not seeing you here ere this to take charge of your freight. They have been here now for two weeks, and as I have had to superintend the providing for them, it has imposed on me no small task besides, and if not soon taken in, some of them will go back to Missouri. I wish to know definitely what you propose doing. They cannot be kept here much longer without risk to themselves, and if any of them conclude to go back to the State, it will be a bad termination to your enterprise." [NO SIGNATURE.]

THE VIRGINIA MILITIA RETURNING.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18.—Six companies of the Virginia military, numbering 240 rank and file, arrived here this evening, en route for Harper's Ferry, but they have been countermanded, and return home to-night. They made a fine appearance, and were provided with all appliances for a campaign.

A QUESTION OF JURISDICTION IN THE HARPER'S FERRY INSURRECTION—PROBABLE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT—GOV. WISE CLAIMS THE PRISONERS.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18.—The President and Secretary of War were together several hours to-day, on matters connected with the proceedings at Harper's Ferry; the result of which conference was the sending of United States District Attorney Quid thither to superintend the legal proceedings in the premises.

The excitement which last night existed at Washington and vicinity has subsided, and the extraordinary force relieved.

It is said that the affair at Harper's Ferry is the first case of the kind which has ever occurred in this country, involving at the same time both State and Federal jurisdiction. While the State is affected as to slavery and locality, the General Government is interested with regard to the public property, it having exclusive control over the arsenal grounds, independently of the State. Also with regard to the mails.

Already, in distinguished quarters, the question of jurisdiction is discussed, as Governor Wise will, it is said, claim the prisoners now held by the U. S. troops. In this case the question of jurisdiction will have to be determined by the Judiciary.

MORSEOGRAPHIC FOR THE PUBLIC LEDGER.

MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH OFFICE, }
No. 302 Chesnut Street, Ledger Building. }

LATER FROM HARPER'S FERRY

THE INSURRECTION.

DESCRIPTION BY AN EYE WITNESS.

DESIGNS OF THE OUTLAWS.

A Revolution Intended, and a Provisional Government of the United States.

BALTIMORE, Oct. 18.—An eye witness, who has returned from Harper's Ferry, describes the scenes there as follows:—

The first attack was made by a detachment of the Charlestown Guards, who crossed the Potomac river above Harper's Ferry, and reached the building where the insurgents were posted by the canal on the Maryland side. Smart firing occurred, and the rioters were driven from the bridge. One man was killed here and another arrested. The latter ran out and tried to escape by swimming the river. A dozen shots were fired after him. He partially fell, but rose again and threw his gun away, drew his pistols, both of which snapped, drew his Bowie knife and cut all heavy accoutrements off and plunged into the river. One of the soldiers was about ten feet behind. The man turned round, threw up his hands and cried, "Don't shoot." The soldier fired, and the man fell into the water, with his face blown away. His coat skirts were cut from his person, and in the pockets was found a Captain's commission to Capt. F. H. Leeman from the Provisional Government of the United States. The commission was dated October 15th, 1859, and signed by A. W. Brown, Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the Provisional Government of the United States.

A party of five of the insurgents, armed with Minie rifles, and posted in the Rifle Armory, were expelled by the Charlestown Guards. They ran for the river, and one who was unable to swim, was drowned. The other four swam out to the rocks in the middle of the Shenandoah, and fired upon the citizens and troops assembled upon the banks. This drew upon them the muskets of between two and three hundred men, and not less than four hundred shots were fired at them from Harper's Ferry, about 200 yards distant. One was shot dead; the second, a negro, attempted to jump over the dam, but fell shot and was not seen afterwards; the third was badly wounded, and the remaining one was taken unharmed. The white insurgent wounded and captured, died in a few moments after, in the arms of our informant. He was shot through the breast, arm and stomach.

He declared there were only nineteen whites engaged in this insurrection.

Not nearly an hour, a running and random firing was kept up by the troops against the rioters. Several were shot down, while many managed to limp away wounded.

During the firing, the women and children ran shrieking in every direction; but when they learned that the soldiers were their protectors, they took good courage and did good service, in the way of preparing refreshments and attending the wounded.

Our informant, who was on the hill when the firing was going on, says all the terrible scenes of a battle passed in reality beneath his eyes. Soldiers could be seen pursuing singly or in couples, and the crack of the musket and rifle was generally followed by one or more of the insurgents biting the dust. The dead lay in the streets where they fell. The wounded were cared for.

Captain Brown's wounds consist of a sword-cut in the forehead and a bayonet wound in the kidneys. Another of the rioters killed was named Stewart Taylor. J. C. Anderson, a ringleader, who stopped conductor Phelps yesterday, was killed during the first attack by the Virginians. Anderson was a fine-looking man, with a flowing white beard.

Some of the Maryland volunteers are in pursuit of Capt. Cook's party. A body of forty men, mounted, left this afternoon for Harper's Ferry, to pursue the rioters. It is reported that many of them have escaped and are secreted in the mountains. A negro, named Green, who was conspicuous in the fugitive slave riot at Harrisburg, some years ago, was among the insurgents.

INTERESTING DETAILS—CAPT. BROWN AND HIS RECENT MOVEMENTS—THE OTHER LEADERS—COMMENCEMENT OF THE INSURRECTION—DEPARTURE OF COOK FOR PENNSYLVANIA.

BALTIMORE, Oct. 18.—The following interesting narrative of the recent events at Harper's Ferry, is given in the report of the editor of the American, who accompanied the troops from this city and returned this evening.

The principal originator of the short but bloody existence of this insurrection was undoubtedly Capt. John Brown, whose connection with the scenes of violence in the border warfare of Kansas, then made his name familiarly notorious to the whole country. Brown made his first appearance in the vicinity of Harper's Ferry more than a year ago, accompanied by his two sons, the whole party assuming the name of Smith. He inquired about land in the vicinity, and made investigations about the probability of finding ores, and for some time boarded at Sandy Point, a mile east of the Ferry.

After an absence of some months he re-appeared in the vicinity, and the Elder Brown rented or leased a farm on the Maryland side, about four miles from the Ferry. This brought a large number of picks and spades, and they confirmed the belief that they intended to mine for ores. They were seen frequently in and about Harper's Ferry, but no suspicion seems to have existed that "Bill Smith" was Capt. Brown, or that he intended embarking in any movement so desperate or extraordinary. Yet the development of the plot leaves no doubt that his visits to the Ferry and his lease of the farm were all parts of his preparation for the insurrection, which he supposed would be successful in exterminating slavery in Maryland and Western Virginia.

Brown's chief aid was John F. Cook, a comparatively young man, who has resided in and near the Ferry for some years. He was first employed in tending a lock on the canal, afterwards taught school on the Maryland side of the river, and after a brief residence in Kansas, where it is supposed he became acquainted with Brown, returned to the Ferry and married there. He was regarded as a man of some intelligence, known to be anti-slavery, but not so violent in the expression of his opinions as to excite any suspicions. These two men, with Brown's two sons, were the only white men connected with the insurrection, that had been seen previously about the Ferry. All were brought by Brown from a distance, and nearly all had been with him in Kansas.

The first active movement in the insurrection was made about half-past ten o'clock on Sunday night. Wm. Williamson, the watchman on the Harper's Ferry bridge, whilst walking across towards the Maryland side, was seized by a number of men, who said that he was their prisoner, and must come with them. He recognized Brown and Cook among the men, and, knowing them, he created the matter as a joke; but, enforcing silence, they conducted him to the armory, which he found already in their possession. He was released till after daylight, and then discharged. The watchman who was to relieve Williamson at