"The Insurrection at Harper's Ferry," Baltimore (MD) *Sun*, October 19, 1859 https://stampedes.dickinson.edu/document/baltimore-md-sun-insurrection-harpers-ferryoctober-19-1859

## THE SUN.

## THE INSURRECTION AT HARPER'S FERRY.

STORMING OF THE ARSENAL BY THE MARINES.

FORTIFIED INSURGENTS TAKEN PRISONERS.

FIFTEEN KILLED and THREE WOUNDED.

HIGHLY INTESTING DETAILS. OFFICIAL REPORT OF COLONEL LEE.

LIST OF THE KILLED AND WOUNDED.

The Outbreak Suppressed --- Return of the Troops -- Various Scenes and Incidents.

The Sun, in its regular edition of yesterday morning, contained full accounts of the insurrection at Harper's Ferry, up to the very latest moment of going to press, including the arrivalal of the troops in the town, and the first attack and defeat of the insurgents.

It was Captain Alburtis, of Martinsburg, who fought gallantly in the Mexican war, that first drove the insurgents into the house where they made their final stand. He had promptly gone to the scene of action on Monday, with volunteers from Martinsburg, composed mostly of men in the service of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad.

Mr. Evans Dorsey, a burden conductor of the Baltimore and Ohio road, who behaved so gallantly in the strike a year ago, and was voted a gold medal by the company, was seriously wounded in their first assault upon the insurgents. And Messrs. Bowman and Holbert, burden conductors, were also wounded. They were all of the Martinsburg volunteers. Mr. Dorsey, it is supposed, cannot survive.

The attack by the party led by Captain Alburtis was made at 3 o'clock on Monday afternoon, 17th, from the west end of the armory yard. The assault was directed against the paymaster's office, where the insurgents were posted. Seventeen of the prisoners held by them were released by the onslaught.

Concerning this engagement we have the following dispatches:

The First Battle by Tonnage Men.

Harper's Ferry, October 18th-3-10 A. M .-The first battle was mainly fought by the railroad tonnage men from Martinsburg, who came down in great force, led by Capt. Alburtis. They attacked the rioters single-handed and fought most valiantly. One of the freight conductors, named Evan Dorsey, was shot in the abdomen, and two other conductors, named Bowman and Holbert, were also seriously wounded. Mr. Richardson was killed.

Ne damage has been done to the railroad or to the bridge, and little or none to the property in the town. The purpose of the insurrectionists seems to have been to hold the town until several thousand slaves could be collected, and then make a stampede through Maryland and across the Pennsylvania line. The parties that have started will be immediately pursued.

The Second Battle.

Harper's Ferry, 3 A. M., Oct. 18.—The troops invested the town on all sides, and entered it about 2½ o'clock this morning. Several men were killed, a number of both blacks and whites were captured but more captured but more captured by were captured, but more escaped to the mountains. Capt. Ossawatamie Brown, a leader, and one son, were both shot. The son is dead, and Brown is thought to be dying, A man named J. G. Anderson was also shot. He was from Connecticut. The dead body of a man killed last night was brought in this morning.

Brown is the man whose feats in Kansas as an agitator, obtained such a wide notoriety. He says his whole object was to free slaves, and jusfies his actions; declares he had possession of the town and every thing in it, and would have murdered all. He says there were none engaged in

the plot but those with him.

DEFEAT OF THE INSURGENTS-THE RIOTERS BAR-RICADED IN THE ARMORY.

Harper's Ferry, 3% A. M.—The town being in possession of the military, the rioters are entrenched in the armory, and hold Mr. Washington and Mr. Dangerfield as prisoners.

The insurrectionists were commanded by Capt. Brown, of Kansas notoriety, who gave his name as Anderson to Conductor Phelps. They num-bered originally seventeen white men and five negroes, but were reinforced during the day.

Allen Evans, one of the insurgents, a white man, is lying here dying, with a ball through his breast. He is from Connecticut, but has been in Kansas. He says the whole scheme was got up by Captain Brown, who represented that the negroes would rise by thousands, and Maryland and Virginia would be made free States.

Colonel Shriver, of Frederick, has just had an interview with Capt. Brown, in the armery. He

asked to be allowed to march out with his men, and avowed his intention to defend himself to the last. They are very strongly posted in the engine house, and cannon cannot be used against them for fear of injuring the prisoners whom they still hold. Some sixteen persons are known to be killed. Fountain Beekham, the railrohd agent, was shot dead from the armory windows. Three rioters are lying dead under the bridge, shot by the Shepherdstown troops in the charge on the bridge

The armory was taken possession of by the rioters about 9 o'clock on Sunday night last, and was so quietly done that the citizens knew nothing of it

until the train was stopped.

Captain Brown had been about here and rented a farm four miles off, which was the rendevous of the rioters. Captain Cook has also lived in the vicinity, and at one time taught school here. All the other white men are unknown, but are supposed to be men who have been connected with Captain Brown in Kansas.

It is reported, but not certain, that the rioters have carried off a considerable amount of government funds. No attempt was made to pillage

the town or to insult females.