

## NEGRO INSURRECTION IN VIRGINIA.

NEGROES AND ABOLITIONISTS IN ARMS.

Stampede of Maryland Slaves.

SEIZURE OF THE ARSENAL!

BLOODY FIGHT BETWEEN THE INSURGENTS AND THE MILITARY.

COMMENCEMENT OF SEWARD'S "IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT."

On Tuesday last the community were startled by the reports in the daily papers of a formidable insurrection at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. The first accounts were confused and unreliable, but the papers of Wednesday contain full particulars, from which we make up the following account:

On Sunday night last the United States Armory, at Harper's Ferry, was stealthily and without resistance, taken possession of by a score of white men and half a dozen negroes. Arms were sent into the interior of the State, all railroad trains were stopped, and the telegraph wires cut. The bridge across the Potomac was occupied, and cannon planted to defend it.

After gaining possession of the Armory, they sent out parties to arrest everybody they met, and upwards of sixty persons were captured and confined in the arsenal, negroes were pressed into their service.—All their movements were carried on so quietly that when the people woke up at daylight they found every avenue guarded and themselves prisoners. The leader of the insurrection threatened the town with destruction if all his demands were not complied with, and the people, deceived by the appearance of a considerable force, remained for the most part within their houses. As the day advanced the news spread around the neighborhood and people came into the town.

A demonstration of resistance was soon made by the people, and the insurgents retired within the armory, leaving only a guard on the bridge. A general warfare soon commenced. The first person shot was a colored man named Hayward, who was shot by the insurgents early in the morning for refusing to join them. Two or three citizens were killed by shots from the Armory. About noon troops from Charlestown came up to the bridge, and making a charge, soon cleared it, driving the insurgents into the armory, and capturing a man named William Thompson. Other troops soon arrived. The Mayor of the town, Mr. Beckham, was the next victim—a ball struck him in the breast and he died almost instantly. This greatly excited the people, and a cry was raised to bring out the prisoner. He was brought out on the bridge and shot, falling into the water.

New levies of troops having arrived, a charge was made upon the rear of the Armory, for the purpose of releasing the prisoners, which was successful, but several of the attacking party were killed, and others wounded.

A guerrilla warfare was carried on throughout the day, and three of the insurgents were shot, one of them in the act of swimming the river, supposed to be for the purpose of carrying information to the interior.

At this time a tall athletic man named Evan Stephens, came out from the armory conducting some prisoners. He was twice shot, and captured. From him was learned the name of the leader and the objects of the insurrection. He stated it to be the work of Osawatimie Brown, of Kansas notoriety—the sole object was to give the negroes freedom, and Brown had represented that as soon as they seized the Armory the negroes would flock to them by thousands. He said that preparations had been maturing for some months, but that the whole force consisted of seventeen white men and five negroes.

The night passed without serious alarms. A detachment of U. S. Marines arrived, and were stationed within the Armory ground-surrounding the engine house, within which the insurgents had made their stand, still holding Col. Washington and several others as prisoners. Many thought that the murder of the prisoners held was determined upon, and that fight to the death would be the ending of their desperate attempt.—Presently the door was opened and a flag of truce was sent out, proposing that they should be permitted to march out, with their men and arms, taking their prisoners with them; that they should proceed to the second toll gate unpursued, when they would free their prisoners, the soldiers would then be permitted to pursue them, and they would fight if they could not escape. This was of course refused, and an unconditional surrender demanded, only promising them protection from immediate violence, and a trial by law.

All argument failing, the signal for the attack was given. The marines 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, but without success. A long ladder was then brought, and used as a battering ram; at the second blow the door gave way. The marines immediately advanced to the breach—the firing from within was rapid and sharp; they fired with deliberate aim. One of the marines fell, and for a moment the resistance was serious and desperate enough to excite the spectators to a fit of frenzy. The next moment the marines poured in, the firing ceased, and the work was done.

The insurgents were brought out amidst the most intense excitement. Capt. Brown and his son were both shot—the latter is dead and the former in a dying condition. Brown declares that there were none engaged in the plot but those accompanying him. The prisoners are detained in custo-

dy within the Armory enclosure. The original party consisted of twenty-two—fifteen were killed, two were mortally wounded, three went off with slaves on Monday morning, and two are in custody, unhurt.