

"The Insurrection in Virginia," Lancaster (SC) News, October 26, 1859
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The Insurrection in Virginia.

WASHINGTON, D. C., October 18.—Yesterday, at noon, the whole community were astounded at the report that a band of Abolitionists and negroes had taken entire possession of the town of Harper's Ferry, Virginia, including the armory, arsenal, pay office and all other Government property. The telegraph wires were cut, and trains with the mails stopped, imprisoning and pressing into their service all the citizens and negroes found in the work shops and streets, and killing many.

Later in the day, the reports were fully confirmed by despatches to the Government. Gov. Wise ordered out a regiment from Jefferson County, and two Richmond Companies. The Governor of Maryland had pushed forward two companies from Frederick, and several companies from Baltimore. The United States Government sent one hundred marines, with two twelve pound guns, and had ordered three companies of flying artillery from Old Point, Virginia.

The insurgents are said to number seven hundred and fifty men, and are fully armed; had fortified the bridge over the Potomac, and every approach on the land side.

About midnight, after a severe battle, the railroad employees, the Jefferson Regiment, and first division of Frederick troops entered the town, when the insurgents retreated to the Armory, which was barricaded and fortified. Shortly after other trains arrived with companies from Baltimore and the marines. An immediate surrender was demanded, but the insurgents refused. The marines forced the door, when there was rapid firing within and without, and three marines were shot. The armory was then carried at the point of the bayonet, and all the living insurgents were captured. The citizens and soldiers were much exasperated, and endeavored to shoot the rioters, but were prevented from doing so by the marines.

It now appears that the plan was concocted and executed under the lead of Ossawatogic Brown, of Kansas infamy, accompanied by a set of fanatical Abolitionists from Ohio, Connecticut, and Maine. About one year ago, Brown, under the name of Smith, hired a farm in

the vicinity, where the gang rendezvoused. Their object apparently was to procure arms and money from the armory, and induce a general stampede of the slaves in that section of country.

Several citizens were yesterday murdered in cold blood. Three marines were shot, three or four of the Frederick soldiers and a railroad conductor were killed, and two conductors severely wounded.—Several railroad men were seriously wounded.

The armory insurgents killed Anderson, of Connecticut, a leader, and a son of Brown. Brown himself was mortally wounded, besides several others killed and wounded not named. Had they not been prevented by the marines, the citizens would have made short work of the living.

SEVENTH DESPATCH.

HARPER'S FERRY, October 19—9.40 p. m.—All the prisoners have been committed to the Charlestown jail, to await the action of the Grand Jury. They will be indicted and tried in a few days. The arrangements about jurisdiction have been settled in this way: The local authorities are to try the prisoners for murder, and meanwhile the United States authorities will proceed against them on the charge of treason.

Brown is better, and has made fuller statements. He says he rented the farm from Dr. KENNEDY six months ago, and that the rent is paid until next March.—He never had over twenty two men at the farm at any one time belonging to the organization, but had good reason to expect reinforcements from Maryland, Kentucky, North and South Carolina, and Canada. He had arms sufficient for 1500 men, also two hundred revolvers, two hundred Sharp's rifles, and one thousand spears. These were left at the farm, where he had an abundant supply of powder and fixed ammunition.

All these arms were brought, at different times, from Connecticut and other Eastern points, to Chambersburg, Pa., and were directed to J. SMITH and ANDERSON, KENNEDY's farm, his assumed name.

Slave Stampedes on the Southern Borderlands

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