

"The Abolition Insurrection in Virginia - More Amazing Disclosures,"

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The Abolition Insurrection in Virginia - More Amazing Disclosures.

The New York Herald of Thursday publishes another batch of letters, which disclose the fact that the abolition plot for the invasion of the South had been some two years in planning and maturing; that its ramifications were extensive, and that its leaders were counseled and aided by such men as GIDDINGS, GERRIT SMITH, F. B. SANBORN, of Concord, Mass., Dr. HOWE, of Boston, Senator SEWARD and SUMNER, Ex-Senator HALE, Gov. CHASE, FLETCHER, GREELY, LAWRENCE, and many other prominent Black Republicans and abolitionists.

It seems that a certain Hugh Forbes—famously known as Colonel Forbes—an old comrade of Garibaldi's in 1848, and since then a refugee in this country, seems to have been hired, on the Duzald Dalgott principle, to go to Kansas a couple of years since, to co-operate with Ossawatimie Brown, and to impart to his raw levies a little instruction in the art of war. Forbes and Brown pulled together well enough for some months, until there came to be a misunderstanding in regard to the pay and provender. Forbes appealed from Brown to the general abolition commissariat in this region, but found that he was doomed to be cheated all round.—Greely fell back on the strict letter of the law, and pleaded that he was not bound by Forbes' contract with Brown. Sanborn, who was the Secretary of the Massachusetts Emigration Aid Society, and Howe, a well known abolitionist of Boston, kept paltering with Forbes until, in the words of one of his own letters, his family's credit was stopped at the French or Italians restaurant, where they used to get their meals. Forbes became indignant against Brown and the humanitarians, as he styles them, and denounced them all in pretty round terms. But still the troubles of his family did not wince him altogether from the work to which he had lent his hand. On the contrary, he devised a plan which he submitted to his abolitionist friends North, to perform effectually the "Kansas work" that Gerrit Smith speaks of in his letters.

Forbes' plan was simply an organized system of stampeding slaves along the border States, and thus gradually driving the institution farther South. Brown's project was declared—so long ago as May, 1858—to be identically that which has had such a miserable failure at Harper's Ferry. Forbes was too experienced a stager not to see the inevitable result of such a ridiculous project, and much of his correspondence that has fallen into our hands is taken up with denunciations of Brown's crazy idea, and of appeals to the leading republicans to stop Brown or to denounce him.

It appears beyond all peradventure, by this correspondence, that among the persons to whom he denounced the Harper's Ferry project, a year and a half ago, was Senator Wm. H. Seward. He had an interview with that Senator in Washington city, in May, 1858; and, as appears by one of his letters, he went fully into the whole matter. Again, he had interviews with Sumner and Hale, also in Washington; and, in fact, it appears that all the leading republicans and abolitionists of the country were fully cognizant of the plans of Brown, and, if they did not actually identify themselves with him, they did not denounce him to the authorities. On the contrary, they kept him furnished with money and arms, and carried on correspondence with him.

Forbes' letters show another thing.—They show that it was not alone a feeling of philanthropy, nor even a political motive, that led these New England and New York abolitionists to encourage old Brown of Ossawatimie. Something more than all that was at the bottom of the

movement. And what? Speculation in the rise of cotton had more to do with the Harper's Ferry outbreak than all other causes combined. The correspondence places that beyond a doubt. Old Brown told Forbes that a member of the house of Lawrence, Stone & Company (celebrated for the \$87,000 free-wool movement in Congress, a few years ago) had promised him \$8,000 if he succeeded in his Harper's Ferry dash. But Forbes, like a blunt soldier who had gone into the thing as a military speculation solely, could not understand making a commercial speculation out of it; and so he denounced the project as bitterly and obstinately as old Dalgetty himself could have done.

The main thing proved by this correspondence is, that for the last year and a half, at least, the project of the Harper's Ferry outbreak was well known to Seward, Sumner, Hale and others, and that they, in their intense selfishness, and to forward their political or commercial speculations, suffered the project to ripen and to bear the disastrous fruit it has borne. They—not the crazy fanatic John Brown—are the real culprits; and it is they, not he, who, if justice were fairly meted out, would have to grace the gallows.

The interview of Forbes with Senator Seward is described as follows, in a letter from the first named, to Dr. S. G. Howe, of Boston:

WASHINGTON, May 6, 1858.

To Dr. S. G. Howe, M. D., Boston, Mass.:

On Saturday (1st May) I had an interview with Senator Wm. H. Seward, of New York; having been introduced to him through a letter from a leading abolitionist, Dr. Bailey, of the Era. I went fully into the whole matter, in all its bearings. He expressed regret that he had been told, and said that he, in his position, ought not to have been informed of the circumstances. In part I agree with him, and in part I differ. I regret that the misconduct of the New Englanders should have forced me to address myself to him; but being now enlightened on the subject, he cannot well let this business continue in its present crooked condition, instead of causing it to be "put straight," both as regards my children's situation as well as the cotton speculation of the humanitarians.

Mr. Seward, remarks the *Journal of Commerce*, expressed regret—for what?—Not that such a scheme had been concocted; not that one section of the Union was to be arrayed in conflict against the other; not that the rights of the people of Sovereign States were to be assailed, their property stolen, and their lives placed in jeopardy; for all this he expressed no regret, nor vouchsafed a word of condemnation. But "he expressed regret that he had been told, and said that he in his position ought not to have been informed of the circumstances." These are the sentiments of a Senator of the United States; a man sworn to support the Constitution and laws, and trusted as the representative of the State of New York, in the highest and most dignified body in the national government. *Ought not to have been told!* Really, this is an outrage upon honesty and patriotism, a winking at treason, scarcely less culpable than the acts of Brown himself. And this same Senator Seward is the trusted leader of a great political party, whose speeches and whose counsel to his followers, teach the same doctrines which Brown has attempted to carry to their practical conclusion. [And with whose followers the *Journal* might have added, certain presses at the South are urging the Southern Opposition to

unite to defeat the election of a democratic speaker of the next House of Representatives and a democratic President in 1860!]

Mark the date, May 1st, 1858, almost eighteen months before the outbreak at Harper's Ferry, Wm. H. Seward, the leader of the Republican party in the Union, was informed of the plans and system proposed, and instead of indignantly denouncing it, he regretted that he had been told, and six months afterwards, made a speech at Rochester virtually endorsing and encouraging the scheme.

But Mr. Seward is not the only Senator of the United States who was privy to the treasonable scheme. Hear what Forbes further writes:

WASHINGTON, April 19, 1859.

To Dr. S. G. Howe, M. D., Boston, Mass.:

Sir—Senator Sumner has read to me your answer to the letters he wrote to you in accordance with his kind offer to get this matter "put straight." He wished to effect that object, and judging of his New England friends by his own feelings he thought to get justice done to me.

Thus it appears that Mr. Charles Sumner, a Senator of the United States, was privy to the arrangement, and interposed his good offices to secure justice to Forbes; in other words, as he expresses it, to have matters "put straight" with that individual. In this, however, he failed; money not being very abundant with the conspirators, and Forbes by this time a little wanting in their confidence. From Horace Greeley, Forbes got even less satisfaction than from Senator Sumner; for Greeley told him flatly that such promises never were kept, and he ought not to have trusted to them for a moment.

Slave Stampedes on the Southern Borderlands

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