

"The Forbes Correspondence," Washington (DC) *National Era*, November 3, 1859
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THE FORBES CORRESPONDENCE.

The New York *Herald*, a few days ago, published a batch of letters from one "Col." Forbes to Dr. S. G. Howe, of Boston, out of which the spurious Democracy hope to make a great deal of party capital, both for the present New York State election and for the Presidential contest next year. Who this "Col." Forbes is, no one seems to know, further than that he is an Englishman, who has suffered dreadfully for want of money, and who has shown a readiness to embark in the most bloody and desperate enterprises to make it.

According to his own account, he was an accessory before the fact to all of John Brown's insane efforts to stir up insurrections among the slaves of the South; he has much to say of the schemes and enterprises of the New England "humanitarians," but all of Forbes's letters show that he had more practical ends in view. He shows throughout a determination to "put money in his purse." He had his own plans and theories of "humanitarian" effort. He preferred taking stock in the Underground Railroad, and proposed the organization of a grand series of slave stampedes, extending from Delaware to Kansas. But he was not particular, and agreed with Brown to a modified plan of stampedes, accompanied with occasional enterprises at insurrection, such as Brown undertook at Harper's Ferry. The "Colonel's" devotion to "humanitarian" enterprises was great, but they were only a means to the end, and that end was to put money in his purse.

It is true that he disregards the maxim of Mr. Snagsby, and endeavors to "put too fine a point upon it." It is never himself, but always his dear family, that suffers for money. One would suppose, from reading the letters, that the "humanitarians" have a deadly spite at the innocent wife and little ones of Col. Forbes; and this strange antipathy is the more remarkable, since there is no evidence that they have ever been in America, or in any way mixed themselves up with Pro-Slavery politics. Indeed, from Forbes's own statement, and the accounts which accompany them, we should infer that he had not seen his family for years.

Such are the antecedents of the gallant Col. Forbes, so far as we have been able to learn them from his letters. He is simply a needy adventurer, who, according to his own admissions, was willing to incite slave insurrections and slave stampedes, upon a regular salary. But the dust must be paid down, or Col. Forbes was not the man to violate the laws of his adopted country; and when he ascertained that the "humanitarian" exchequer was emp-

ty, Col. Forbes felt bound by his allegiance to explode a scheme fraught with—penury to his family. In a word, he betrays his confederates in crime and folly; and at the same time, by innuendo, attempts to implicate leading Republicans in his exploded plot. By this judicious policy, the modern Dalgetty has become a great favorite with the spurious Democracy.

We should not be surprised if he were to be elected a Tammany sachein, but his education and aristocratic affinities will probably lead him to prefer the Fifth Avenue wing of the party.

We cannot doubt, from his own account, that Forbes is fully committed to the insurrectionary conspiracy of John Brown. But his intimations that leading Republicans were cognizant of them we believe to be false. He pretends that these letters have been published without his consent; but there can be no doubt that he sold them to the *Herald*, or to the Fifth Avenue committee. This man therefore stands before the country as a betrayer of his confederates in crime, and his evidence, so far as by mere innuendo he attempts to implicate Republican leaders, will have little influence upon honest and candid minds. Even the New York *Express*, a bitter opponent of the Republican party, utterly discredits these letters, and regards them as so much manufactured capital for the spurious Democracy. That journal thinks they should not be used against the Republican party, and predicts that the attempt will recoil upon the heads of those who make it.

No intelligent man will for a moment believe that the leaders of the Republican party would be so stupid as to encourage or countenance an enterprise such as that attempted at Harper's Ferry. Everybody is amazed that twenty men in the whole Union could have been found mad enough to undertake it; and yet, Democratic demagogues are endeavoring to persuade the people that the most enlightened and sagacious statesmen in the country are its aiders and abettors!

Slave Stampedes on the Southern Borderlands