

"The Panic Aspect of Slave Revolts,"

Millersburg (OH) *Holmes County Republican*, November 17, 1859

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The Panic Aspect of Slave Revolts.

The *Evening Post* very appositely remarks—"One aspect of these slave revolts which has often presented itself to our mind, has been impressed upon us with renewed force by the circumstances of the Harper's Ferry stampede. It is the panic by which they must ever be accompanied. No matter how slight the spark, the apparent combustion is terrific. Old Brown with his score of followers, has set the entire commonwealth in commotion, and arrested the gaze of the world.—The same number of men, with the same means, anywhere else, might have been suppressed by the ordinary police of a village. In a slave community they require the interposition of Governors, Presidents, marines, militia, mobs. The fancied danger transcends the real danger. A spectre always stalks behind the incendiary, of enormous and shadowy proportions, not one spectre only, but a troop of spectres; such a caravan as Freiligrath describes in his poem of the desert, when the sand-wreaths seem to twirl into fearful shapes, and legions of dusky warriors come pressing onward in terrible array. The pilgrim trembles, and the very horses grow frantic, because they fear the bursting of the Simon."

The *Baltimore American* after describing the removal of Brown and the prisoners from Harper's Ferry to Charlestown by railroad, under charge of a squad of marines and accompanied by Governor Wise, furnishes a striking illustration of the truth of the remarks quoted as follows:

RUMORED ATTACK ON A FARM HOUSE.—After the removal of the prisoners the excitement somewhat abated, though every man on the street, and many boys, were armed with loaded rifles. In the midst of this calm a large, heavy man, named Jesse

Moose, with a broad brim hat, and gun in hand, mounted on a white horse came driving over the bridge at a furious rate, and passed up through the town, shouting with a stentorian voice—"To arms! to arms! to arms!" They are murdering the women and children! On he went, shouting at every step, until he reached the house of Mr. Dargerfield, at which Col. Lee was stopping.

By this time the whole town was in commotion, and he announced to Col. Lee the startling intelligence that he had heard the shouts and screams of the women at Garrett's, the farm adjoining his, in Pleasant Valley, mingled with reports of revolvers and rifles, and that a deadly feud was going on there he was satisfied. He had also seen the negroes of Mr. Garrett, who is the largest slaveholder in the Valley, flying to the mountains, some of whom had passed through his barnyard. Notwithstanding his vehement earnestness, Col. Lee doubted the whole story and put it down as one of the many hundred that had been floating through the town during the day. The people however proceeded to arm, and rifles were handed out of the armory in great numbers to those who had no weapons. In the midst of this turmoil, the whole population of Sandy Hook, men, women, and children, some of them without hats or bonnets, came pouring over the bridge, having run a mile and a quarter at full speed, leaving their houses tenantless. It appeared that Mr. Moore, as he passed through this settlement, had also given the alarm, which had spread through the surrounding country, and there could not have been less than two hundred of these excited people rushing breathless toward the town.

This proved to be an entirely groundless alarm.

Slave Stampedes on the Southern Borderlands

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