DARING ABOLITION FORAY!
OUTRAGEOUS ATTEMPT TO ABDUCT SLAVES FROM JEFFERSON COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

The Soil of Virginia Stained with the blood of her Citizens in Attempting to Defend their Firesides from Rapine and Robbery.

THE INFERNAL DESPERADOES CAUGHT, AND THE VENGEANCE OF AN OUTRAGED COMMUNITY ABOUT TO BE APPEASED.

About midnight of Sunday John Brown, with his force amounting, as they say, to 22 crossed the Potomac Bridge with a one-horse covered wagon, containing their guns, picks &c. They immediately seized Patrick Higgins, the watchman at the Bridge, who gave one of the party a blow and made his escape, informing the Conductor of the night train of Cars, Capt. Phelps. They then endeavored to induce Hayward, the free colored watchman of the Railroad Office to take up arms and join them in their nefarious purposes. Upon his refusing to do so, they immediately shot him. He was a valuable fellow, whose life was worth more than all the bandit, as he was trusted with everything in the Depot.

Sixteen of them taking possession of the Armory and Arsenal, the others repaired to the residence of Col. L. W. Washington, near Halltown, in this county, and after arousing him from his bed, with pointed rifles, demanded his surrender, and that of his negroes, &c. From thence they proceeded to the residence of Mr John H. Alstadtt, living on the turnpike, and made a similar demand. They then returned to Harpers Ferry, and placed their captives in the Government Watchhouse.

Dr. John D. Starry, who was aroused by the report of a gun repaired to give medical assistance to Hayward. He and Mr Herr then went to the Armory gate to inquire for the watchman, when a demand was made upon them to enter the yard. They refused to do so, and walked off un molested. They were probably taken for railroad passengers, as the night train was suffered to proceed without hindrance. The officers of the Armory were then notified, and as they came to the Armory were taken captive. The list of captives will be found in another place.

The insurgents having cut the telegraph wires, and stationed themselves at various points prevented further entrances in the public square. Mr. Thomas Burley, being seen with a gun was shot by a negro sentinel from the corner of one of the Arsenal buildings. The ball passed through his body killing him almost instantly. This negro fellow was afterwards shot.

Our citizens, after getting the intelligence of the outbreak immediately organized for action. The Jefferson Guards, under the command of Capt J. W. Rowan and Lieuts. H B Davenport, E H Campbell, W W B. Gallaher and J L. Hooff,--and a volunteer company of citizens, under Capt. Lawson Botts, with Cols. R. W. Baylor and J T Gibson proceeded to Harpers-Ferry where they were joined by the citizens of that place and neighborhood.

Capt. John Avis of this town formed a company of 20 men who were posted in front of the Arsenal. Capt. Botts was detached with 20 volunteers, who took possession in front of the “Galt House,” in the rear of the Arsenal. Capt. Rowan’s Guards crossed the Potomac River and took possession of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Bridge. The citizens of the place, without any regular command, took other stations of the town, thereby cutting off all retreat.

The firing then commenced. Capt. Avis forced the door of the Arsenal with a gun taken from the hands of Mr. Leonard Sadler, of this town, one of the Soldiers of 1812. The fire becoming too warm, the insurgents fled to the watch house. Before they abandoned the Arsenal ground, and before the charge was made upon them, George W. Turner, Esq., one of our most estimable and valuable citizens, was shot as he was passing down High street. He died in a short time afterwards.
The citizens made gallant charges at both works of the Armory. At the Rifle Factory the rebels were driven into the river. One was taken prisoner and three shot. A negro man of Col. Washington was drowned in his effort to escape. He had been forced to take up arms.

Thus having been driven from every point, they were virtually whipt, as none were left but those in the watch house, who were anxious to capitulate as they were hemmed up and cut off from every avenue of escape. Their terms of capitulation were that they should be allowed to pass over the Bridge into Maryland with their arms. The response of our officers was an unconditional surrender.

About this time the Western train came in with a citizen volunteer company under the command of Capt. E. G. Albritis, from Martinsburg; the Hamtramck Guards, Capt. V. M. Butler, and the Shepherdstown Cavalry, Capt. Jacob Rhinehart.

The Company of Capt. Albritis passed through the Armory on the Potomac works, Capt. Butler and Rinehart, down High St. in front of the Arsenal. It was then determined to make an attack upon the Watch house in which the insurgents were enclosed with their captives. Capt Albritis’ company made a gallant charge, in which he had six wounded, two very seriously. The wounded are Evan Dorsey, Geo. Richeson, Geo. H. Murphy, Nelson Hooper, George Wollet, and G. N. Hammond; in this attack one of the insurgents was killed and a number of the captives released. Capt. Rowan and Botts, charged at the same time in gallant style. Having no battering tools it was thought best to withdraw until better prepared, as it would be a useless loss of our men as well as the remaining captives, to continue to storm as the insurgents were beyond the power of escape. In this charge, Mr. Samuel C. Young of Capt. Rowan’s company, was seriously wounded.

The insurgents had made holes in the watch house, from which points they fired. Fontaine Beckham, Esqr, Agent of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and Mayor of Harpers Ferry, was killed. He was on the Railroad in front of the house. About 5 o’clock the Winchester Continental Guards Capt B. B. Washington arrived, and were stationed to guard the upper works. A train of cars from Frederick brought three companies, about 100 strong.

In the morning of Tuesday, about 3 o’clock, the military of Baltimore, with the Marine from Washington, arrived so that in 28 hours from the time of alarm we had on the ground 10 companies, numbering upwards of 400, and one company of regulars, 75 strong, besides 1500 citizens. The Alexandria Riflemen, were also present on Tuesday.

On Tuesday morning, Col. Lee stormed the Watch house. One of the Marines was killed, and one slightly wounded. All the insurgents were either killed or wounded.

A number of our citizens were wounded, besides those already noticed. Mr. Edward McCabe of Harper’s Ferry was wounded, Dewit Clinton Bowman, of Baltimore, was shot in the face and shoulder.

Out of the whole 22 as stated all have been killed or taken prisoners except Cooke and Taylor.

There were a number of citizens who bore themselves with great bravery, but time will not permit of our enumerating at present.

The headquarter of this reckless band was the Kennedy farm in Maryland, about 8 miles from Harpers Ferry, on the Mountain, where 200 Sharps Rifles, 200 Maynards Revolvers, 1,000 Spears, a complete set of camp equipage, pick, spades, &c.

The negroes, who were captured from our citizens, as soon as an opportunity was presented, made their escape, and returned to their masters much gratified to be able to do so. It is gratifying to know that there is not one of our negroes who would voluntarily take up with these desperadoes
The following gentlemen were captured by the marauders as they happened to fall unawares in their power:


We give below the list of those who were taken prisoners of the marauding party:—and who are now in the Charlestown Jail—

Capt. John Brown, of New York;
Aaron D. Stevens of Con.
Edwin Coppeck, Iowa.
Shields Green (colored) of Harrisburg Pa.
John Copeland (colored) of Oberlin, Ohio.

The following is a description of the assault upon the Engine house, as published in the Baltimore American, whose reporter was eye-witness of the scene:

Shortly after 7 o'clock, on Tuesday morning, Lt. J. E. B. Stuart of the 1st Cavalry, who was acting as aid for Col. Lee, advanced to parley with the besieged, Samuel Strider, Esq., bearing a flag of truce. They were received at the door by Capt Brown—Lieut Stuart demanded an unconditional surrender, only promising them protection from immediate violence, and trial by law. Capt. Brown refused all terms but those previously demanded, which were substantially: “That he should be permitted to march out with his men and arms, taken their prisoners with them; that they should proceed unpursued to the second toll-gate, when they were free their prisoners. The soldiers were then at liberty to pursue and they would fight if they could not escape.” Obviously this was refused and Lieut Stuart pressed upon Brown his desperate position, and urged a surrender. The expostulation though beyond ear-shot, was evidently very earnest, and the coolness of the Lieutenant and the courage of his aged flag bearer, won warm praise.

At this moment the interest of the scene was intense. The volunteers were arranged all around the building, cutting off escape in every direction. The marines divided in two squads, were ready for a dash at the door. Finally, Lieut. Stuart, having exhausted all argument with the determined Capt. Brown—Lieut Stuart slowly walked from the door. Immediately the signal for attack was given, and the Marines headed by Col. Harris and Lieut. Green advanced in two lines on each side of the door. Two powerful fellows sprang between the lines and with heavy sledge hammers attempted to batter down the door. The door swung and swayed, but appeared to be secured with a rope, the spring of which deadened the effect of the blows. Failing thus to obtain a breach, the marines were ordered to fall back, and twenty of them took hold of a ladder, some forty feet long and advancing at a run, brought it with tremendous force against the door. At the second blow it gave way, one leaf falling inward in a slanting position. The marines immediately advanced to the breach, Major Russell and Lieut. Green leading. A marine in the front fell; the firing from the interior was rapid and sharp, they fired with deliberate aim, and for the moment the resistance was serious and desperate enough to excite the spectators to something like a pitch of frenzy. The next moment the marines poured in, the firing ceased, and the work was done, whilst the cheers rang from every side, the general feeling being that the marines had done their part admirably.

THE SLAIN AT HARPERS-FERRY.

Thomas Boerley.—The first white citizen who fell in defence of Harper’s Ferry on Monday morning, was Mr. Thomas Boerley. Mr. B. was an Irishman by birth, but had long been a resident of Harpers Ferry, where he was much respected as a quiet and useful citizen. He was a man whose death would have been regretted under any circumstances, but much more deeply under the present.
George W. Turner, Esq.—Mr. Turner was the second victim of the desperadoes. Of him, we need hardly speak in this community, where he was so well known, and so highly esteemed. He was one of the first to hasten to Harpers Ferry when he heard of the disturbances there. As he was passing down High street, and when near its intersection with Shenandoah street [?] from a Sharp’s rifle struck him in the breast, and he fell mortally wounded. He lived about an hour and a quarter after being shot. Mr. Turner was one of the most prominent and influential citizens of this county.—He was a graduate of West Point, and, after spending a few years in the army service, he resigned his commission and retired to his farm. Here he lived a most useful citizen, a kind master, respected and honored by his fellow citizens and loved by his servants. His death will be lamented by the entire community.

Fountain Beckham.—At three o’clock in the afternoon Fontain Beckham, Esq., was killed. Early in the morning he had gone to the office, where he remained during the day. He had warned many of his friends during the morning to keep in doors.—At the hour named he left his office, walked along the railroad platform in a western direction until he reached the water tank. He stopped for a moment to converse with some men who were sheltered by this house, and in an unguarded moment he exposed his person, when a short fired from the engine house from a Sharp’s rifle struck him near the shoulder blade and passed through his body. He staggered a few steps west, fell and died almost instantly. His body was lying so far west that it was impossible to reach it, unless the person doing so was fully exposed to the deadly fire of the insurgents in the engine house. The body was accordingly allowed to lay for a considerable length of time, when a citizen removed it to his office, where it lay during the night. Mr. Beckham was more widely personally known than any other man in Jefferson county. He had been the agent of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad from the time the road was constructed, and had discharged his duties in the most satisfactory manner. He had been High Sheriff of Jefferson county, a Justice of the Peace for twenty years and at the time of his death was Mayor of Harper’s Ferry.

Of the others who fell while defending the rights of our fireside, we know but little, except that they were brave and noble men who volunteered at Martinsburg, under Capt. Alburtis, to fight against the treasonable fanatics who had so daringly invaded our soil. Peace to their remains!