Richmond Dispatch.

BY COWARDIN & HAMMERSLEY.

THE DAILY DISPATCH is served to subscribers at SIX AND A QUARTER CENTS PER WEEK, payable to the Carrier weekly. Price for mailing, $4 a year, or $2.50 for six months, in advance.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY DISPATCH is issued every Tuesday and Friday at $2.00, in advance.

THE WEEKLY DISPATCH is issued every Friday, and mailed to subscribers at $1 per annum.

DAILY DISPATCH.

VOL. XVI.—NO 146. RICHMOND, VA., MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1859. PRICE ONE CENT.

MONDAY MORNING.....DEC. 19, 1859.

THE EXECUTIONS AT CHARLESTOWN.

SCENES PREVIOUS TO THE EXECUTION.

THE MILITARY DISPLAY.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES IN THE CELLS.

THE ATTEMPTED ESCAPE.

LAST INTERVIEW OF THE CONSPIRATORS.

SCENES AT THE GALLOWS.

&c., &c., &c.

[From our Special Reporter.]

CHARLESTOWN, JEFFERSON CO., VA., }
Friday Evening, Dec. 16, 1859. }

Charlestown has been in a state of considerable excitement ever since the attempted escape of Coppic and Cook, of which you have heard before this, and which you have doubtless already laid before your readers. After the precautions taken by our energetic Governor to prevent either a rescue or an escape, it would indeed have been a reflection on our county had they succeeded. A large jail guard has been maintained ever since the capture and incarceration of the misguided men. Capt. Avis has given his unremitting attention to his duty, acting under the proper instructions from Sheriff Campbell. Notwithstanding rumors to the contrary, what was considered a strict watch has been maintained day and night. The greatest care has been taken to secure the doors after the entrance of any visitors ever since the execution of Brown.—Lately, there has been a sentinel pacing upand down immediately in front of the cells of the prisoners, within the passage, during the whole night. Last evening, this sentinel would have been placed in a very few moments from the time seized to make the escape. The minutes between supper and the placing of the guard just allinned to, were taken to make the attempt. The attempt to fasten suspicion on those connected with the prison as officers or guards seems unjust, though almost natural under the circumstances. The following letter, furnished to Sheriff Campbell by the prisoners, sets this forth.

"CHARLESTOWN JAIL, Dec. 16.

"Having been called upon to make a fair statement in regard to the ways and means of our breaking jail, we have agreed to do so, from a sense of our duty to the sheriff of the county, the jailor, and to the jail guard. We do not wish *that any one* should be unjustly censured on our account.

"The principal implements with which we opened a passage through the wall of the jail, were a Barlow knife and a screw, which we took out of the bedstead. The knife was borrowed of one of the jail guards to cut a lemon with; we did not return it to him. He had no idea of any intention on our part to break out, neither did the sheriff, jailor, or any of the guard have any knowledge of our plans. We received no aid from *any person, or persons, whatever.* We had, as we supposed, removed all the brick except the last tier of brick, several days ago, but the evening previous to our breaking out we found our mistake in regard to the matter.

"We had intended to go out on the evening that my sisters and brothers-in-law were here, but I knew that it would reflect severely if we postponed it; but I urged Coppie to go, and I would remain. He refused. We then concluded to wait.—I got a knife blade from Shields Green and with that made some tolerable teeth in the Barlow knife, with which we sawed off our handcuffs. We had them all off the night previous to our getting out. Coppie went out first, and I followed. We then got upon the wall, when I was discovered and shot at. The guard outside of the wall immediately came up to the wall. We saw that there was no chance of escape, and as it was discovered that we had broken jail, we walked in deliberately and gave ourselves up to the Sheriff and Capt. Avis, and the jail guard. There was no person or persons who aided in our escape.

"This statement is true, so help us God.

"[Signed,] JOHN E. COOK,
"EDWIN COPPIC."

For several days they had been at work removing the plaster and cement and bricks, which composed the wall, just under the window. The table, holding their books, writing materials and other articles, was sitting before the place. A chair was before the table. A few days ago, requests were made to the guards to permit as little disturbance as possible, as they had important writing to put through. While working, the bits of plaster were concealed under the bed, covered with newspapers. The bricks were let down by a string into a drum-stove, through the pipe hole. Cook's manacles were sawed through the ankle-rings, so as to be entirely removed; Coppic's through a center link, and then tied to his legs under his pants. Having let themselves down into the yard, they made use of a part of the gallows used in the execution of Brown, to gain the top of the wall. The sentinel outside immediately discovered them and fired, the ball striking the edge of the wall, near to Cook's head. They immediately jumped down into the yard and walked to the jail door. Met by one of the jail guards, Coppic said, "I am your prisoner." He answered, "Who are you?" "Coppic," was the response, to the astonishment of the guard. Immediate steps were taken to secure them.

I have been told that the military sentinels outside of the jail, on either street and in the adjoining alleys, were usually posted about 9 o'clock at night. For several nights, however, seven P. M. has been the hour. The escape was attempted between 7 and 8 o'clock. Scouts that were sent out immediately on the discovery of the attempt, arrested near town two men in a buggy, who professed to be on their way from Harper's Ferry to Charlestown, expecting to find Gov. Willard and Mr. Voorhees there. They were placed in charge of the proper officers. The report that Cook and Coppic were possessed of the countersign for the night, lacks confirmation. There is no positive evidence of this at all, that I have heard of. Capt. Avis and Sheriff Campbell, I repeat, are regarded by our citizens as above suspicion.—Capt. Avis declares that he wants no statement from the prisoners.

Two weeks since the weather was like that of a May day. The breaking of to-day told that the gentle moods that are so often indulged in by autumn had ceased, and that the stern aspect of winter had been assumed by the departing year. A slight covering of snow enwrapped the earth; grey, snow-threatening clouds overspread the sky, and the sun threw no gorgeous images upon the canvas of nature. The beautiful scene appearing on every side from the place of execution on the former day, and that called forth the admiration of the chieftain, appeared not to the followers.

In consequence of a removal of the severe restrictions of the former execution, a vast concourse of citizens and strangers assembled today. Besides the regular train, an "extra" came down from Winchester. Large numbers of horsemen entered by every road leading into town. These persons were assigned positions on the field, affording excellent opportunities for witnessing the approaching event.

The scaffold, which was the same one used for Brown, was erected early. The troops were stationed according to general order.—After religious exercises in the jail by Rev. Mr. Waugh, of the M. E. Church, Copeland and Green were brought out, about 11 o'clock, and placed in a spring wagon, drawn by two dark-colored horses, which moved slowly to the field, under a strong guard of cavalry and infantry. The Mountain Guards and City Guards marched on either side of the condemned. The guard was commanded by Col. Weisiger. Immediately on arriving at the scaffold, the military filed into the positions assigned them. The prisoners, accompanied by Messrs. Campbell, Avis, and Taylor, and Rev. Messrs. North, Waugh, and Leech, ascended to the platform. They bade adieu to those around, grasping each by the hand. In low tones the ministers were exhorting them to trust in the atonement of Christ made for sinners. They signified their earnest endeavor so to do. The fatal noose was adjusted round the neck of each. Rev. Mr. North, of the O. S. Presbyterian Church, then, in a brief but earnest prayer, commended them to the Judge of the quick and the dead, pleading for them the death of Jesus. The ministers retired from the scaffold, the caps were placed over their heads, the ropes secured in the steeples, the blow given, and they fell, at about 15 minutes after 11 o'clock. Green scarce struggled. Copeland, for several minutes, kicked with some violence. After remaining suspended for thirty-one minutes, an examination was made by Drs. Mason, Straith, and Starres, when they were pronounced dead, and cut down and placed in their coffins. The disposition of their bodies I have not yet learned positively.

The guard detailed for the other prisoners then returned to the jail. Cook and Coppic occupied the time immediately preceding their departure from the jail in washing and arranging themselves in clean clothing, conversing at the same time with the guards, the ministers, and one or two friends. They were both much agitated. An old Quaker gentleman was assisting Coppie, receiving his last requests, and speaking words of spiritual counsel. When Coppic bade him tell his mother that he loved her, and asked forgiveness for every wrong he had at any time shown her, both were visibly affected. They struggled hard to subdue their emotion. The condemned handed his aged friend a light slouch hat, worn by him at Harper's Ferry, and asked him to give that to his friends. Capt. Avis told Cook that if they had anything to say they might say it then. Cook, in a loud tone, said: "I desire to return my sincere thanks to Sheriff Campbell, Capt. Avis and family, and each of the guards, for their attention. Also, to Mrs. J. Locke and Mr. Blessing, and to the ministers, Messrs. North, Waugh, Littel, Leech, Datten and others, who have counselled us. Also, to the citizens of Charlestown, generally, for their kindness. I am sincerely thankful." Coppic looked up and said: "Them's my sentiments, too, gentlemen."—Cook said he wanted the little breastpin sticking in his shirt-bosom to go to his wife. That he didn't want it taken out before going to the scaffold, nor there, but that it might go on with his body, so that his wife might get it. Said he, "Inside of my shirt bosom, on the left hand side, will be found a likeness of my wife and a lock of my boy's hair. I want my wife to have them for my child, if he is spared; for herself, if not." The sacrifice made for sinners was presented in earnest, but brief sentences by the ministers of the Gospel. A blue cloth talma was placed over the shoulders of Coppic, one of black material over Cook. They shook hands with many in the room, bidding them good-bye. To some reference concerning the trial of the hour, made by the Quaker gentleman, Coppic replied, "Tis not the fear of death, it's the parting from friends that's hard." On the way down, they were permitted to bid Stevens and Harrison (Hazlett, according to evidence given before the Court,) adieu. The former told them to cheer up; to "give his love to his friends in the spirit world." The latter shook hands with them, but his name was not called. The Tenth Legion Artillery, Capt. Sibert, and the Hamtramck Guards, Capt. Boteler, composed the guard on the right and left of the wagon. On the way to the gallows some conversation took place between the doomed men and Messrs. Campbell and Avis. They ascended the gallows without much visible emotion. Their arms were pinioned more securely. They shook hands with and bade the ministers good-bye. The Rev. Mr. North again offered a brief petition in their behalf. While the ropes were being adjusted and caps pinned down, Coppic remarked, "Be as quick as possible."

They shook hands with the sheriff, jailor, and a physician by their side. Coppic stretched out his hand toward Cook; Cook said earnestly, "Wait a moment, where's Ed's hand?" and felt for his companion's hand. They grasped hands and uttered, "Good Bye!" Cook adding, "God bless you!" Cook then made a slight motion with his hand toward the crowd in front, and said as his last words, 'Good bye, all!' The drop fell, and with scarce a movement of the body to indicate suffering, their spirits were launched into eternity.

After hanging 30 minutes they were pronounced dead. They were then lowered and placed in their respective coffins. These were of dark wood, varnished, and enclosed in oblong maple cases. The cases were directed in the ordinary marking of merchants. That of Cook was consigned to

"ACHBEL P. WILARD,
Care of Robt. Crowley, No. 104, William st.,
New York, per Adams' Express."

The other to

"THOMAS WINN,
Springdale Iowa."

The bodies were forwarded to Harper's Ferry this afternoon by a guard. Nothing occurred during the day to cause excitement in the vast crowd. The arrangements, both military and civic, were complete in every respect.

Well did Mr. Voorhees say at the conclusion of his elegant appeal in behalf of the prisoner Cook,

"Come to the bridal chamber, Death!
Come when the mother feels,
For the first time her first-born's breath:
Come when the blessed seals
That close the pestilence are broke,
And crowded cities wail its stroke;
Come in consumption's ghastly form,
The earthquake's shock, the ocean's storm;
Come when the heart beats high and warm
With banquet, song, and dance, and wine,
And thou art terrible. The groan,
The knell, the pall, the bier,
And all we know, or dream, or fear
Of agony, are thine."

"But when to the frightful mein of the grim monster, when to the chill visage of the spirit of the grisly scythe, is added the hated, dreaded spectre of the gibbet, we turn shuddering from the accumulated horror."

Terrible! terrible! terrible! is the stern necessity that causes society, for its own preservation, to enact the awful solemnities that have transpired in our midst this day. May the Ruler of nations and of men avert further calamities from our community, our State, and our loved Union. J.

We compile from various sources, a further account of the late events at Charlestown, Va., commencing with extracts of letters written on the 15th of December:

ARRIVAL OF STRANGERS, &C.

Throughout the day yesterday there was a great influx of strangers and citizens of the county, who were flocking in to witness the last act of the Harper's Ferry tragedy. The latter came thus early, fearing that they might be detained at the outposts, as was the case on the day of Brown's execution. The clouds which early in the morning darkened the horizon were soon dispersed and the sun came out in unusual brilliancy and beauty for a December morning. As the hours advanced, groups were seen on all the street corners, discussing the all-absorbing topic of the approaching execution. The afternoon trains of cars from Winchester and Harper's Ferry brought large numbers of persons, including a delegation of newspaper reporters from Northern cities. The vigilance at the depot, on the arrival of the train, was not so stringent as on the occasion of the execution of Brown, and but little difficulty was experienced in getting into the town, although the difficulty was not so light in obtaining accommodations after effecting an entrance.

GRAND DRESS PARADE.

Shortly after the arrival of the train in the afternoon, a grand military dress parade of all the companies in attendance took place. The place selected for the parade was the immense field on which Brown was executed, and on which the gallows for the execution of the remaining prisoners was being erected. The companies were drilled into four battalions, as follows: Jefferson Guards, Fincastle Guards, and Richardson Guards, under command of Colonel John Thomas Gibson; J. W. Rowan, Adjutant. The Clarke Guards, Wythe Guards and Washington Guards, under command of Colonel C. E. Stuart; Adjutant Botts.—The Woodis Riflemen, Portsmouth National Guards and Mountain Guards, Col. Deems.—The Petersburg Greys, the Petersburg City Guards and Tenth Legion Artillery, Colonel Brackett. The whole were under command of Colonel Weiserger, of the Petersburg Regiment, and Lieutenant Israel Green, of the United States Marines, acting as Adjutant.

The troops went through their evolutions with great skill, and were reviewed by Gen. Taliaferro, who was on the ground in full dress, mounted on a spirited charger. Everything conspired to make the display a grand one, the sun was shining brightly, whilst the ground, which wore a green garb at the time of the hanging of Brown, was now clothed in a robe of white. The mountains wore the same green appearance, although the cleared ground in the vicinity was covered with snow. The bright bayonets and gay uniforms of the soldiers combined to perfect the picture. A very large crowd was in attendance, amongst whom was a large number of ladies, who occupied their handsome equipages to the east of the line.

During the time of parade a handsome company of horse entered the town. They came from Middleburg, Loudoun county, and are under command of Captain Carter. The men were dressed in black pants and red shirts, and with their drawn swords, and mounted on fine horses, made a decidedly handsome appearance.

A correspondent of the *Dispatch* writes:

The troops made a very fine appearance in line, though some were rather fresh. The Wythe Greys made some good wheels in platoons. The Richardson Guards, although a new company, drilled very well, and while at parade rest made the best appearance of any of the companies. The Fincastle Riflemen, with their red and black hunting shirts, remind me of old pioneers. They are a fine body of men. The Portsmouth National Greys are considered the best drilled company in Charlestown, and when they marched into line, with that steady, firm, soldier-like step that can only be acquired by untiring drill, I could not help thinking of the Richmond Grays.

THE PRISONERS YESTERDAY.

The prisoners were visited yesterday afternoon by the Rev. Messrs. Dutton and North, of the Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Beverly Waugh, of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The services in the cells were of an interesting and solemn character, and were participated in by all of the condemned men, though it is now evident, from subsequent events, that Cook and Coppic at least were playing possum, as their minds must have been fixed on the hopes of life and liberty rather than death and eternity, at the time that they were making outward protestations of resignation. They all gave their unqualified assent to a conviction of religious truth, and each expressed a hope of salvation in the world to come. Cook and Coppie were loudest in their professions of a change of heart, and in the hope of Divine forgiveness. They freely admitted their guilt, and acknowledged their doom a just one, and that in the main they have been treated with the utmost kindness by all, though they thought some of the witnesses were rather harsh in their testimony. The ministers imagined that they discovered a decidedly favorable change in the condition of Cook's mind since his interview with his sisters. Up to that time, his calmness and bravery were regarded as proceeding from a lack of feeling, and on leaving him yesterday afternoon, they reported that he had been led to seek forgiveness for his sins as the only hope of salvation. Coppic was also equally earnest in his protestations of religious forgiveness, all of which was undoubtedly intended to hoodwink their guards, and facilitate their project of escape.

Cook has been visited throughout his imprisonment by the Rev. R. Ower North, at the request of the prisoner, as also of Governors Wise and Willard. Rev. Mr. North was present at the interview between Coppie and Mr. Butler, a Quaker gentleman from Ohio, who raised the prisoner. He describes the interview as an affecting one, and speaks highly of Mr. Butler's Christian deportment and advice to the prisoner. Mr. Butler says that Coppie was a frank but very willful boy.

An uncle of Coppie, of the same name, from Ohio, his father's brother, visited him also yesterday, the interview lasting over an hour.—He is an elderly gentleman, and seemed in much distress at the sad fate which awaits his relative.

This was the condition of the town, the prisoners and the military up to 7 o'clock last evening. All apprehensions of an intended rescue had long since been banished, and nothing was thought of but the approaching execution, whilst the overflowing throng of strangers were hunting quarters for the night.

Another account says:

The only friend who visited any of the prisoners yesterday was a Mr. Joshua Coppie, a Quaker gentleman from Ohio, an uncle of Coppie. The interview is said so have been a very brief one, the old gentleman upbraiding his nephew very soundly for acting in the manner which he did.

The correspondent of the associated press gives the following account of

THE ATTEMPTED ESCAPE.

At quarter-past 8 o'clock last evening the whole town was thrown into commotion by the report of a rifle under the jail wall, followed by several other shots from the vicinity of the guard-house, in close proximity to the jail. The military were called to arms, and the excitement was intense beyond anything that has yet occurred during our ever-memorable era of military occupation. In a few minutes the streets and avenues of the town were in possession of armed men, and it was with some difficulty that the cause of all this turmoil could be ascertained. Rumors of every description were afloat, and it was at one time thought that the prisoners had overpowered their guards and made their escape, and then that an attack had been made on the jail by parties attempting the rescue of the prisoners.

The sentinel, stationed near the jail wall, reported that at quarter-past 8 o'clock he observed a man on the jail wall, whom he challenged, and, receiving no answer, fired at him. Another head was also seen above the wall, but he retreated as soon as the first one had been fired at. The man on top of the wall seemed at first determined to persist, and was about making an attempt to jump down, when the sentinel declared his intention of impaling him on his bayonet. He then retreated into the jail-yard with Coppie, and both gave themselves up without further resistance. Cook afterwards remarked that if he could have got over and throttled the guard he could have made his escape. The Shenandoah mountains are within ten minutes' run of the jail wall, and he would have reached them, with his thorough knowledge of the mountains, his arrest would have been difficult, especially as but few of the military could have followed him during the night.

They had succeeded, after two weeks' labor, whenever alone, and at night, when the bed clothing muffled the sound of the saw which they had made out of an old Barlow knife, in cutting through their iron shackles, so they could pry them off at any moment they should have their other work completed. They had also made a sort of chisel out of an old bed screw, with which, if they succeeded, as opportunity would offer, in removing the plaster from the wall, and then brick after brick, until a space sufficient for them to pass through was opened, all to the removal of the outer bricks. The part of the wall on which they operated was in the rear of the bed on which they slept, and the bed being pushed against the wall completely hid their work from view. The bricks they took out were concealed in the drum of a stove, and the dirt and plaster removed in the course of their work was placed between the bed-clothing. They acknowledge that they had been at work a whole week in making the aperture through the wall.

Their cell being on the second floor, the aperture was not more than three feet above the pavement of the yard, and when freed of their shackles their access to the yard was quite easy. Here, however, was a smooth brick wall, about fifteen feet high, to scale. This difficulty was, however, soon overcome, with the aid of the timbers of the scaffold on which Brown was hung, and which were intended for their execution on the succeeding day. They placed these against the wall, and soon succeeded in reaching the top, from which they could have easily dropped to the other side, had not the vigilance of the sentinel on duty so quickly checked their movements.

They were arrested in the jail yard by Gen. Taliaferro and the officer of the day, who rushed to the jail the moment the alarm was given.

General Taliaferro immediately telegraphed to Governor Wise, informing him of the frustrated attempt of the prisoners. His answer directed that the military should immediately take possession of the interior of the jail and guard the prisoners until they were executed.

Sheriff Campbell and Captain Avis are, of course, much chagrined at the narrow escape of the prisoners, especially as they had resisted all interference of the military with the interior discipline of the jail. The prisoners were shrewd and cunning fellows, and they were undoubtedly without any accomplices in their undertaking. Their friends, who were still here, were also fearful that they might be suspected of knowledge of their attempt.

The general impression is, that if they had waited until midnight or later that they might have reached the mountains. But it is presumed that they were fearful of being watched during the night, or desired to have as much of darkness as was possible, to gain a good distance before daylight would allow a general pursuit.

Much indignation was expressed by some of the headstrong with regard to the officials of the jail, out a large majority of one citizens express confidence in them, and spurn the idea that they were bribed by the friends of Cook.

Cook, after his capture, said to a gentleman that they had done the best they could—that life was as sweet to them as to any one else, and that they had planned it for ten days.—They had set Tuesday night for the attempt, but had deferred it on account of not wishing to compromise Governor Willard, who was in town on that night.

One of our correspondents writes that the sentinel who shot at Cook was *Thomas Guard*, of the Clark Guards, (not an inappropriate name.) Cook went up first, intending to help Coppic to ascend; but just as Cook reached the top of the wall, and looked over to see if the coast was clear, he was fired upon. Rumor says the shot passed through Cook's hat; but as I have not seen the hat, I cannot vouch for its truth. Another account says Cook acted very cautiously; he placed his hat over the wall to find out whether or not the guard was on duty. The sentinel immediately asked for the countersign, and receiving no reply, leveled his piece and fired, the ball going through the hat.

A correspondent of the Baltimore Clipper says there are very few residents of Charlestown who do not think that "something *was* rotten in Denmark." "What is very remarkable, they have both, since their imprisonment, been chained by the leg, and the ring around the ankle was filed about half-way through and then cut as if by a cold chisel.—How it was possible to perform this feat, and at the same time dig away a portion of a ponderous wall, whilst surrounded by nearly a thousand soldiers, is an inexplicable mystery. For some days a controversy has been going on between the Commander-in-Chief and the jailor in reference to the charge of the prisoners, which had become quite warm as the day of execution approached, it being asserted, on good authority, that the jailor refused to admit the General to see the prisoners, and paid no attention whatever to the orders issued by that functionary admitting visitors, alleging that the condemned men were in the hands of the civil and not in the military authorities.—As the whole matter will no doubt undergo a strict investigation at Charlestown, I forbear saying more at this time."

PREPARATIONS FOR THE EXECUTION.

At day-break this (Friday) morning, the reveille was sounded from the various barracks, announcing the dawn of the day of execution, and soon the whole community was astir.—The military, most of whom had been on duty all night, or sleeping on their arms, looked less fit for the active duties of the day than was anticipated at the time of the parade yesterday afternoon. The weather, however, was bright and beautiful, and much milder than for several preceding days, though the thaw of the snow rendered walking very unpleasant.

At 9 o'clock the entire military force in attendance were formed on the main street, and the officers reported ready for duty at headquarters. The companies detailed for field duty around the gallows immediately took up the line of march, and at half-past 9 o'clock were in the position assigned them on the field. The companies detailed for escort duty took up their position in front of the jail, and remained in full possession, awaiting orders.

The general orders of the day were read at the parade yesterday afternoon, for the station of the military at and during the execution.

The Wythe Guards, Captain Kennedy, were stationed on the left of the gallows, and Capt. Deems' battalion on the right.

Col. Weisiger had the prisoners at the gallows, and Capt. Boteler's Hamtramck Guards, Capt. Wolfe's Mountain Guards, Capt. Buchanan's Richardson Guards, Capt. Welsh's and the Petersburg City Guard, Capt. Mayo.

The Tenth Legion Artillery, Capt. Sibert, were stationed on the left of the jail, and remained as a guard at that post until after the first execution, when they were relieved, and formed a part of the guard to the field with the remaining prisoners. The Petersburg Greys, Capt. Scott, were detailed to guard the jail during the day.

The Clark Guards, Capt. Bowen, and the Fincastle Rifles, Capt. Anthony, were posted as skirmishers on the opposite side of the gallows, the Clark Guards on the right and the Fincastle Rifles on the left.

The Executive Guards, Capt. Hunter, were posted at the main gate to the field of death, supported by a piece of Artillery, commanded by Lieut. Evans, of the Alexandria Artillery.

The Ranger Cavalry, Captain Ashby, cooperated with the special guard in preventing the admission of persons within the area designated by the line of sentinels.

The Black Horse Rangers, Capt. Scott, detached a platoon to act as advance and rear guard to the procession from the jail to the field of execution, whilst the remainder of his company were directed to patrol the streets of the town during the time of the execution.

Capt. Carter's company of Cavalry were detailed to scout the outskirts of the town.

The troops on the field, not attached to the peisoners' guard, were under command of Col. Stuart.

INTERVIEW WITH PRISONERS.

The prisoners, Cook and Coppie, were visited in their cell this morning by the Rev. Messrs. Waugh, North and Leech, previous to their departure for the scaffold. They were engaged at the time of the entrance of the ministers in washing and dressing themselves for death, and putting on clean underclothing. Captin Avis told them that if they had anything to say they could now say it in presence of the fifteen or twenty persons who were then present. Cook replied that he was grateful for the kindness shown to him by Sheriff Campbell, Jailor Avis and his family, and the guard. He also expressed his thanks to Rev. Messrs. Waugh, North, Littell and Leech, and others who had manifested such interest in his welfare.

At this point Coppic looked up and said—"Them's my sentiments, too, gentlemen."

Cook then gave directions with regard to one or two articles. A breastpin he wore he said he did not wish to be broken off then or at the scaffold, as he wished it to be given to his wife or to his boy if he lived. Within his shirt-bosom was a daguerreotype, with a lock of his son's hair, which he wished to remain where it was, and after death to be given to his wife.

They both requested that their arms be not pinioned so tight as to stop the circulation of blood, which was complied with.

A blue cloth talma was thrown over the shoulders of Coppic and a dark one over the shoulders of Cook. Before leaving his cell Coppie gave an old clasp knife to a Quaker gentleman from Ohio, stating that the dark one about to be put on him was a present from Governor Willard.

During these proceedings Coppie was struggling to hide his feelings, and Cook was striving to be calm and collected. The Quaker gentleman remarked, "It is hard to die," to which Coppic responded, "It is the parting from friends, and not the dread of death that moves us."

On the way down stairs they were allowed to proceed to the cell of Stevens and Hazlett, and bid them farewell. They sweet till she seemed to be all gone. Stephens replied "Good-bye—cheer up—give my love to my friends in the other world." Coppic then made a remark to Stephens which was not overheard, to which he replied, "Never mind." Both then shook hands with Hazlett, and bade him good-bye, but did not call him by name or show any personal recognition of each other.

The prisoners conversed on a variety of subjects this morning. Cook said to a gentleman, "That he was fully convinced that slavery was a sin, and believed it would be abolished in Virginia in less than ten years, and that by the people of Virginia." He was "prepared to die in such a cause," and thought he had done nothing to regret, so far as principle was concerned.

Coppic said that "he feared that the affair was not ended yet, that they had friends in the North who he feared would not rest satisfied until they were avenged." He hoped, however, "that the affair would end here forever."

EXECUTION OF GREEN AND COPELAND.

At half-past ten o'clock General Taliaferro with his staff, numbering about twenty-five officers, having given orders to prepare the two negro prisoners, Shields Green and John Copeland, for execution, took their departure to join the main body of the troops on the field. The military then formed a hollow square around the jail, and the open wagon containing the coffins of the prisoners drew up in front of the door, with a carriage to convey sheriff Campbell and his deputies.

The crowd of citizens and strangers was very great, at least five times as numerous as on the occasion of Brown's execution, most of whom were already on the field, whilst others waited to see the prisoners come out. The religious ceremonies in the cell of the prisoners were very impressive, and were conducted by Rev. Mr. North, Presbyterian, and Rev. Beverly Waugh, of the M. E. Church.

At quarter before 11 o'clock the prisoners, accompanied by the sheriff and Rev. Mr. North, appeared at the jail door, and, with their arms pinioned, moved slowly forward towards the vehicle in waiting for them. They seemed downcast, and wore none of that calm and cheerful spirit evinced by Brown under similar circumstances. They were helped into the wagon and took their seats on the coffin without scarcely looking to the right or the left.—The escort now commenced to move, and the wagon was closely flanked on either side by a company of riflemen marching, double file, in lock step.

Seven minutes before 11 o'clock the procession entered the field occupied by the military, and the prisoners cast a shuddering glance towards the gallows erected on the rising ground in its centre. In two minutes more the wagon stopped at the foot of the gallows, and whilst the prisoners were alighting, the companies forming the escort moved off to the positions assigned them on the field.

The prisoners mounted the scaffold with a firm step, and were immediately joined by Sheriff Compbell and Rev. Mr. North. After a brief prayer by the clergyman, the caps were drawn over the heads of the prisoners and the ropes affixed around their necks. During the few moments they thus stood Copeland remained quiet, but Green was engaged in earnest prayer up to the moment the trap was drawn, and they were launched into eternity. Green died very easy, his neck being broken by the fall, and the motion of the body was very slight. Copeland seemed to suffer very much, and his body writhed in violent contortions for several minutes.

They were accompanied on the gallows by Rev. Messrs. Waugh, North and Lehr, to whom they bid an affectionate farewell, and expressed the hope of meeting them in Heaven.

The bodies were placed in the poplar coffin provided for them and carried back to the jail. They will be interred to-morrow on the spot where the gallows stands, though there is a party of medical students here from Winchester who will doubtless not allow them to remain there long.

Another account says:

Shields Green scarcely made a struggle, but John A. Copeland died harder than any culprit we have ever seen end his days on the gallows. For several minutes, he endeavored with his pinioned arms to grab at the rope around his neck; he raised his knees almost to a level with his body, swung to and fro, and in fact, gave every indication of dying the most agonizing death imaginable.

They were allowed to hang thirty-one minutes.

Copeland was a fine-looking, and liberally educated mulatto, almost white, and has, it is asserted on good authority, given more trouble to Southern slaveholders than any man in the Northern free States; for while Fred. Douglass quietly planned the outrages, Copeland faithfully carried them out. Green was an ambitious, vindictive, but very illiterate negro of the African species, and evidently died a victim to his own brutish impetuosity. He was the head and front of all the negro rescues at Harrisburg, for several years past, a journeyman barber by trade.

EXECUTION OF COOK AND COPPIC.

The bodies of the two negro prisoners having been brought back to the jail at about quarter of 12 o'clock, notice was given to Cook and Coppie that their time was approaching, only one hour more being allowed them. The military movements, similar to those at the first execution, were repeated, and the wagon, with two more coffins, was standing at the door at half-past 12. The same military escort was in readiness, whilst the closing religious ceremonies were progressing in the cell of the prisoners. Since the failure of their attempt to escape last night their assumed composure and apparent resignation had given way, and they now looked at the reality of their fate with a full conviction of its awful certainty. They were reserved and rather quiet, but joined with fervor in the religious ceremonies—conducted by Messrs. North, Lehr and Waugh.

When called upon by the Sheriff they stood calm and quietly whilst their arms were being pinioned; and after bidding farewell to the guards of the jail moved through the corridor to the door, and were helped into the wagon and took their seats on their coffins. The same observance was paid on the occasion of their of resignation, and they appeared to take but little notice of anything as the procession slowly moved on to the foot of death.

The wagon halted at the scaffold at thirteen minutes before one o'clock, and the prisoners mounted with a determined step, and their bearing was scarcely surpassed by that of Capt. Brown.

A brief prayer was offered up by one of the clergymen, the rope adjusted, the cap drawn, and both were launched into eternity in seven minutes after they ascended the scaffold.—They both exhibited the most unflinching firmness, saying nothing, with the exception of bidding farewell to the ministers and the sheriff. After the rope was adjusted, Cook exclaimed, "Be quick—as quick as possible," which was also repeated by Coppie.

After hanging about thirty minutes both bodies were taken down and placed in the black-walnut coffins prepared for them. That of Cook was placed in a poplar box, labelled and directed as follows: "Achbell P. Willard care Robert Crowly, 104 William street, New York, care Adams' Express." Coppie's body was placed in a similar box, to be forwarded to his mother, in Iowa.

Emerging from the jail, Cook recognized several gentlemen, and bowed politely to them.

On the gallows they shook hands, and bid each other good bye. After the caps were drawn Cook said, "Stop a minute, where is Edwin's hand?" Cook said "God bless you," and Coppie said, in a loud tone, "Be quick as possible."

Coppie's genteel appearance was the subject of general remark. The calm and collected manner of both was very remarkable.

On approaching the scaffold, Cook shook hands with a large number of persons, and bowed politely to Mayor Green. When he put his foot on the trap he glanced up at the hook in which the noose was hung.

Cook would have spoken from the scaffold if permitted. On their way to the scaffold the only remarks made by Cook and Coppie were in relation to the attempt to escape. They made an apology for any reflection that might attach to them through their conduct.

One of the ministers who attended on the prisoners informs me that neither Cook or Coppie ever made any direct profession of religion. Coppie was of Quaker descent, and Cook was a Congregationalist in sentiment. Both, however, seemed hopeful.

The bodies of Cook and Coppie were taken to Harper's Ferry in a train which was waiting at the depot. The bodies of the negroes were given to the surgeons and medical students.

Other accounts state that the body of Cook was placed in a metalic burying case sent from New York. The body of Coppic was taken directly from the gallows to Harper's Ferry by turnpike, and handed over to his uncle, whose purpose was to convey it to the home of Coppie's mother. Cook's body was taken to Williamsburg, N. Y., for interment.

Cook was 29 years of age—a native of Haddam, Conn. Coppie was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, and was 24 years of age.

After Cook and Coppie were taken from the cell, a number of papers were taken from Cook's table. One half sheet of foolscap on which was scribbled in a beautiful hand all manner of things, prominent among which were the words "My dear wife," "Mrs. Mary Virginia Cook."

THE MURDER OF THE GOVERNOR OF BOGOTA BY HIS BROTHER.—On the first day of November last the population of Bogota were horrified at the report that Jose Maria Malo Blanco, Governor of the State, had been murdered by his brother Jesus. The parents of these two brothers died at about the same time a few years ago, leaving Don Jose the executor of the will. The property was divided in accordance with their wishes; but the younger brother, Jesus, was not satisfied with his inheritance, and charged the elder with unfairness in its distribution. On the day of the murder, Jesus met his brother in the street and asked him when he was going to pay him $20,000 due him. The Governor replied that he had already paid him all that was justly due him.—Jesus, upon this, drew two revolvers, and, offering his brother one of them, told him he must defend himself. Jose declined such an unnatural duel, and commenced remonstrating with his brother, when the latter fired, the shot taking effect. The wounded man, not knowing he was shot, ran, and was followed by Jesus, who discharged two more shots at him, neither of which took effect. Don Jose was carried to his home and died in twenty-seven hours after, invoking pardon for his brother. He left a wife and seven little children. It was thought Jesus would be acquitted of the crime on the plea of insanity; but, a few days after the tragedy, news reached Bogota that in one of the rural districts of the State a man of humble fortune had killed his brother with a scythe, and as the poor man must be shot, the rich one will naturally share his fate.

THE CASE OF MRS. DOYLE.—A correspondent of the Charleston Courier, writing from Chattanooga, Tenn., vouches for the authority of the letter purporting to have been written by Mrs. Mahala Doyle to old John Brown, as well as for the identity of the writer, who is a citizen of that place, and says:

James P. Doyle removed from this city to Kansas, and was there, together with his two sons, murdered by Brown's party, as stated in their affidavits. After the bloody deed, intelligence of the destitution to which Mrs. Doyle was reduced was brought to this place, when our citizens at once contributed the requisite sum to bear her expenses back to her old home. She has been residing here ever since, and is in circumstances of great destitution. She has several small children, and her only resource for their support is in the scanty wages of her son John, whose life she begged from the murderers, who is a boy of about eighteen years, employed as the driver of a dray for a commission house in this city.

Will not the benevolent, the affluent, and the chivalric of the South, contribute to the necessities of this deserving woman?

OLD BROWN'S HYPOCRISY.—The Halifax (Va.) Echo says:

The more we enquire and publish concerning this arch-villain's trip through our county, the more evidences we discover of his hypocrisy and wickedness. Since the appearance of our last number, in which we stated on unquestionable authority that he attempted, under the name of McLane, to pass himself off at a Baptist Church in this county as a Baptist minister, we have been most reliably informed that at another point he professed about the same time to be a minister of the denomination of Christians, and at Pleasant Grove, in our county, (a church belonging to that denomination,) he succeeded in making the regular pastor believe he was such a minister, and actually did preach at that place.

"SOUTHERN RIGHTS" IN NEW YORK."—Capt. C. Reagles, of New York, the gentleman who tendered military aid to Governor Wise, writes to the Fredericksburg Recorder as follows:

An association is now being organized in this city, styled the *Southern Rights Association*; its object being to protect the rights of States as guaranteed by the Constitution, and interpreted by the high court of the United States. The duty of the members of the society to be directed against fanaticism, where it is prejudicial to the peace of the country. The present enemies of law and order to be discomfited at the ballot box, by the popular voice if possible, or at the point of the bayonet in the alternative contingency. The watchword, *Union and Fraternity.*

LARGE ROBBERY OF JEWELRY.—A daring robbery was perpetrated on Wednesday night last, in the jewelry establishment of Messrs. Dempsey & Fargis, 622 Broadway, New York. The thieves were two boys, one of them about 17 years of age, named Joseph Bascom, employed as a clerk in the store, and the other named Primrose. The twain, it seems, broke open the safe, and took some $15,000 worth of jewelry—the boy representing that the robbery was perpetrated by three men, who entered the establishment at midnight, after gagging him so as to secure his silence. This story, however, turned out to be untrue, as the jewelry was found at the house of a notorious receiver of stolen goods. Primrose has been arrested.

TWO SUICIDES.—On the same day that Wm. B. Hopkins shot himself in the St. Charles Hotel, at New Orleans, John E. Musgrove, of St. Louis, threw himself from the portico of the hotel and was instantly killed. He was with Gen. Walker in Nic