

two ladies, escorted by two British officers. I was ready in advance to cut them off, but reflecting that they might escape and alarm the town, which would prevent my taking greater numbers, I desisted. The escort and chair halted very near me, but soon the latter went on and the officers galloped in retrograde into the town. Our party continued in ambush until 10 o'clock.

'Nothing appearing, and men and horses having eaten nothing for thirty-six hours, we were hungered and retired to a plantation of my Quarter Master's, a Mr. White, not far distant. There a curious scene took place. Four ladies appeared, two of whom were Mrs. White and her daughter. I was asked what I wanted. I answered, food, refreshment. The other two ladies were those whom I had seen escorted by the British officers. They seemed greatly agitated and begged most earnestly that I would go away, for the family were very poor, had no provisions of any sort; that I knew they were whigs and surely would not add to their distress. So pressing were they for my immediately leaving the plantation that I thought they had more in view than they pretended.

'I kept my eye on Mrs. White, and saw she had a smiling countenance, but said nothing. Soon she left the room, and I left it also and went into the piazza, laid my cap, sword and pistols on the long bench and walked the piazza, when I discovered Mrs. White behind the house chimney beckoning me.

'I got to her, undiscovered by the young ladies, when she said, "Colonel Herry, be on your guard; these young ladies are just from George Town; they are much frightened, and I believe the British are leaving it, and may soon attack you.

"As to provisions, which they make such a rout about, I have plenty for your men and horses in yonder barn, but you must effect to take them by force; hams, bacon, rice and fodder are there. You must insist on the key of the barn, and threaten to split the door with an axe, unless immediately opened." I begged her to say no more, for I was well acquainted with all such matters, to leave the ladies and everything else, to my management. She said, "Yes, but do not ruin us, be artful and cunning or Mr. White may be hanged and all our houses burnt over our heads."

'We both secretly returned, she to the room where the young ladies were, and I to the piazza I had just left.'

No time was allowed to extort the provisions. He had scarcely arrived at the piazza, when his videttes gave the alarm of an approaching enemy, and forgetting that his cap, sword and pistols lay upon the bench, he mounted, left the enclosure and rushed into the melee.

By the time Herry reached the scene, his troopers were engaged in a severe hand-to-hand conflict with the dragoons, and it was not until he was about to engage with the Captain that Herry discovered that he was weaponless.