

word, but *to run off large bodies of slaves and protect the movement by an armed force.* Shortly after the meeting in Chatham, he and two of his sons under the name of Smith took up their residence near Harper's Ferry.

Here he manages to receive his arms and ammunition from the north, and to hold communication with the slaves in the neighborhood. The night of October 16th comes, and Brown with twenty-one men (five of them colored), move upon the Ferry, quite a town containing a United States arsenal, with 100,000 stand of arms. Quietly this intrepid band walk into the arsenal and take it without firing a shot, citizens suspecting nothing, no guards on duty. One party takes possession of the bridge, another captures several wealthy planters in the vicinity, bringing them and their slaves to head-quarters. In the morning as fast as the workmen make their appearance they are taken prisoners. Thirty of them are captured before this remarkable community finds out that an enemy is in its midst. Very soon, however, the report spread abroad that an army of many hundreds was in the arsenal, and that all the slaves were in arms! It was at this point that the Chivalry of the Old Dominion forgot its ancient valor. Military companies poured in from all quarters. It took them thirty-six hours to release a few prisoners, to shoot two men, one of them an unarmed man. Finally, on the morning of the 18th the United States marines with amazing courage, entered