

the protection of their slaves, without the slightest doubt or hesitation as to their fidelity. As to the ultimate success of their arms, there could be no question, and arrangements for pleasant and early parties at Washington, were entered into by them with the utmost confidence.

During the conversation, I was requested by the Conductor to favor him with my company for a few minutes, on retiring with him, he said with evident hesitation, that he hoped I would excuse the liberty he was taking, but that Mr. Daingerfield who was one of their Directors, had informed him that I had a passport for myself *and a lady* but that I was returning alone and that there was a lady on board, who was desirous of getting on to New York from which she wished to proceed to California to join her husband, that all her efforts to secure a passport had failed, now would I permit her to represent *my lady*, this application rather startled me, I felt that it would scarcely be correct in me to comply, but at the same time I thought that if the story was true, no great harm could possibly result; I asked the Conductor what colour she was, to which he replied with a broad grin, come with me and I will introduce you; I followed him to a little box he called his office, and was presented in due form to a very handsome well dressed lady, her pleadings were irresistible, and my objections were gradually giving way, when she produced a letter from her husband, urging her to join him, and showed me also a Grand Lodge Certificate, which she was taking to him, this settled the matter and I consented. It was 4 P. M. when our train reached the station at Manassas, here I found my small driver looking out for me most anxiously, he told me that the enemy (as he styled the Northern troops) were advancing and that all passports had been suspended, I directed him to look after the lady's luggage and to get out the team with as little delay as possible; I then hunted up my friend the staff officer, who assured me that the recent orders would not interfere with my movements in any way, he accompanied me back to the station where I introduced him to my lady friend. The pile of luggage owned by my fellow traveller was enormous, to take it with us was evidently an impossibility, she, however, was quite willing to abandon it, provided she got through the lines herself, this difficulty I at once communicated to my military friend, with all the facts of the case; he informed us that several waggons were to leave for Alexandria to-morrow under a flag, and that he would endeavour to have them forwarded to us at the Mansion House, this being arranged, we started, but the delays in passing the various outposts took up so much time, that it was nearly dark when we reached Fairfax; here we determined to remain for the night. Having secured rooms at the Inn, I turned out after supper to hear the news, I met some of the officers I had seen on my way south, who told me that their posts had been attacked last night, and that they expected a repetition before morning, this was pleasant information for me as a non-combatant to receive! but as I could not better my position except by returning, I determined to bear it with all the philosophy I could muster. My lady friend retired early, but with me, sleep was out of the question, I passed the long hours in conversation with the officers on duty, accompanying them in occasional visits to the different posts; fortunately the night passed without an attack, and at day break I called my companion and ordered the horses. After a delightful drive, in the fresh sweet air of a lovely morning, we passed through the northern lines, and reached Alexandria at 8 o'clock. After