

north. Having taken a note of the Bishops address at Washington, and promising to spend the evening with the Misses Seaton, the Principals of the Institute, some of whose relatives I knew in Canada, I returned to my hotel. After an early dinner, I again met several of the gentlemen I had seen in the morning and was introduced by them to the ladies and other members of their families. The greater number of them had made their escape from Alexandria, when that city was invaded, and were now waiting here with much anxiety the course of events.

In the afternoon I accepted an invitation from Mr. Dangerfield of a drive through the town and neighbourhood, and we visited the University in the quadrangle of which a son of General Lee was engaged in drilling the students. Some of the Professors took us through the building, showing me the library &c. and finally landing us upon the roof, the view from which of the surrounding country, with its back ground of mountains was beautiful exceedingly.

After spending a few pleasant hours with the Misses Seaton, and some of their friends, I returned to the Hotel, where until a late hour, I enjoyed myself among my new Southern friends, some of whom I discovered were Clergymen, others Doctors, Lawyers and Merchants.

The train for Manassas was advertised to leave at 8 a. m. but on the morning of the 9th, it did not arrive until 10 o'clock. Upwards of eight hundred men of Colonel Urley's regiment from South Western Virginia were on board—at the request of several gentlemen, I took charge of a number of letters to be posted by me in the North, with this condition however, that I was not expected to conceal them, in the event of any questions being asked; they called my attention to the fact, that the letters had all been left unsealed, and assured me, that they were written upon private business merely; among those handed to me by Mr. D. was one which he requested I would deliver personally on my arrival at Alexandria—it was addressed—"Phillis Ford,"—this and nothing more! observing that I seemed surprised at the quaintness of the address, he explained that the letter was for a female slave of his, who had been born in his family, and who now had the sole charge of his house and other property in Alexandria. Having been introduced to Major Hammond and other officers, and also to the conductor, I took leave of my kind friends and commenced my journey towards home.

The excitement along the line was intense, at every station, indeed I might say at every house, the confederate flag was displayed, ladies waved their handkerchiefs and the negroes shouted in chorus, whenever the train stopped, and the stoppages were very frequent, the ladies crowded round the cars, tendering provisions of every kind to the gallant fellows who were in arms for state rights and freedom; but few men were visible anywhere, except those whom age or accident had rendered unfit for active service.

Many of the officers, and men too, had brought their own coloured servants with them. Monongahela whiskey and cigars were freely offered from all quarters, and although no drunkenness was visible, the conversation became brisk and animated, one gentleman who was in the uniform of a private, said to me "if sir, your good Queen would send one of her sons here, we would soon make a throne for him!" An officer subsequently told me, that the man I had been conversing with, was a gentleman of large property, and an ex-governor of his State, and that a majority of the men in his regiment, were substantial well-to-do planters, that they had left their families, their plantations and their all, to