

1864.

July 10th Sunday. Several persons were called out of church this morning exciting our curiosity and on coming out after service we were startled by the intelligence that a large body of Southern troops to a 8000 in number were marching on Wash. They had thrown the city of Baltimore into a state of intense excitement by their near approach — had cut the northern Central rail road & burned Hagerstown. These reports have all been confirmed. But there are various conflicting opinions entertained in regard to the supposed object of the marching whether a raid, merely for purposes of plunder or a demonstration on Wash. to cut off Gen. Grant's troops from the vicinity of Petersburg. is still a matter of conjecture. The quarter master's clerks have all been ordered to report themselves for service in the defense of the city.

11th Mon. The city in a state of intense excitement. Southerners said to be at Rockville & Elktonishung with our pickets. After cutting the Northern Central R.R. yesterday, they proceeded across the country cutting the telegraph wires on the Potomac & Maryland bridges & burning the residence of Gen. Broadbent about 5 miles from Baltimore — This was in retaliation

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July.) for the burning of Gov. Stephens house by
10 Gen Hunter. At Magnolia Station about
18 miles from Baltimore the bridge over Campodon
Creek has been destroyed. I. P. M. Mr. Mott
just in from a shopping expedition. Says
we are surrounded by the rebels - City full
with refugees from the country, coming
in with wagons filled with household
effects. Rebels fighting at Senally Town.
4 P. M. Mr. Gill brings news of the
closer approach of the enemy. Mr. Shad
has come to offer his services in case they
may be needed in the defence of the Fort.
Says the rebels are attacking Fort Mott
on Seventh St. We are going to the top of
the high tower. (Top of the tower.) The
city lies before us peaceful & beautiful
in the rays of the setting sun. The
road river lost in the distance by a
cloud of mist hanging low on the horizon
is dotted here & there with loads of
which have moved with stealthy ease.
within into the part of the Arsenal
We are told they are laden with troops.
Dr. Hamlin & others have joined us. A
jet of smoke rises curls off into the

rose colored clouds, disappearing & appearing again marks the scene of the conflict if there is any. Mr De Rust who is looking through the glass reports signals from the top of the soldiers home. We look & see the signal maker with his flag. A body of colored troops are moving down 13th. we watch them as they move slowly along their march & little ones crowding the platoons. The sun is sinking lower now & shedding its last beams upon a scene of such quiet beauty it seems to mock our excitement. The shadows of the towers stretch farther & longer over yucca prairie below us. Gen. Hamlin tells now if it might not be the attack we made. Our hearts beat quicker we look toward the distant Capitol the white house & wonder if it possible they can be in danger. But the little jets of smoke curl up lazily as before. The sun has gone down. Gen Hamlin wishes to go we follow one by one.

10 P.M. Have been in the city since things quiet & orderly. The rebel force estimated at 45,000 Gen. Blair's home

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Burned:

12th Tuesday. Leaving at 5 O'clock on the morning communication with Baltimore out-off. Leaving again at 1 O'clock. Nothing known. Went to dine on the afternoon with Mr. Gill - went to Services of 14th & 7th Sts. Driving first out Seventh we came to Campbell Hospital where at the top of a hill we were stopped by a man on horseback who forbade our going further. A number of people had collected here to see if anything could be seen or hear if any news was afloat. We retraced our steps & crossing over to Seventh Street encountered the President coming into the city from the Soldier Home in an open carriage surrounded by a body guard of horsemen. Just beyond the college we were stopped as before & obliged to return.

13th Wed. 11 A.M. No certain news - reports said to be reheating. I. P. M. Mass of the retreat of the enemy confirmed. (Evening) Went to dine with Father. Passing the railway yard near the Inst. saw it filled with fugitives. All

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13 rolling sail way block had been sent to Alexandria by order of the President when the city was supposed to be in danger but had been sent back as rebels are said to be at Falls Church. Driving out 14th we encountered about 40 prisoners escorted by mounted officers. Their futurement distress were soiled & worn but they seemed brave & undaunted & many of them were exceedingly fine looking. One tall virginian ^{amused me} stood ^{he} sturdily alone in dignified disdain without one look of the curiosity indulged in by his companions. We encountered no other war indications, until we came to the hospital surrounding Columbia College. The poor worlders were enjoying the cool evening air lining the banks on each side of the road. One or two pale sad young faces excited my warm sympathy. They looked so much in need of home kindness & affection. Later we encountered the rebels & were obliged to remain. There were about 10 soldiers placed at the side of the road with two strands of wire stretched in front of them. One of the men came forward to speak

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to us. He told us it was certain the
rebels had retreated. Father said he
was surprised to learn there had been
quite a severe battle in the neighborhood.
"Oh no said the man only a skirmish."
"But we lost 300 men" said Father. "Oh
that is nothing" said the man. "We
don't consider that anything of a battle
in these days". Life has grown sadly cheap
within the last few years. Turning down
a side road we found a Goldsboro station
to guard a foot path across the fields
further on another station upon a cross-
road. We were not molested again however
until we came to the (F) gate on South
St. Here we were told by a fine looking
young Officer that the rebels had re-
treated towards the Potomac & our troops
had gone to Lincolnton to endeavor to
intercept them. The Rebels on South St.
road were much further out than last
evening. On our return Mr Bates called
said the Southern had greatly enriched
themselves by the raid - had carried
off not only cattle & money but men
& imprisoned them in the Southern army

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They certainly managed the affair well. Hagerstown was compelled to pay \$20,000 to purchase her safety. The loan was sustained as reported. Some fears are entertained that the force of Southerners which alarmed us will unite with those at Fells Church to attack us from the South. Our ^{positions} ~~forces~~ are too strong in that direction to be taken.

14th Thurs. The Blagden's here this morning. They live so near the scene of conflict we had felt very anxious about them. The first they knew of the late affair was the news which startled us all on coming out of church on Sunday. On moving home they saw an ambulance & some soldiers coming down the avenue & supposed the family was leaving. But on a near approach found the party consisted of Col. M.B. Cook & staff in search of a place to establish head quarters. Numbers of our Union soldiers came to them this Monday & Tuesday for food & drink but they suffered no expense or inconvenience except from the heat.

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14th of losing their houses. They visited
the scene of action & gave us a ques-
tion to do so. Many picked up a
diary of one of the rebels who was
sentenced while they were present.
One poor fellow had been buried so
brashly his feet protruded from his
grave. The nurse of her little brother
whose husband was in the employ of
Mr. Blair ^{now a Capt. in the army} told them the rebels had en-
tered her house burnt & lost her clothes
before her face in retaliation they said for
what her husband had probably done in
the South. took all the food she had for
her children & then told her they would
fire the house. She was leaving it when
Breckenridge rode up & exclaiming in-
dignantly at the brutality of the men
ordered them from the premises & placed
a guard there so that she should not
suffer further indignation. Her little-
sons were much attached to a small
donkey owned by Mr. Blair & left in
their charge which had been seized by
the rebels. That they asked Mr. Breckenridge
to return it to them. He did so. But it was

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19 afterwards seized again by the rebels de-
claring it was old Blair's home & they
must have it. Much of Mr. Blair's
furniture was destroyed before Breckinridge
could prevent but he succeeded in saving
private papers & silver which were care-
fully packed & sent to a place of safety
with a card saying "for the sake of old
friendship". Breckinridge had enjoyed
Mr Blair's hospitality while planning a
duel in the vicinity & had been treated
with great kindness. At the house of
Mr _____ the found devastating traces of
the rebels. The furniture was entirely destroyed
and the yard strewn with letters of the
most private & affectionate nature.

At 5 P.M. we started to view for our-
selves. The first mark of the recent trouble
we encounter near Fort Mass. A woman
stood disconsolately ^{the place and the room of} ^{the room of} a house which
had been burned. We asked her if she
had suffered by the said. She pointed
to the ruins and told us that had been
her home. A Union Officer came to her &
asked her for some kerosene oil, supposing
it was needed for the boat - she went

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14th. with alacrity for it. He then asked
for lamp Wick & cotton cloth which
she also gave him. "What do you want
to do with those things she asked?" "In
your house Madame was the cook."
reply. The poor woman was obliged
to remove her property as fast she
could, losing most of it. Ruin of other
burned houses, felled trees, & a battle
interrupting the road next met our view until
we came to a barricade completely across
the road which compelled us to turn to
the right & go through a field where
we encountered rifle pits dug by our men.
Beyond this we passed several houses
burned or sacked before we came to M.B.'s
fearful residence. The fence was torn down
the gateway only remaining as we drove
through the grounds & found various
traces of the presence of the Rebels.
The smouldering ashes of their camp
fires. broken boxes canteens &c. while
innumerable poultry feathers testified to
the havoc which had been made among
the fowls. I doubt what a ~~cost~~ ~~price~~
would be to be had there for snuff.

The House we found guarded. It is
delightfully situated, the Avenue leading
to it winding through ^{a grove} ~~the~~ of magnifi-
cent forest trees, which completely hid
it until a turn in the road brought
it to view. Some of the servants were
folding up a carpet & packing some out
at the side of the house a number of
carriages containing visitors were at the
front. We went round to the back entrance
picked up some hard tack, a song book
a pack of playing cards & some other trifles
left by the rebels. We drove through the
grounds to a lovely spring & then
passed out into the high way again
by a different road from that we came.
Every where we found signs of the rebels
in cups ash &c. As we came on to
the turnpike we saw some persons in
a grove opposite to us. We joined them
& found some of the rebel graves. Several
large square pits filled with straw had
been prepared for the burial of others but
were left unfilled in the hurry of departure.
Further up the road we found some of
the rebel wounded under trees or in

miserable tents. In the first of these
we found the Surgeon, a fine looking Op-
erative who had been left in charge of them.
His frank noble undaunted bearing in-
terested us greatly. We asked if he was a
prisoner. He said he thought he ought
not to be considered such as he had
volunteered to remain with the wounded.
His dress was rough & worn but he
proved an exception to the rule that a
taylor makes a gentleman. We asked if
they had food. He answered proudly enough
had been left to supply their wants up to
that time. In the next tent two poor fel-
lows lay shot through the head. One seem-
ed to be dying. He lay with his eyes closed
breathing heavily. His features were ad-
mirable & regular & his forehead where the
line had not reached it as fair as a
girl's. They both lay on the ground with
only a little hay under them. A high
looking little fellow was sucking off
the flies. We asked him if he had
had enough to eat. He answered
merrily we always have that around
you most tried of the war up here

We left the two poor unconscious fellows
with heavy hearts. There were 8 or ten
in the next tent - One badly wounded
in the leg, but looking happy & contented
as he lay on the grass sucking away the
flaps with a spray of leaves. Outside
the tent was a merry little officer
one of ~~Gleason~~ who had volunteered to
take charge of the wounded. He cut off
his rebel buttons for us & when we objected
said with a laugh he would capture some
union ones. How long do you think it will
take to make me a good union man he
asked of a bystander. A great while I
should think said the person addressed
as you say you would shoot your own
father were he on this side. Near the
next tent a poor fellow was pouring
water over a wound in his head. By
him was another of the volunteer men.
He said he had remained because he
could not leave his tent. & asked us
to go into the tent to see him. He
was lying on a blanket with clean
linen & I shaved a strong contrast
to the his appearance in strong con-
trast

Amos

with his surroundings. His compassion
was duly enough. Their uniforms were
all dirt. ~~under~~ their whatever they might
have been originally. On our way home
we visited a house which had been
riddled with balls from the Fort. Some
rebel Sharp Shooters had been stationed
here & protected by a pile of stones at
the corner. The house one of them had
picked off an Officer. It was afterwards
occupied by our troops. Our rifle pits
extended from the house to the road
a distance of about 40 ft. They consisted
of holes dug in the ground with a
slight embankment of earth in front.
An Englishman called in the evening
had also been at the scene of conflict.
He had found upon the walls of one of
the houses he visited numerous rebel
inscriptions. On a marble top at the
only article of furniture left on the
porch was inscribed. "This house is
marked in retaliation for the many homes
made desolate in Virginia. On one of
your walls." our compliments to
the ladies. Sorry not to find them at

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"Home." I was picked up on the stair
contained an apology & the secret of
the officer in charge ^{that you had} for the destruction
of her wardrobe. A music book lay un-
injured & beneath some lines addressed
to my mother in Heaven was written
"Sacred to an ~~other~~ orphaned rebel. The
following is the purport of a letter addressed
to the President found in the yard.
Dear Uncle Abraham.

We like the way you fight-
we hope you will be re-elected. We have
come this time to show you what we can
do we will return & give you another
lesson. We have insisted for 40 years on
the war. Yours, The biggest rebel in the
country

18th Passed Sat. night at Mrs. Peake's. Miss
Wheeler came in - said the Secretaries
of the city of Baltimore had been aware
of the intended raid of the Southern
& many ladies had gone on the train
captured at Gunpowder Bridge pro-
vided with refreshment & when the
train was stopped & the cry of "The
rebels, the rebels," startled the party.