

## IMPORTANT FROM MISSOURI.

### THE MILITARY EXPEDITION TO POTOSI.

*From the St. Louis Democrat, May 17.*

The Union men of Washington County having been threatened with extermination, and some of them having been driven from Potosi, the County-seat, complaint was made to Gen. LYON, of the St. Louis Arsenal, and that brave and gallant officer determined to give the Union men in that section of the country protection. Accordingly an expedition was planned and put under the command of Capt. COLE, of Company A, Fifth Regiment of United States Volunteers. At 10 o'clock, P. M., Tuesday, May 14, Capt. COLE's command, consisting of some 150 men, left the Arsenal on a special train for their destination. They arrived at Potosi at 3 o'clock, A. M., on Wednesday, and immediately threw a chain of sentinels around the entire town. Guards were then stationed around the dwellings of the most prominent Secessionists, and, shortly after daylight, some 150 men found themselves prisoners, and were marched off to the Court House. Here the prisoners were formed in line, and by the assistance of a gentleman who had been driven out of Potosi, who knew all of the inhabitants of the place, the Union men were recognized and released, amounting to over half of those taken prisoners. Some fifty of the Secessionists were also released on parole of honor, after subscribing to the usual oath, *not to take up arms against the United States*, and nine of the leaders were marched off to the cars. The guard then made a descent on a secession lead manufactory, and captured some near four hundred pigs of that very useful article in time of war, which belonged to a man who had been furnishing lead to the Southern rebels. The man's name is JOHN DEAN, and is now a prisoner at the Arsenal. It appears he was not satisfied to simply sell the lead to the enemy, in defiance of the authority of the Government, but was engaged with his own team in hauling it to near the Arkansas line, where the traitors could get possession of it without danger. The guard captured several pistols, rifles, shot guns, and a quantity of secession uniforms, most of them unfinished, and some uniform cloth. After being furnished with breakfast and dinner, and very handsomely treated by the Union men of Potosi, and invited to stay a month in that place, at their expense, the command started for home. On their way back, the train made a halt at De Soto, in Jefferson County, where there was to be a grand secession "love feast" and flag raising. Here they found a company of secession cavalry drilling for the occasion, which took to their heels as soon as they got a sight of the United States troops. In their flight the cavalry left some thirty of their horses, which were captured by the troops and placed under guard. The pole, one hundred feet high, on which the rebels were going to fly the secession flag, was soon graced with the Stars and Stripes, amid the wildest enthusiasm of the Union men and Government troops. The next move was to capture the rebel flag, which was known to be in town, and for this agreeable duty Captain COLE detailed a guard of six men, under command of Sergeant WALKER, accompanied by Dr. FRANKLIN, Surgeon of the Fifth Regiment. The guard surrounded the house supposed to contain the flag, and Dr. FRANKLIN and Sergeant WALKER entered. After searching in vain for some time, the Doctor thought he observed the lady of the house sitting in rather an uneasy position, and he very politely asked her to rise. At first the lady hesitated, but finding the Doctor's persuasive suavity irresistible, she rose slowly, and lo! the blood-red stripe of the rebel ensign appeared below the lady's hoops. The Doctor, bowing a graceful "Beg pardon, Madam," stooped, and quietly catching hold of the gauzy color, carefully delivered the lady of a secession flag 30 feet long and 9 feet wide. The Doctor bore off his prize in triumph to the camp, where the troops greeted him with wild shouts, and characterized his feat as the crowning glory of the occasion. Here the troops captured another rebel leader, and after placing 30 men, under Lieut. MURPHY, to guard the Union flag, and the 30 horses, Capt. COLE's command started on their way. At Victoria, the train stopped a moment, when another Secessionist came up, hurrahing for JEFF. DAVIS, and quick as thought the ardent rebel was surrounded by a half-dozen bayonets, and marched into the cars a prisoner of war, and the train moved on. They arrived at the Arsenal about 6½ o'clock P. M., where a crowd of soldiers and visitors awaited them. The spoils were unloaded, and the prisoners marched to safe and comfortable quarters. Gen. LYON received them in the spirit of a true soldier, and the troops gave three cheers for Gen. LYON, three for Col. BLAIR, and three for the Stars and Stripes, and then caught the secession flag and tore it into shreds in a twinkling. The names of the prisoners are as follows:

John Dean, taken out of the cars at the Arsenal in the morning; W. A. Mathews, Stephen T. Dunklin, Joseph Dunklin, Wm. J. Slater, C. S. Clark, Ed. Willoughby, L. W. Casey, Patrick Doyle, N. B. Buck, editor of *Potosi Miner*; Dr. Wyatt, of Jefferson County, and D. Smith, of Victoria.

The following is the notice of the secession meeting and "Southern love-feast" that was to be at De Soto, which appeared in the *De Soto Herald*, and the names of the distinguished rebel speakers to address the crowd:

#### FLAG RAISING AND STATE RIGHTS-MEETING.

On Thursday, May 16, there will be raised in De Soto, a pole 100 feet high, and to its top will be run up a splendid flag 30 feet long and 9 feet in width, the gift of the patriotic ladies of Valle and Platen townships to the State Rights Party.

The following gentlemen have been invited and are expected to attend and address the people who will congregate here on that day: Hon. G. G. Vest, of Boonville; Hon. C. C. Zeigler, of Ste. Genevieve; Hon. S. B. Churchill, Judge Wm. M. Cook, and Mart. R. Culien, Esq., of St. Louis; Hon. M. P. Cayce, of Farmington; Judge D. E. Perryman and William A. Matthews, Esq., of Potosi; Hon. Phillip Pipkin, of Ironton; Col. Ferd. Kennett, Abner Green, Esq., John L. Thomas, Esq., and Hon. Francis Hagan, of Jefferson.

An excellent brass band will be in attendance to furnish soul-stirring music. A cordial invite is given to all the State Rights men, women and children in Southeast Missouri to attend this great Southern love feast!

This is the second victory over the rebels of Missouri which has been accomplished by her own gallant sons, and which will be followed up in quick succession until treason is driven from the soil of the State.