

Gabriel's Conspiracy, Confession of Solomon, 1800 Transcription

Communications made to the subscribers by Solomon the property of Thos. H. Prosser of Henrico, now under sentence of death for plotting an insurrection.

My Brother Gabriel was the person, who influenced me to join him and others in order that (as he said) we might conquer the white people & possess ourselves of their property. I inquired how we were to effect it? He said by falling upon them (the whites) in the dead of night at which time they would be unguarded and unsuspecting. I then inquired who was at the head of the plan? He said Jack alias Jack Bowler. I asked him if Jack Bowler knew any thing about carrying on war? He replied he did not. I then inquired who he was going to employ? He said a man from Caroline who was at the Siege of York-Town & who was to meet him (Gabriel) at the Brooke & to proceed on to Richmond take & then fortify it.

This man from Caroline was to be commander & manager the first day & then after exercising the soldiers the command was to be resigned to Gabriel. If Richmond was taken without the loss of many men they were to continue there some time, but if they sustained any considerable loss they were to bend their course for Hanover Town or York, they were not decided to which; & continue at that place as long as they found they were able to defend it, but in the event of defeat or loss at those places they were to endeavour to form a junction with some negroes, which they had understood from Mr. Gregory's Overseer, were in rebellion in some quarter of the country. This information which they had gotten from the Overseer made Gabriel anxious upon which he applied to me to make Scythe-swords, which I did to the number of twelve. Every Sunday he came to Richmond to provide ammunition, & to find where the military stores were deposited. Gabriel informed me in case of success that they intended to subdue the whole of the Country where slavery was permitted, but no further.

The first places Gabriel intended to attack in Richmond were the Capitol, the Magazine, the Penitentiary, the Governor's house & his person. The Inhabitants were to be massacred save those who beg[g]ed for quarter & agreed to serve as soldiers with them. The reason why the insurrection was to be made at this particular time was the discharge of the number of soldiers one or two months ago which induced Gabriel to believe the plan would be more easily executed.

Given under our hands this 15th day of September 1800.

Gervas Storrs

Joseph Tilden

Confession of Solomon read Sept. 15, 1800 No. 3

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