

ANOTHER REBEL PLOT.

600 Conspirators Plan the
Destruction of Northern
Cities.

PHILADELPHIA THE FIRST TO BE VISITED.

THE FIRST OF MAY THE TIME FIXED ON.

THE AFFAIR BEING INVESTIGATED.

Our Special Account.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, May 2, 1865.

The fact of the contemplated burning of Philadelphia having already been published, it is no longer deemed improper to detail the peculiar circumstances upon which the government based its apprehensions.

Quite late on Friday night Sergt. A. P. McKenny, who was on duty at the Sixth-st. wharf, observed two men engaged in close conversation, and upon advancing toward them they immediately made off, and nothing more was seen of them.

On Saturday evening just before sunset these same men were observed lurking about again, when the Sergeant again approaching them, he overheard disconnected snatches of their conversation and reported it to his superior officer, who ordered him to return and keep watch upon their movements.

As he neared them they moved off across a vacant lot to Four-and-a-half-st., the Sergeant closely following them. No sooner had they passed beyond the view of the adjacent buildings than one of the party wheeled and presenting the muzzle of a pistol to the Sergeant's breast, fired.

Luckily for McKenny he had a thick memorandum book in his left pocket through which the ball passed, also striking and passing through quite a number of letters, and striking and glancing from his watch case to his right breast and entering near the nipple.

The shock felled him, and the assassin seeing him fall halted and observing him close he hastily remarked to his confederate, "He won't tell any tales," and rushed off at the top of his speed.

The Sergeant who was conscious all the time, but feigned death for fear of another shot got up as soon as he saw them across the lot, and in pursuing to give an alarm, saw a letter lying upon the ground, which he thinks dropped from the hat of the villain, as it fell off, when he started to run, though it may have been drawn from his pocket at the moment of taking out the pistol.

Following the party as far as the street, and discovering no traces of them he returned to his quarters. His wound was bleeding freely, but otherwise he did not experience any considerable inconvenience from it.

The letter was then examined and found to be of considerable apparent import, when he was advised to take it to headquarters. He came up from Sixth-st. wharf to Col. Ingraham's office and told his tale.

At first it was thought some Munchausenism, but on showing his wound and the letter, and telling such a straightforward story, the matter was investigated so far as to satisfy the officers of the Government of the existence of a matured plot to burn the city of Philadelphia.

On sending to the guard at the Baltimore depot they reported that two men, exactly answering the description given by McKenny, came rushing into the depot all out of breath as the cars were leaving, and jumped upon the cars after the train had started. Dispatches were instantly sent to Baltimore and to Philadelphia, but no arrests have thus far been made.

The letter exposed the plot to burn the city, and was addressed to Dr. Sam, and signed "Chief Avenger." It referred to 600 men being on hand and all ready, and desiring the party addressed certainly to be there, as the time for action had been settled for the night of the 13th of April, or certainly Monday night the first of May.

This the writer stated was to be the final stroke, and the torch once lit, it would not be lowered until the city was in ashes. The immense plunder that could be secured during the excitement and confusion would afford them ample reward for their deeds of daring, with other allusions to similar matters.

A special train with detective officers was at once dispatched to Philadelphia, with all the evidence that could be obtained on the subject.

Gens. Cadwallader and Ferry were notified by telegraph, and every exertion made to thwart and detect the villains. It was the purpose of the Government to keep the matter quiet until certain captures could be made; but it is stated that evidence which came into the possession of Gen. Cadwallader got abroad, and so this object was partially thwarted.

Sergt. Kenny, who was supposed at first to be only slightly injured, it is ascertained, has a very serious wound. The surgeons have been unable to extract the ball, and it is feared to-night that his wound may prove mortal.