

Description of Thursday May 10th following the riots from *A Full and Complete Account of the Late Awful Riots in Philadelphia*. Philadelphia: John B. Perry, 1844.

Three o'clock P. M.—Every thing in the district of Kensington is still [37]
quiet and no outbreak is anticipated at this moment. The citizens are assembling at the various wards in accordance with the suggestion of the meeting this morning, to organise for the purpose of preserving the public peace. Most of the mob has been drawn into the city, and but few persons are on the ground of yesterday's devastation. Several companies of the Second Brigade under the command of Captain Goodman, have taken up their quarters at the intersection of Third and Germantown Road. The funeral of Wm. Wright took place from his father's residence at three o'clock and was [38]
numerously attended by the relatives and friends of the deceased.

About noon a number of persons assembled in the neighbourhood of St. John's Church in Thirteenth street below Market. A report having been circulated that an attack would be made upon that building. A detachment of volunteers under the command of Major Dithmar, are guarding every avenue leading to the church. Two pieces of artillery have been stationed at the gates. A number of the Mayor's officers are on the ground, and it is thought the force is sufficient to repel any attempt to injure the property.

A guard has also been stationed at the State Arsenal in Juniper street.

The Mayor and Sheriff have issued a proclamation, forbidding persons to appear in any street or place in the city and county of Philadelphia, which is or may be in the occupation of the civil authorities, or of the militia. And authorising the officers of the militia to declare what street and places are thus occupied, and to employ such force of arms as may be necessary to compel obedience to this order.

Fire engines and hose carriages are requested not to enter such streets or places, without permission from the military authorities.

Seven o'clock, P.M.—Governor Porter arrived in the city this afternoon at five o'clock. The object of the visit being, no doubt, to aid by his counsel in the suppression of the riots. Up to this time every thing is quiet. The streets are in a state of unusual commotion, and every one is anxiously [39]
inquiring of his neighbour about the state of affairs. Bodies of armed citizens are patrolling the city, and the military and civil force is such that it is almost impossible a riot can take place this night.

Ten o'clock.--The populace are still out in great numbers walking the streets, notwithstanding the request of the Mayor, that they would remain at home. The officers and crew of the U. S. steamship Princeton pass-

ed this office an hour ago, armed to the teeth, and ready to do battle, if their services should be required. They took up their quarters in the Girard Bank—that building being appropriated for the Military Head Quarters...

The Riots and Some of their Consequences.—We are creditably informed that a large number of the Irish Catholics and others, who were so ruthlessly thrust from their homes during the riots of Tuesday and Wednesday, had encamped in Camac's Woods and other places, some two or three miles north of the city. Surrounded by their wives and children, it was alleged they were unable to proceed, and were afraid to return to the city. Our informant represented their condition as destitute and pitiable in the extreme. They were without food, except what chance or charity threw in their way, and destitute of clothing sufficient to protect them from the damp night air. While in this deplorable situation, as we are informed by a worthy and benevolent magistrate, *one woman gave birth to a child*. So horrible a condition of things aroused the sympathies of several of our citizens, who immediately set about furnishing them with succor and relief. A reporter was despatched to correctly ascertain the truth and particulars of the statement. After considerable search, a small party were found near the woods above alluded to, from whom, after allaying their fears that we were not enemies in disguise, we learned that much of the sad tale was but too true. The greater number of those who there sought refuge, had, however, dispersed. Some had returned to their burnt or deserted residences, while many were wending their way to the surrounding villages—to Manayunk, Norristown, &c. [54]

One man, we heard, had just passed the spot where we met the party in question, leading by the hand a child, in search of his wife, from whom he had become separated on the night of the riots, and had not since been able to find her. Another grief-stricken individual, in the same neighborhood, was rudely taunted by a party of quarriers whom he passed, and who, after learning from him that he was a Catholic, assaulted him with stones, by which he was so much injured that he walked with difficulty. These are some of the distressing acts that have followed this mad and unchristian like assault of persons and property. [55]

The scene of the riots yesterday presented a spectacle of perfect desolation. Ruin lifted its wan and haggard head through the blackened and yawning walls on every side, while the emblem of mourning and death hung from the muffled knocker and partly closed shutter. It was a heart-sickening sight, the like of which we hope we may never again look upon in this or any other city; and next to this, the humiliating display at the American bunting as a means of protecting the property of tiny class or sect of the citizens from the prejudices or destructive propensities of another. Rows of houses for several squares round the infected district, and in fact, for some distance out in the suburbs, have small tri-colored flags protruded from the windows—a sight mortifying and humiliating to those who have been taught to believe that our laws afford equal and efficient

protection to all.