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9 Such an event in view of the late outrages in Va. was well calculated to excite alarm. This story tied to another of a few negroes being seen in the woods, & travelling a few miles, grew to the appalling size of 200 negroes being close on W. The story came direct & through two individuals so that there could be no doubt of its truth. - The people of W. must have spent a wretched night, its horrors being aggravated by an alarm gun, at which the women & children fled to certain dwellings, previously designated & the men collected with their arms. Here folly shines out. The militia collected quite in the rear of the women, & I believe remained there. It was the extreme of ignorance or fear that, knowing the enemy to be near, they did not march out to prevent their entering the town, instead of leaving every avenue unprotected, & a free passage to the defenceless women. -

The confessions of the blacks, who were previously taken up in W. in consequence & discoveries of an intended insurrection, show that five counties were combined. They expected about 4000 blacks to engage in it. The first Oct. was designated on which to commence their infernal devastations & butcheries. In W. they were to set fire to the Bapt. & Meth. churches & during the tumult to fall upon the families & destroy them.

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