

## Confession of Solomon.

Communications made to the subscribers by Solomon the property of Tho: W. Proctor of Henrico, now under sentence of death for plotting an insurrection, &c.

My Brother Gabriel was the person, who influenced me to join him and others in vain that (as he said) we might conquer the white people & possess ourselves of their property. I enquired 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 unarmed & unsuspecting. I then enquired 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 enquired who he was going to employ? he said a man from <sup>Caroline</sup> (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, & after that after causing 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 were sustained any considerable loss they were to bend their course for Hanover Town or York, they were not afraid, which, & continue at <sup>that</sup> 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 endeavor to form a junction with some negroes, which by they had understood from <sup>Mr</sup> 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 Buy the Swords, which I said to the number of ~~one~~ twelve. Every Sunday he came to Richmond to provide ammunition, & to find where the military stores were deposited. Gabriel informed <sup>me</sup> in case of success that they intended <sup>to</sup> subvert the whole of the <sup>Country</sup> where slavery was permitted, but no further.

“Confession of Solomon,” Virginia, Governor (1799-1802: Monroe) Executive Papers of Governor James Monroe, 1799-1802, Accession 40936, 1800 Sept-Nov. Box 8. State Government Records Collection, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

~~The first~~ The first plans Gabriel intended to attack in Rich-  
mond were, the Capitol, the Magazine, the Penitentiary, the  
Governor's house & his person. The inhabitants were to be mas-  
sacred save those who signed quarters & 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 <sup>plan</sup> would be more easily executed -

Given under our hands this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 1800

Gervas. Stotts  
Joseph Silden

Information obtained  
Nov 24th 1871  
No 3  
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Courtesy of the Library of Virginia.

[Transcription Page 1]

Communications made to the subscribers by Solomon the property of Thos. [Thomas] 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 and possess ourselves of their property. I enquired 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 enquired who was at the head of the plan. He said Jack, alias Jack Bowler. I asked him if Jack Bowler knew anything about carrying on war? He replied he did not. I then enquired who he was going to employ? He said a man from Caroline who was at the siege of Yorktown, and who was to meet him (Gabriel) at the Brook and to proceed on to Richmond, take, and then fortify it. This man from Caroline was to be commander and manager the first day, and 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, and continue at that place as long as they found they were able to defend it, but in the event of a defeat or loss at those places they were to endeavor 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 and 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.

Transcribed by Hampton Kennedy for James Monroe's Highland, Spring 2022.

[Transcription Page 2]

The first places Gabriel intended to attack in Richmond were, the Capitol, the Magazine, the Penitentiary, the Governor's house and his person. The inhabitants were to be massacred, save those who begged for quarter and 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 '5th day of September, 1800.

GERVAS STORRS,  
JOSEPH SELDEN.

Confession of Solomon  
read Sept. 15th. 1800