and every establishment of that kind was carefully respected and guarded.

The Army of the Shenandoah which had come with General Hunter was here with about eight thousand effectives. The Army of the Kanawha under Crook brought about twelve thousand. The Army of West Virginia (as I named it in general orders the day of the junction) moved from Staunton with twenty thousand men and thirty-six cannon. Our cavalry numbered about five thousand. We moved on four parallel roads with orders to concentrate at Lexington on the second day and to move toward any point where the sound of cannon indicated a serious engagement. Crook with his division of infantry took the main Valley road through Brownsburg. Averell with his cavalry division moved on the extreme right or western road. Sullivan’s infantry division took the left hand Valley road through Greenville. General Duffie with the Second cavalry division took the eastern road running along the Blue Ridge. . . . A courier from Martinsburg arrived bringing dispatches and late newspapers. A supply train of two hundred wagons is following us conveyed by two regiments of infantry and several squadrons of cavalry. The train contains some necessary supplies and some ammunition, all of which is acceptable and due to Sigel’s promptness. The General is in high good humor.

JUNE 11, SATURDAY. . . . The 2nd Maryland and an Ohio one-hun-
dred-day regiment under Colonel [David] Putnam with the supply train have arrived safely. At Fairfield another mill was burnt. We heard guns on Crook’s line and hurried our march accordingly. I stopped at a fine country house where I talked with some ladies, old and young. They were frightened but reassured when I spoke to them kindly. They said that our men had so far treated them better than their own soldiers. We found General Crook in front of Lexington about midday. The enemy had burned the bridge and were attempting to make a defense with artillery and sharpshooters. We rode forward to a hill for the purpose of reconnoitering. The river was deep, being used to feed a branch of the James River Canal. The opposite bank was a perpendicular cliff fifty or sixty feet in height and crowned by a thicket of cedars. In this thicket and in some buildings attached to the Virginia Military Institute, which stood near the cliff, the enemy had disposed his sharpshooters. The bridge, a wooden structure, had burned and fallen into the river, still affording a crossing place for infantry on its charred boards and beams.

The skirmishing was sharp and so keenly did the balls whistle about us that we were obliged to dismount and hide our horses in the woods. Our artillery in force crowned the hill on this side which entirely commanded the town, but not being able to see the enemy only a few shots were fired. Averell with a cavalry column by a ford above and flanked them to the right. Prevailing the movement in time, the enemy retired hastily toward Buchanan. The Cadets, about 250 strong under Professor Colonel [Francis H.] Smith, retired by the Balcony Falls road to Lynchburg. The General was dissatisfied with the move-
ment of Averell’s, believing that if it had been promptly and boldly executed, he might have caught the enemy and have captured or dispersed the greater part of his force. Our gunners put several shells through the Institute and one burst immediately in the cupola, one of the towers rather. We entered the town from the west. The cavalry of Averell were coming in from the south and numerous stragglers of our infantry crossing by the burnt bridge were peeping about for plunder. We rode directly to the Institute and found the sack already far advanced, soldiers, Negroes, and riffraff disputing over the plunder. The private trunks of the cadets seemed to be quite fat and irremovable, and I heard that one soldier got one hundred dollars in gold from one of them. The plunderers came out loaded with beds, carpets, cut velvet chairs, mathematical glasses and instruments, stuffed birds, charts, books, papers, arms, cadet uniforms, and hats in most ridiculous confusion. The General stopped at the house of Major [William] Gil-
ham, a professor of the Institute, and told the lady to get out her furniture as he intended to burn the house in the morning. She was eminently ladylike and was marked, but yet firm. The house was a state building and it was fair to destroy it, yet it was her only home and it was hard to lose it, but she was a soldier’s wife and a soldier’s daughter so she set us out some good applejack, apologizing she had nothing better, and then went to move out her furniture to the lawn.

I walked into the town with Stockton and, seeing a number of sweet-looking girls with some matrons on a porch, Stockton expressed a wish to know them saying he would give a great deal if he had the boldness to go up and make their acquaintance. I told him I

3. Alfred N. Duffie, a brigadier general of cavalry, was born in France. In 1860 he commanded a brigade under Pherson, and in 1864 scouted on the left flank of Hunter’s army.
would invite him and walked up on the porch with the pretense of inquiring whether they had been disturbed by the soldiers, and whether they wanted a guard. They thanked me courteously and said they had a guard, which I knew, and that he had pestered them. They seemed cheerful and talkative, so I introduced Stockton and myself as members of the General's staff. This was the house of General [R. E.] Colston of the Institute. There was also there a Mrs. Bayard, who claimed kin with Stockton. We were invited to tea which I declined and then to come again. I took leave and left Stockton, who became an inmate of the house while we stayed in town and took good care of them. We took our headquarters at the house of Colonel Smith on the lawn of the Institute. It was an elegant establishment and we were served at a table by an old-fashioned Virginia house servant named Robinson.

We saw a great deal of smoke in the mountains eastward and were told it came from the camps of the refugees who were hiding from us with their Negroes and cattle. Their campfires had fired the dry leaves and the air was misty with smoke. Our cavalry also burned some extensive iron works in that direction. The satisfaction of these people in regard to their Negroes is surprising. They seem to believe firmly that their Negroes are so much attached to them that they will not leave them on any terms. Thus when running off their cattle, horses, and the goods into the mountains, they take their Negroes with them. The Negroes take the first opportunity they find of running into our lines and giving information as to where their masters are. The order was given to fire the building and all the houses and outbuildings.

Stores of arms and ordnance were found in the Institute. In the court of the main building were several pieces of light artillery with a number of limbers and carriages. In front are twelve pieces of bronze cannon of the old French Pattern, and there is also a fine copy in bronze of Houdon's statue of Washington.

JUNE 12, SUNDAY— . . . The General asked my opinion in regard to the destruction of the Institute. I told him I looked upon it as a most dangerous establishment where treason was systematically taught. That I believed the States Rights conspirators had with subtlety and forethought established and encouraged the school for the express purpose of educating the youth of the country into such opinions as would render them ready and efficient tools wherewith to overthrow the government of the country when the hour and opportunity arrived. Throughout the Pamphlet literature of the school, addresses, speeches, and circulars, we saw one prominent and leading idea—that the Cadet in receiving this education from the sovereign state owed allegiance and military service to the state alone, and if he should be called to serve the Government of the United States he could only do so by the order and Permission of the sovereign state of Virginia. The same infamous and treasonable doctrines were taught at the University of Virginia, and, while all the other educational institutions in the state had dwindled into insignificance, these two expressly used as schools of treason were fostered by the state authorities 'until they were prosperous and plethoric. To their joint influence might be traced the prevalence and fixedness of their monstrous doctrines among the educated men in the South. The catalogue of the Institute itself showed what a list of capable military officers had been there raised up against the government of the country. This was the great paramount reason for its destruction by fire.

There were military reasons besides. The professors and cadets had taken the field against government troops, as an organized corps. The buildings had been used as a Rebel arsenal and recently as a fortress. Professor Smith, who understood the liabilities incurred by this use of the building, protested against McCausland's appropriation of it for defensive purposes, hoping that otherwise it might be spared. Smith also protested against an attempted defense of the town, as useless and unmilitary. McCausland had fifteen hundred men and a battery while the Federals had twenty thousand men and thirty-six guns. The order was given to fire the building and all the houses and outbuildings.

As this order was executed, the plunderers came running out, their arms full of spoils. One fellow had a stuffed gannet from the museum of natural history; others had the high-topped hats of cadet officers, and most of them were loaded with the most useless and impracticable articles. Lieutenant Mergs came out with fine mathematical instruments, and Dr. Patton followed with a beautiful human skeleton.
Some of the officers brought out some beautifully illustrated volumes of natural history which they presented to me, I, however, felt averse to taking anything and left them at Professor Smith's. My only spoil was a new -gilt button marked 'VMI' and a pair of gilt epaulettes which some of the clerks had picked up and handed to me. The burning of the Institute made a grand picture, a vast volume of black smoke rolled above the flames and covered half the horizon.

While this was burning, an officer brought to General Hunter a proclamation issued by ex-Governor Letcher inciting the people to arise and wage a guerrilla warfare upon the vandal hordes of Yankee invaders. After issuing this foolish and abusive paper, the ex-Governor himself took to his heels. General Hunter ordered Captain [James F.?] Berry forthwith to burn the property, allowing his family ten minutes to get out of the house. The order was executed without delay. I walked with General Averell and Halpine to an opposite hill to view the scene which was grand, although the burning went on very slowly.

There seemed to be a very few people of the lower class and loose Negroes in this place. There was quite an excitement around the Letcher house lest the flames should communicate to adjoining houses belonging to his mother, an old woman who used to keep a boarding house. Our soldiers with some difficulty saved it. The Institute burnt out about two P.M. and the arsenal blew up with a smart explosion. The General seemed to enjoy this scene and turning to me expressed his great satisfaction at having me with him.

A trustee of Washington College called to explain that the soldiers were sacking the building and desired a guard to protect it. I ordered it immediately and explained to him why we were disposed to treat his college in a different manner from the Institute. He said, "I do not wish to discuss the matter, Sir." I pointed to the burning buildings and replied, "You perceive that we do not intend to discuss it either." The soldiers it seems have been sacking the Washington College and pelting the statue of the father of their country on the cupola, supposing it to represent Jefferson Davis.

I rode out around the town and, passing the cemetery, saw Stonewall Jackson's grave in the midst of an enclosure with a tall flag staff near it. A number of curious men and officers of our army were collecting around it. I suggested to the General that the bronze statue of

4. John Letcher (1813-84), the "Watchdog of the Treasury," had been an ardent states' rights man in Congress before the war. Elected governor of Virginia in 1860, he served until 1864.

Washington in front of the Institute should be sent to Wheeling by the train as a trophy for West Virginia. Meigs, who undertook the boxing and moving of it, insisted that it should go to West Point, and as I was indifferent as to what was its destination I consented readily.5 The fire had not injured the statue in the least, and as I looked at the dignified and noble countenance I felt indifferent that this effigy should be left to adorn a country whose inhabitants were striving to destroy a government which he founded. The cottages occupied by Major Gilham and Colonel [Thomas] Williamson were burned. Mrs. Williamson had got her things off. Mrs. Gilham's were all piled on the parade ground and she sat in the midst, firm and ladylike. I asked Prendergast to let her have two wagons and some orderlies to move it. I also got a protection for her at the house she moved into to prevent soldiers from plundering her there.

Ellicott brought in a prisoner, a Major Bell, late an editor of some Winchester sheet. He was captured near Midway scouting from Imboden's command. I gave him a drink and his supper and he told me that Imboden was still at Waynesboro. Bell gave a great account of Lee's victory over Grant and supposed that Hunter should now supersede Grant as the latter had been so unlucky. He says the Rebels give me the credit for engineering this column up the Valley. I told him I was quite willing they should credit me with the move. . . .

Wrote an order to Averell to move at two A.M. tomorrow on Buchanan, to drive McCausland off and secure the bridge at that place if possible. This indicates that we are to take that route to Lynchburg. Averell detached two hundred picked men to cross the ridge and to ride around Lynchburg, cut the roads, and get news and rejoin us at Liberty or thereabouts.

JUNE 13, MONDAY... The General has decided to spare Colonel Smith's house. I suppose he feels that the roof which has sheltered us and the house where we have been entertained should be saved, whatever be its character otherwise. We received a dispatch from Duffie. He is on White's Gap holding both passes and has captured a number of horses. A dispatch from Averell says he is within four miles of Buchanan driving McCausland who has two thousand men and artillery. Went out to sketch the ruins of the Institute. . . .

Lieutenant Fields was ordered to burn the printing press and fixtures. The editor had concealed it in the woods - The Rockbridge
This is the information we have wanted for some days. A long, dusty, but not unpleasant march brought us to Buchanan about sun-

Two officers should never examine prisoners at the same time. . . . war not able to co-operate with Hunter as had been planned.

prevented me from carefully weighing and comparing the evidence. This interruption entirely broke up my plan of examination and

ever, Duffie came in to be present at the examination and got to

thus frank, hoping to obtain leave to go home. Unfortunately, how-

were West Virginians from Wheeling, and I did not credit what they

hard youths apparently, told me that Ewe11 was advancing with a
cavalry sent by Grant to open communication with us. Two fellows,

Sixty prisoners of Duffie’s gobbing being brought in, I examined
some of them. Some said that Fitzhugh Lee had defeated a body of
cavalry sent by Grant to open communication with us. Two fellows,

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In the vicinity of Buchanan several iron works were burnt, one a
branch of the Tredagar works which employs five hundred hands.
When we first approached, the inhabitants all ran away, but getting
over their panic they came back and behaved themselves civilly. To-
morrow’s march was arranged. Crook and Averell will move by the
Otter Peaks road to Liberty [Bedford]. Sullivan and Duffie will wait
until our train passes the river here and then will follow by the same
road. The General has concluded not to send back the grand wagon
train, but will retain it until it becomes troublesome. He will then
destroy it and use the mules and horses for other purposes.

June 15. Wednesday.--Early this morning the General entered my
room and said, “We have captured that old vagabond, Colonel Angus
McDonald. He had the impudence to ask to see me, but I declined to
see him.” He then said he would turn the prisoner over to me that I
might work my pleasure with him. I replied to the General, declining
the charge, saying that I was not a fit judge in McDonald’s case,
that while he behaved in an insolent and inhuman manner toward
my father, I did not care to use my position in the United States service
to avenge a private quarrel or injury. I then went downstairs and
saw McDonald sitting on the porch. He was thin and grey but looked...