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could not join me before night, and fearing that if I delayed acting, my intention might become known at Orleans, I determined to push on with the hope of surprising at least one point. In reaching the line at 12 o'clock, I found the laborers at work without any suspicion of my approach. We captured all the men on the station, picked out such as we could identify as rangers, disarmed them all, destroyed the arms and moved on up the line.

In reaching the next station above we found that an express had been sent up by the workmen giving information of our intention, consequently, those who were made conscious of guilt, had an opportunity to conceal themselves, and all, to carry off their arms. It was for the purpose of preventing this that I required a company of mounted men. From this point up, my operations were necessarily slower in searching for concealed arms and detaching in pursuit of those who fled.

Mr. Fisk, chief Engineer, overtook me five miles above Orleans, and was very active and useful in collecting information, and pointing out the guilty. At his instance, two riotous and unlicensed houses were destroyed, and I may remark here, that of 40 or 50 shanties and shops, destroyed in the course of the march, not one was touched except by his express order. Encamped six miles above Little Orleans, where Col. Hollingsworth with his troop joined me about night - March 18 miles -

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> - Marched at 6 A.M. crossed the Tunnel and encamped on the upper side, distance only 5 miles. The number of arms known to be secreted in the neighborhood, and the number of men from whom it was necessary to select the guilty, kept us very busily employed. Several detachments made into Virginia to look for arms reported to have been carried across the river. I was very particular in giving most positive instructions to these detachments not to enter by force upon the premises of any person in Virginia, nor without the full permission of the proprietors.

I am particular in mentioning this, because a very unhappy incident occurred on one of these expeditions which it is proper that I should relate:

Hearing that a large number of arms had been secreted in Virginia near the line, I ordered two horse guards across with a citizen who gave the information and volunteered to be their guide. They found two rifles, and an Irishman who had concealed them. The latter thought proper to take the man and bring him with the guns, having one of the