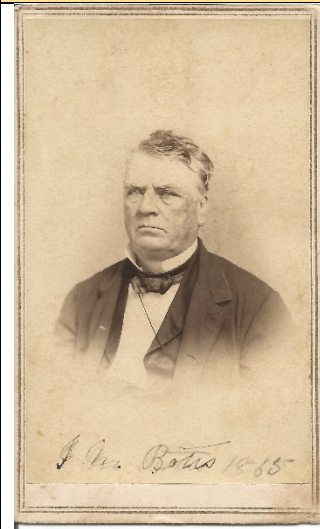


Chapter 325 – Lincoln Hears Of Southern Threats To Invade Washington



Dates:
April 8-9, 1860

Sections:
• The Virginian John Minor Botts Warns Lincoln Of A DC Plot

Date: April 8-9, 1861

The Virginian John Minor Botts Warns Lincoln Of A DC Plot



As Davis is readying his attack of Ft. Sumter, Lincoln is clinging to the hope that the Virginia Convention will vote to stay in the Union and that war can be avoided.

On April 8 ex-Whig Congressman and Virginia Unionist, John Minor Botts, visits the White House after learning that a fleet has set out to relieve Ft. Sumter. He comes to plead with Lincoln to change his mind, saying that the move will lead to war.

Lincoln responds with the same emotional message he used with John Baldwin on April 4.

I am no war man. I want peace more than any man in this country, and will make greater sacrifices to preserve it than any other man...

John Minor Botts (1802-1869)

Botts is convinced of Lincoln's sincerity, and returns the following day to warn the President that southern forces are planning to attack and subdue Washington.

Lincoln immediately sends Botts to see General Scott who stiffens the city's defenses with additional troops from New York and Pennsylvania.