

unless they could bring me your instructions in writing,
countermanding those previously given.

A deputation ~~duo~~ of the most respectable women, came
in the same evening - when I found myself painfully necessi-
tated to inform them, that, any farther importunities would
cause the matches to be instantly applied to the trains - with
assurance however that, if left at peace; I would delay the
execution of the orders, as long as I could feel the least
shadow of justification. Captain Breighton's arrival at
the yard, with the men who had been with him at the bridge
(probably about 5 o'clock) would have justified me in instant
operation - but he also, was strenuous in the desire to obviate
the intended destruction - and volunteered to ride out, and
gain me positive information, as to the position of the enemy
under the hope that, our Army might have rallied and repul-
sed ~~the enemy~~ ^{the enemy}. I was myself indeed, desirous of delay, for
the reason that, the wind was then blowing fresh from the S.W.
which would most probably, have caused the destruction of ~~the~~
^{private} property, north and east of the yard, in its neighbourhood
when I was of opinion, that, the close of the evening would
bring with it a calm, in which happily, we were not
disappointed. Other gentlemen well mounted, volunteered
as Capt. Breighton had done, to go out and bring me positive