1861. Correspondence, John Forsyth to Jefferson Davis

John Forsyth was a Confederate commissioners in Washington, DC.

“While in New York last week, I learned some particulars of a contemplated revolutionary movement in that city . . . . to relieve New York City and its surroundings of the ruin with which that city was threatened. . . . The people of New York were living under a double tyranny- the one located at Albany and reaching their domestic affairs, and the other at Washington, breaking up their foreign trade. The evil was so great as to justify a revolution for relief. To this end, two hundred of the most influential and wealthy citizens of New York had been approached, and were then arranging the details of a plan to throw off the authority of the federal and state governments, to seize the navy-yard at Brooklyn, the vessels of war, and the forts in the harbor, and to declare New York as a free city. The military of the city had been felt and found responsive; the mayor of the city, while not taking a leading part from considerations of policy, will at the proper time throw his whole power into the movement. Several army officers are in it, two of the principal ship-builders and the leading merchants and capitalists of the city. The movement is to be divested of everything like party aspects, and among the conspirators are several who, although never Republicans, voted for Lincoln under the then Northern delusive idea that a sectional President might be elected with safety to the Union.”