All during the day of the 5th, there was a feeling of unrest throughout the city as to the eventualities of the coming night. The military remained under orders, and during the day a meeting was arranged with several leading negroes for a consultation at 8 p.m., when it was explained that the military was ordered out to protect the prisoner Reed and to repress mob violence. In the meantime a great mob of negroes had collected around the jail and were armed to the teeth. After the meeting at 8 o'clock, the mob was addressed by both white and colored speakers and the situation as to the purpose of the military explained to it. The military now moved in and took full charge of the squares around the jail. The mob broke up somewhat in front of the troops and shifted in its relation to the business end of the Gatlin gun of Wilson's Battery, but it did not entirely disperse and at midnight the marshes, shanties, yards, and trees within three blocks of the jail were full of armed negroes apparently waiting for a war to begin. The strain of the second night was no less than the first, but it passed without serious consequences and at sunrise the mob had about disappeared.

On the 6th, a large number of men from surrounding towns and from southern Georgia came in and offered their services to the sheriff and the military. At 6 p.m. the St. Augustine Rifles and the St. Augustine Guards arrived and immediately marched to the jail and assumed duty. Considerable desultory firing by individuals during the night kept the excitement at the highest pitch. Policeman Jones was fired on at Beaver and Newnan Streets by a negro, and the officer shot him in the legs with a double-barrelled shotgun; this was the first incident of the kind up to this time.

The Gainesville Guards, Gem City Guards of Palatka, and Bradford County Guards of Starke, were in the city on the 7th. At 4:30 p.m., the eight military companies now in the city had a battalion drill in the vicinity of Market and Bay Streets, staged for the purpose of effect on the negroes. The Gainesville, Palatka, and Starke companies and Wilson's Battery went on duty at the jail soon after dark. There was no outbreak during the night and on the 8th quiet had been restored and the visiting companies departed, having rendered Jacksonville a valuable service.

This was a dangerous demonstration. The incendiary talk by crowds of negro women was one of the most distur-