

Problems in Maryland Document Packet  
Part One: Communication Concerning Activities in Central Maryland<sup>i</sup>

THE MARYLAND ARRESTS.

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[Appended to the foregoing.]

His Excellency ABRAHAM LINCOLN,  
*President of the United States:*

I have been in Baltimore since Tuesday evening last and co-operated with Mayor G. W. Brown in his untiring efforts to allay and prevent the excitement and suppress the fearful outbreak as indicated above and I fully concur in all that is said by him in the above communication.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS H. HICKS,  
*Governor of Maryland.*

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STATE OF MARYLAND, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,  
*Annapolis, April 20, 1861.*

Hon. S. CAMERON.

SIR: Since I saw you in Washington last I have been in Baltimore City laboring in conjunction with the mayor of that city to preserve peace and order but I regret to say with little success. Up to yesterday there appeared promise but the outbreak came; the turbulent passions of the riotous element prevailed; fear for safety became reality; what they had endeavored to conceal but what was known to us was no longer concealed but made manifest; the rebellious element\* had the control of things. \* \* \* They took possession of the armories, have the arms and ammunition, and I therefore think it prudent to decline (for the present) responding affirmatively to the requisition made by President Lincoln for four regiments of infantry.

With great respect, I am, your obedient servant,

THOS. H. HICKS.

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WASHINGTON, *April 20, 1861.*

Governor HICKS:

I desire to consult with you and the mayor of Baltimore relative to preserving the peace of Maryland. Please come immediately by special train which you can take at Baltimore; or if necessary one can be sent from hence. Answer forthwith.

LINCOLN.

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BALTIMORE, *Saturday, April 20, 1861—10 o'clock.*

[General SCOTT.]

MY DEAR GENERAL: There has been no arrival from the North. Some one or more bridges have been destroyed; where it is not known; telegraph interrupted. Warford has sent by horses along the road to find where the trouble is. \* \* \* Depend upon it a vigorous and efficient plan of action must be decided on and carried out or we will have to give up the capital.

The communication with the South is perfect both by railroad and telegraph and we must have the same or we are gone. No arrivals

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\* For reports of the attack of the mob on the U. S. troops passing through Baltimore April 19, 1861, here alluded to by Governor Hicks, see Series I, Vol. 11, pp. 7-21.

from Philadelphia or New York and no information. Rumor says the bridge across the Gunpowder is destroyed and also a bridge some six or eight miles out of the city. \* \* \* Let there be prompt action. \* \* \*

Yours, truly,

D. WILMOT.

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SATURDAY, April 20, 1861—11 o'clock.

[General SCOTT:]

Have just heard that the bridges between Ashland and Cockeyville and two or three nearer town are burned. Will advise the forces in Philadelphia and such as may be at Harrisburg to come upon this road as far as they can and protect the balance of the road and protect while temporarily repairing the bridges or so much as is necessary—the balance to come in force and well armed to within three miles of Baltimore and cross over to Washington [branch], and if in our possession as it should be to proceed by rail to Washington; if not to march by forced marches to Washington. \* \* \*

Yours,

D. WILMOT.

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HAGERSTOWN, April 22, 1861.

Governor T. H. HICKS, *Annapolis*:

Virginia troops searching houses in Maryland on Saturday near Harper's Ferry for arms. I appealed to General Harper, commander, to recall them which he promised if Northern troops are forbidden. What is to be done with Southern? What steps shall I take?

EDWARD M. MOBLEY,  
*Sheriff of Washington County.*

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PHILADELPHIA, April 23, 1861.

Hon. SIMON CAMERON, *Secretary of War.*

DEAR SIR: Since I wrote my last of this date I have been informed that the Baltimoreans and Marylanders have destroyed the whole of the bridges on the Northern Central. This seems to have been a mere spite action and must convince the Government that those loyal to the Government in Maryland are in a vast minority. As soon as the capital is safe from attack it seems to me that the Government should at once turn on Baltimore and place it under martial law and require that it should pay all damages to the railroads it has destroyed and to their business.

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Yours, truly,

J. EDGAR THOMSON,  
*President Pennsylvania Central Railroad.*

*Arrest of John Merryman, Esq., by the Military.—Writ of Habeas Corpus.*—Quite an excitement was produced in the city on Saturday morning by the announcement of the arrest of John Merryman, Esq., of Hayfields, near Cockeysville. It appears, that on Friday night, Lieut. Abell, with a squad from the forces stationed at the Relay House, on the Northern Central Railway, moved up the road. They reached the house of Mr. M. about two o'clock on Saturday morning, took him into custody, and awaited the passage of the down train, in which they reached this city shortly before 8 o'clock. He was then placed in a hack and taken to Fort McHenry. While in the custody of the military he declined to hold any conversation with those on the train. The charge upon which he was arrested is said to have been a participation in the burning of the bridges on the Northern Central railway, between Cockeysville and the Maryland line, after the departure of the Cockeysville camp. Mr. M. is still detained at Fort McHenry. He is a prominent citizen of Baltimore county, has for several years held the position of president of the Maryland State Agricultural Society, and is respected by the people generally.

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<sup>i</sup> United States War Department. *The War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. Washington: Gov't Printing Office. Series I, 1-53; Series II, 1-8; Series III, 1-5; Series IV, 1-4 (1880 - 1901).

<sup>ii</sup> The Sun Papers. May 27, 1861.