

band of abolitionists have full possession of Harper's Ferry and the United States Arsenal. One of the railroad hands, a negro, was killed whilst trying to get the express train, from Wheeling for Baltimore, through the town.

They have arrested two men who came in with a load of wheat, and took their wagon and loaded it with rifles, and sent them into Maryland. They are led by about two hundred and fifty whites, with a gang of negroes fighting for their freedom. They gave Conductor Phelps notice that they would not allow any more trains to pass.

The telegraph wires are cut east and west of Harper's Ferry. This intelligence was brought by the train from the West. Great excitement here. The leader told Conductor Phelps, of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad train, that they "*were determined to have liberty, or die in the attempt.*"

Their object in stopping further trains is to save bloodshed by preventing the arrival of troops. One of the passengers was interrogated by them for half an hour.

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*From Martinsburg via Wheeling.*

October 17th, 1859.

*W. P. Smith*, Baltimore:

A body of armed men have taken possession of the Armory at Harper's Ferry, and have planted guns in our bridge. They have stopped all our trains, tonnage and mail trains east are all west of the bridge, the telegraph wires are cut, no communication east. A body of armed men are getting ready to leave here at once to clear the bridge, that our trains can pass. Great excitement all through the neighborhood.

A. DIFFEY.

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October 17th, 1859—11.30 A. M.

*To J. B. Ford,*

Wheeling.

Rioters have possession of Harper's Ferry Armory, and threaten our bridge and trains.

Matter is probably much exaggerated and we fear it may injure us if prematurely published.

Don't let our trains be interrupted, as troops have already gone to subdue it.

W. P. SMITH.