

Richmond, Oct. 17th, 1859—2.40 P. M.

*Col. John Thos. Gibson, 55th Regiment,*

Charlestown, Jefferson Co., Va.:

*Care John W. Garrett, Esq.,*

(Pres't, Balto.)

*Sir*:—The commander-in-chief, calls your attention to the provisions of the first section of chapter twenty-nine of the code, and directs that you call out immediately a sufficient force from your regiment to put down the rioters at Harper's Ferry. The commander-in-chief is informed that the Arsenal and Government property at that place are in possession of a band of rioters. You will act promptly and fully in this emergency, and command the troops called out in person.

By command,

WM. H. RICHARDSON,

Adjutant General.

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Baltimore, Oct. 17th—3.50 P. M.

*Gov. Henry A. Wise:*

Your dispatches are received and will be forwarded at once by telegraph and horse express.

It is an insurrection of seven hundred and fifty whites and blacks, and they are reported to be busy in taking slaves from their owners. They are also reported to be engaged fortifying their position, and are armed with weapons from the U. S. Arsenal, which is in their possession. Five companies will leave here in a few minutes and a detachment of marines are now about starting from Washington. Telegraph to this point full authority for the Maryland troops to pass into Virginia. We will be happy to facilitate the execution of any of your orders.

J. W. GARRETT,

Pres't B. & O. R. R. Co.

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Baltimore, Oct. 17th—3.30 P. M.

*J. T. Quynn:*

Employ instantly a reliable man and a fast horse to take by express via Shepardstown the following dispatch from the