

intentions of the authorities respecting the return of troops and munitions. It may be necessary to run an extra train on Friday afternoon, leaving Harper's Ferry for Baltimore and Washington, about two or three o'clock, which can be done, if we get proper notice.

W. P. SMITH.

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Baltimore, December 1st, 1859.

*General Taliaferro,*

Charlestown.

We desire anxiously to learn from whom the dispatches were sent to you, upon which you ordered the arrest of the two passengers at Martinsburg. They seem to be disposed to blame our Company exclusively, by alleging that our employees gave you the information leading to their arrest.

Will you favor us as we desire, therefore, and if not asking too much, will you send us a copy of the dispatches in question.

W. P. SMITH,

M. of T., B. & O. R. R.

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HEAD QUARTERS,

Charlestown, Dec. 1, 1859.

*W. P. Smith, Esq. :*

Master of Trans., B. & O. R. R. Co.

*Dear Sir :*—I am instructed by Maj. General Taliaferro to say to you that your dispatch of this afternoon was received while he was most busily engaged—and he answered it, having given only a cursory attention to it. Having had an opportunity to examine it, he thinks it proper to say to you, that the dispatch was received from persons, who are in *no wise*, so far as he is apprised, connected with the Balt. & O. R. Road, that they were and are entire strangers to him.

The General in command regrets that your company should be subjected to blame on the part of the persons who were arrested. I am, most respectfully,

S. BASSETT FRENCH,

Mil. Sec. to Wm. B. Taliaferro,

Maj. Genl. Commanding at Charlestown.