

Department of State,  
Washington, 16<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1851.

From  
the Acting Secy of  
the State of  
W. States

His Excellency,  
The Governor of Maryland,  
Sir,

Your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. to the President, has been received. In reply I am instructed to say, that, on Saturday last, official reports of the outrage referred to by your Excellency, were received from the Commissioner of the United States, in Philadelphia, and the District Attorney adjoining for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

After a careful consideration of the subject, orders were despatched by the President to the proper officers of the United States, in Pennsylvania, requiring them to proceed immediately to arrest all persons criminally concerned in the transaction.

The District Attorney was especially instructed to ascertain whether the facts would make out the crime of treason against the United States, and if so, to take prompt measures to secure all concerned, for trial for that offence.

I am instructed to assure your Excellency that the President regards this violation of the rights of the Peaceful Citizens of Maryland, with deep abhorrence, and that he will not fail to exert all his Constitutional powers to bring the offenders to merited punishment, and to prevent similar outrages in future.

I am, Sir, respectfully, Your Obedient Servant

W. J. Derrick,  
Acting Secretary,

State Department  
Annapolis Sept 18<sup>th</sup> 1851

From

Secy State Hon: Robert J. Brant,  
to  
Atty General -

atty Gen:  
Brant

concerning information, from which he concludes that it is all the more important that you, or deputy Attorney General may, should

of  
Covenden.