

State Department
Annapolis Sep: 22^d 1857

Robert M. Lee Esq.,

(My dear Sir,

You will kindly excuse my delay in replying to your letter of the 12th inst. when I assure ^{you} that ^{my} office has been one of much labor and care lately.

Accept my thanks for the promptitude and zeal, with which you hastened to communicate to me the facts connected with the murder of my lamented fellow Citizen, the late Edward Gorsuch. The prompt patriotic and feeling manifestations, which that terrible murder elicited from yourself and numerous other distinguished men of your State, have produced a salutary effect in Maryland and cannot fail to restore our full confidence in the justice and patriotism of Pennsylvania.

The philosophic endurance of our people has been well tested, in this affair. They have given strong evidence that they possess in a very high degree, that certain characteristic of a resolute and intelligent Community, namely a patient self control, which abides the issue before determining upon the final course of action. Maryland dearly loves this Union! There is not a Son of hers who would not freely shed his blood for its honorable preservation.

Let but the North duly appreciate this sentiment, and religiously abstain from any impaction of the Constitutional and legal rights of the South, and the combined Powers of the earth can never prevail against us. To Gentlemen like yourself, my dear Sir, who have had the courage, openly and resolutely, to face and repel the attacks of Abolition fanaticism, upon the battle-fields of its own selection, the thanks of the South, and the gratitude of the whole Country are due. I sincerely hope and believe that public opinion in Pennsylvania will so completely frustrate the insane efforts of Abolitionism, as to secure impartial trials, in this sad affair, and vindicate the outraged laws of the land and the offended dignity of our State. If so, the blood of poor Gorsuch, under the wise dispensations of Providence, will even cement still more strongly the bonds of our Union, by affording to Pennsylvania an occasion to prove to the World that she knows the right, and has the will and the power to enforce it, within her jurisdiction, and the scope of her moral influence. Such a happy termination to this melancholy tragedy and treason, or rather such a result springing therefrom, will quiet the fury of agitators, in the next Congress, and we may hope to see the Country enjoy repose.

Should these hopes be disappointed, I entertain the most dire forebodings in respect not only to the contentions at Washington, next Winter, but the still more dangerous struggle, which