

Washington was in the 7th May invested by the Union forces
the Relay House a station, Coheysville, Fort Mifflin, and
Annapolis were in possession of the Government, and Lincoln
had determined that in spite of seceders Maryland should
remain in the Union. What painful and anxious
days! How many beautiful places may become the
batter ground of the opposing forces, how painful they would be
to every true & patriotic American, and to the whole world how
much to be lamented, that the most beautiful country, the
most prosperous and enlightened people, and the most liberal
system of government that exists on earth should be
brought to the verge of ruin by the Cause of human slavery.
Alas! it is as you may see the contest is between Freedom and
slavery; Right and wrong; it is the irrepressible conflict and
God defends the right. I do not heartily sympathize with the friends of freedom
in all they may have to suffer or endure; God works in wisdom,
his purposes will be fulfilled.
Let events turn out as they may, I cannot conceive that
the condition of the blacks can possibly be made worse than
they are at present, whilst there is strong ground to hope
that amidst the turmoil and confusion that reigns, some good
may result to them in the triumph of secessionists
the main chance for the blacks separated from Northern
support, threatened or surrounded by the South, and engaged in
actual strife, the South at once becomes ^{exposed} subject to all
the dangers of civil insurrection. It is supposed that the
blacks will seize the moment to strike, and to strike
home. My only fear is that the South may even yet
be induced to treat them ^{as} to all patriotic Americans
this would be disastrous but unless accompanied with the
abolition of slavery as a condition of peace I should regret it.

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books
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