

Dauidell 7 April 19. 1861

Dear Christopher.

Thinking it likely you would like to have the latest news, in these exciting and revolutionary times, I will give you such as I have received, which is in advance of the mail you will receive on tomorrow.

It has just been telegraphed here and is believed to be authentic, that Harpers Ferry has been burned by Federal troops, a part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment of New York and a large number of troops from Boston, - were attacked in Baltimore by Baltimoreans, - and a large number killed on both sides. Severe fighting, <sup>is</sup> reported that <sup>is</sup> <sup>has</sup> resigned, & was soon

after arrested by Lincoln, this  
However needs Confirmation  
all the Rail Roads leading into  
the City of Baltimore have been  
torn up,  
Whatever may have been the dif-  
ferences of Opinion existing  
heretofore, as to the course to  
be pursued, in reference to  
our unfortunate political com-  
plications, there now seems  
to be but one Opinion, and that  
is resistance to Lincoln's war  
policy. We have agreed  
heretofore as to the Causes  
of these difficulties and the  
remedies to be applied, but  
the matter is now brought to  
an issue, and it behooves us  
not to inquire who or what  
has brought it about but  
how we are best to defend

our homes & our firesides, and  
to get rid of the great and  
bloody Crisis upon which we  
are on the brink, that it is  
to be one of the most bloody and  
inhuman Wars that has ever  
been waged. I Confess I greatly  
fear, the letter is written to  
you in Confession, and the  
suggestions I propose to make  
if they meet with your approba-  
tion, you can act upon them  
as far as you think fit.

Would it not be well that  
some of your prominent Union  
men, to put on foot the Organ-  
isation of one or <sup>two</sup> Volunteer  
Companies in Henric, with  
all possible dispatch, name  
it to Dr. Rainey, or other that  
you think suitable to be entrusted  
with it, Set me down for



as much pecuniary aid  
as I am able under the cir-  
cumstances to give,  
I am now on my way  
to Baltimore, but think it  
likely I cannot get farther  
than Richmond, on account  
of the cutting off. Commu-  
nications between Washington  
& Richmond - All the Southern  
Governors have refused to  
furnish troops to Lincoln,  
except Gov. Pickens - He  
however has not furnished,  
tho' it is thought he will  
recall his agreement to do  
so,  
It behoves us not to suffer  
excitement and dissensions despec-  
tably to control our action - but  
proceed coolly and dispassionately  
to do our duty in haste very truly  
yours  
B. F. Gravely

