

### Letter from Rev. J. Whitney—No. 3

BR. AUSTIN:—Since the 19th of April, when the Massachusetts volunteers were brutally outraged in Baltimore by an infuriated mob, the city has been so finely managed by our Government soldiers, that it is now as orderly as any of our northern cities. The State of Maryland is safe to the Union, having nobly escaped from the dire calamity that has fallen upon the seat of the Border Slave States. But she has not thus been delivered—as I am told by our [devoted?] Union loving brethren, with whom I have been stopping in Baltimore—because there were no traitors upon her soil, watching, as the pliant tools of Southern Despotism, to drag her into the vortex of secession and ruin; for these vile men, and women too! were meditating, and some of them are still meditating, the ruin and destruction of all that is good in the genius and spirit of their State institutions and government.

It is at a heavy cost that the Federal Power has put forth its strong arm to secure the protection and safety of this border State, and Maryland is now free from harm without the expenditure of a dollar from her own treasury! And just here is a point at which the loyal citizens of Baltimore and the State feel deeply humbled in view of the fact that the State has done nothing as yet to co-operate with the Government in putting down the wicked rebellion. The people of Maryland are not afraid of their money, as they have long known what it is to be heavily taxed for supporting a liberal system of internal improvement, inaugurated by the State Legislature in years that are past. An immense sum has been drawn from the people to secure Western trade and a seaboard for shipment to other countries, besides a heavy amount for the construction of the Baltimore & Ohio Rail Road. But all that they have done for these important enterprises will be utterly lost, if by any possibility the Federal Government does not succeed in putting down this treasonable movement, and therefore a determined appeal should at once be made by the loyal men, to the State Government, to do their duty without delay and do it effectually.

The Maryland Legislature, fresh from the people throughout the State, have now been in session, I believe, for several weeks, and it has such an overwhelming majority of the loyal element, that Maryland is true to the Union, the Constitution, and the enforcement of the Laws. The people, I observed, were waiting, rather impatiently, however, for the decisive action of this body, for they wish to demonstrate beyond cavil that they have made no mistake this time in the election of their Legislators. I hope they will not be doomed to wait in vain, but that some efficient aid will now be proffered to the General Government.

Unconditional Loyalty is the only rock of defense; the only platform of escape from an unholy despotism; the only basis of deliverance from the most galling and despicable oppression and tyranny that ever fell to the lot of any people on this planet. The Representatives of the State should remember that they are mere servants of the people, and that it is their highest duty to reflect the people's will. A monarch may be the monarch of his people, but not so with the law-makers of a Republican government. The General Government does not want the State to furnish soldiers, but money, as it probably has enough of the former commodity. The State has done nothing yet to aid in prosecuting this horrible war, and now is the time and now the hour to put a strong shoulder to the wheel; for money it wants and money it must have to carry on successfully this vast national enterprise.

The people of Baltimore, especially, have much to make them grateful and willing to pay their quota toward the support of the government, in the fact that their marts of trade have, for some months past, received a million of dollars per month from the Quartermaster and

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Commissary Departments of the government. The citizens are anxious to drive from their midst the abettors of treason, by the enactment of a State law, requiring the officers of every Institution in the State to take the oath for supporting the Constitution of the United States! And then they wish a State Committee appointed to devise a plan for the raising of a war revenue, by learning from all Custom House officials the amount of grain annually exported to foreign countries, and then looking to a tax upon the same, for European traders to pay, instead of taking it from the pockets of their own farmers and citizens.

In conclusion, I have pleasant memories to cherish of my present visit to Baltimore, as I think any one must have who has ever been entertained by Richard C. Mason and his interesting family. It was pleasant also to be conducted by my old friend, Rev. J. R. Johnson, through every part of one of the finest churches in the city, in which he is efficiently laboring, and which was built mostly to his own taste and under his immediate supervision. And to his credit it may be said that he has so managed throughout the convulsions of the war, as to hold his Society together, and keep them in a healthful and flourishing condition.

Yours Truly,  
J. [Rev. Jacob] WHITNEY

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, Sat. 8 Feb 1862

Transcribed on 26 Feb 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY