Washg.n May 3. 1861

Dear General

Yours 27. ult rec.d — This will be handed to you by Capt Jordan of the late U. S. N. — He is fully possessed of my opinions and will be able to answer all your enquiries, as he is a very intelligent ~~man~~ gentleman.
I have had occasion professionally to see Lord Lyons and the Secy. in reference to the Blockade. They will adhere to the doctrine
That its raise will be the arrival of the force at the Port
And that neutrals may go out with such cargo as was laden at the time
The South should allow nothing but the extremest necessity to drive them from a defensive attitude. There strength morally and physically consists in that position
Much of the excitement at the North in my opinion consists in a

sense of wounded pride, and the foolish gasconade of some of the papers about southern courage and superiority over northern troops has tended to inflame this feeling. This does not date from the recent occurrences but has its origin many years ago — and has just now culminated. If this fancied superiority is calculated on it will be a fatal mistake —.

Maryland will remain in the Union — The Chesapeake and the Potomac will never be given up and when recognition comes it will be on this basis — I think it is to the interest of the South that Maryland should take the course indicated as it frees that section from fighting under the greatest disadvantage

Again I think it is fortunate that

the leaders and the Democratic party have joined the Chorus which is now raised for the support of the Gov.t — If they had not they would have been overwhelmed Now they are in position and will probably get the Control. At any rate their influence will be felt in the decision of the many important questions which must soon come up for decision, and I cannot doubt that their voices will be in favor of the most liberal ~~course~~ My own opinion is that peace will be finally effected through foreign intervention, and that peace will bring union in some shape, ~~whether~~ it be in the form of a Zollverein, or an alliance offensive and defensive or some other shape. I base this upon the ground, that divide as we may, there are certain great interests which must always be in common

to these States. Why should we give up as respects foreign governments the advance in power we have made in a century. A treaty would in a great measure secure this — while a separate government might free the Northern States from any apparent complicity with the existence of slavery — we might be one as against the rest of the world

I do not any more believe in the real antipathy between the two sections, than I do between gentlemen who should quarrel on a particular subject, because they called each other scoundrels

The entire significance of the present cry to support the government is not defined in the Northern mind So far as it extends to the maintenance of the Capital it is perfect — but when it is often attempted to extend

it to a war of invasion to be
waged for an unlimited time
I look for great diversion of opinion
that the North has the means of
inflicting upon the South great
disaster I do not doubt, but this
will be at great sacrifice on their
own part. Universal ruin is impen
ding over both sections, and the
posterity for long years to come
will pay the penalty of this days
proceedings, if this war is to con
=tinue. A Fabian policy on
the part of the South is the one I
should adopt if intrusted with
affairs — and if this should avert
any serious collision until Congress
meets in July, some means of
escape from the greatest of all cal
amities (a civil war) may be sug
=gested

what I have written on the foregoing sheets you may show in the right quarter if you deem it advisable. I have written you frankly and currente calamo.

My own movements are hampered by want of means - Can I effect with you or through you a disposition of my joint property for which you once made an offer I see my 1/2 is assessed at $10000

If you can do any thing write me immediately

Yours truly

Genl Colin J McRae
Montgy Ala

P Philips