

Washington City.
Dec 19. 1859.

Dear Sir,

I rec^d yours of the 16th inst.

You say "the people of Vermont cannot realize how 15 whites & 3 negroes can frighten the nation, & Virginia in particular."

The people of Virginia & South are not alarmed & excited by what was done by John Brown & his associates. Indeed its circumstances & result were essentially calculated to give them confidence & security. It showed that their slaves are not inclined to revolt & that when taken away by force they run back to their masters. In the west place it shows that men who engage in such attempts, relying on the cooperation of the slaves, meet only disappointments & death.

The matter of their excitement and