

Questions for Scene 5

THE GALA BALL

1. Why does Mary Todd feel that they should have cancelled the ball? How does the President allay her fears?
2. What are some words you would use to describe the emotions of the guests at the ball as they see the remodeled White House for the first time?
3. Who is conspicuously missing from the ball? Why?
4. Contrast the emotions of the guests with the emotions of Frederick Douglass and Elizabeth Keckley.
5. The two Cabinet secretaries express a third set of emotions. What words would you use to express these?