

to prevent by force the transit of United States troops, across Maryland, on their way pursuant to orders, for the defence of this capital. The information is from such sources and in such shapes, that the President thinks it his duty to make it known to you, so that all loyal and patriotic citizens of your State, may be warned in time, and that you may be prepared to take immediate and effective measures against it.

Such an attempt could have only the most deplorable consequences; and it would be as agreeable to the President, as it would be to yourself that it should be prevented, or overcome by the loyal authorities and citizens of Maryland, rather than averted by any other means.

I am very respectfully, yours, &c.

SIMON CAMERON,

Secretary of War.

STATE OF MARYLAND,

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, }
ANNAPOLIS, April 20th, 1861. }

HON. S. CAMERON,

SIR:—

Since I saw you in Washington last, I have been in Baltimore City, laboring in conjunction with the Mayor of that city to preserve peace and order, but I regret to say with little success. Up to yesterday there appeared promise, but the outbreak came, the turbulent passions of the riotous element prevailed, fear for safety became reality, what they had endeavored to conceal, but what was known to us, was no longer concealed but made manifest; the rebellious element had the control of things. We were arranging and organizing forces to protect the city and preserve order, but want of organization, of arms, prevented success. They had arms, they had the principal part of the organized military forces with them, and for us to have made the effort, under the circumstances, would have had the effect to aid the disorderly element. They took possession of the Armeries, have the arms and ammunition, and I therefore think it prudent, to decline, (for the present,) responding affirmatively to the requisition made by President Lincoln, for four regiments of infantry.

With great respect I am your obedient servant,

THOS. H. HICKS.