

COMMUNICATION,

To the Honorable,

The General Assembly of Maryland:

In the report recently made to your honorable body by the Board of Police Commissioners of the city of Baltimore, it is stated that in the great emergency which existed in this city on the 19th ult., it was suggested that the most feasible, if not the only practicable mode, of stopping for a time the approach of troops to Baltimore, was to obstruct the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore, and the Northern Central Rail Roads, by disabling some of the bridges on both roads. And it is added that—"his honor, the Mayor, stated to the Board that his Excellency, the Governor, with whom he had a few minutes before been in consultation, in the presence of several citizens, concurred in these views."

As this concurrence has since been explicitly denied by his Excellency, Governor Hicks, in an official communication addressed to the Senate of Maryland on the 4th inst., which I have just seen, it is due to myself that I should lay before you the grounds on which the statement was made to the Board of Police; on which they, as well as myself, acted. I seriously regret that so grave a misunderstanding exists between the Governor and myself on so important a subject.

On the evening of the 19th ult., and after the collision had taken place, I mentioned to Governor Hicks that I had begun to fear it might be necessary to burn the Rail Road bridges, but I did not then, in consequence of intelligence which had been received, think it would be. To which he replied that he had no authority to give such an order.

At about 11 o'clock P. M., of the same day, the Hon. H. Lenox Bond, George W. Dobbin, and John C. Brune, Esqrs., were requested by Gov. Hicks and myself, to go to Washington in a special train, which was provided for the purpose, to explain in person the condition of things in Baltimore, and to bear the following communications from Governor Hicks and myself, which were addressed to the President: