

*Baltimore, May 9th, 1861.*

At about 12 o'clock P. M., the Hon. E. Louis Lowe and Marshal George P. Kane called at my house, where Governor Hicks was passing the night, and Marshal Kane informed me that a telegram had been received that other troops were to come to Baltimore over the Northern Central Rail Road. There was also a report that troops were on their way who, it was thought, might even then be at Perryville on their route to Baltimore. Mr. Lowe, Marshal Kane, my brother John Cumming Brown, and myself went immediately to the chamber of Gov. Hicks, and laid the matter before him. The point was pressed that if troops were suddenly to come to Baltimore with a determination to pass through, a terrible collision and bloodshed would take place, and the consequences to Baltimore would be fearful, and that the only way to avert the calamity was to destroy the bridges. To this the Governor replied—"it seems to be necessary," or words to that effect.

He was then asked by me whether he gave his consent to the destruction of the bridges, and he distinctly, although apparently with great reluctance, replied in the affirmative. I do not assert that I have given the precise language used by Governor Hicks, but I am very clear that I have stated it with substantial correctness, and that his assent was unequivocal, and in answer to a question by me which elicited a distinct affirmative reply.

After this, but before the interview was over, two gentlemen came into the room, both of them strangers to me, but one was introduced as a brother of Governor Hicks, and I am confident that the assent of the Governor to the burning of the bridges was repeated in the presence of those gentlemen.

I went immediately from the chamber of the Governor to the office of the Marshal of Police, where Charles Howard, Esq., the President of the Board of Police, was waiting, and reported to him the assent of the Governor to the destruction of the bridges.

Mr. Howard, or some one else, made a further inquiry as to what had been said by the Governor, whereupon Mr. Lowe, Marshal Kane, and my brother, John C. Brown, all declared that they were present at the interview, and heard Governor Hicks give his assent.

The order to destroy the bridges was accordingly given, and carried out in the manner already reported to your honorable body.

I refer to the accompanying statements of Col. Kane and Mr. J. C. Brown; in confirmation of the correctness of my