

Baltimore. It was the spontaneous opinion of all present that, in the terribly excited condition of the public mind, an attempt to pass troops through the city would inevitably lead to a bloody collision, and perhaps to other very serious consequences. It was, therefore, proposed to repair at once to the office of the Marshal of Police, and to send immediately for the Mayor and Governor. It was supposed at the time that Gov. Hicks was stopping at the Fountain Hotel. Marshal Kane asked me to accompany him to Mayor Brown's house; and the other gentlemen proceeded to the Marshal's office. Marshal Kane and I accordingly went to the Mayor's residence, and were admitted by his brother, who said that the Mayor had retired. In a few moments the Mayor came down to the parlor, when Marshal Kane stated to him the substance of the information received, and reminded him of the excited condition of the city, which rendered it imperatively necessary to adopt some prompt and efficient measure to delay the advent of the troops, so as to give time for the Federal Government to be correctly apprised of the state of affairs, and to arrest the threatened danger. For that purpose the partial destruction of the bridges was suggested. Mayor Brown immediately assented to the suggestion as one of absolute necessity; but said that as Mayor of the city his jurisdiction terminated with its corporate limits, and that consequently he could not assume to exercise powers beyond those limits. The Mayor added—"the Governor, however, is here, and I will go up and see him." In a few moments he returned and said that Gov. Hicks was not well and would, therefore, receive us in his room. Immediately upon entering the room, Mayor Brown and Marshal Kane gave to Gov. Hicks a full statement of the matter, and solicited his authority to destroy the bridges. Gov. Hicks replied that it was a serious affair to undertake to destroy the bridges, and he expressed some doubt as to his authority to give such an order. It was urged in reply that it was a case of absolute self-preservation, that in three or four hours time a large body of troops would probably be in the city inflamed with passionate resentment against the people of Baltimore for the assault made on their comrades in the Pratt street encounter; and that, as the city was filled with hundreds of excited men, armed to the teeth, and determined to resist the passage of troops, a fearful slaughter must necessarily ensue, and the safety of the city itself be put in peril, unless by the destruction of the bridges time could be gained to avoid the difficulty by peaceable arrangement of some sort. Governor Hicks fully and most distinctly assented to all this, and said, "well, I suppose it must be done," or words of precisely that