

of the United States under my command, to state that they were armed only against the disturbers of the peace of the State of Maryland and of the United States.

I have understood within the last hour that some apprehensions were entertained of an insurrection of the negro population of this neighborhood. I am anxious to convince all classes of persons that the forces under my command are not here in any way to interfere with or countenance any interference with the laws of the State. I am, therefore, ready to co-operate with your Excellency in suppressing most promptly and effectively any insurrection against the laws of Maryland.

I beg, therefore, that you announce publicly that any portion of the forces under my command is at your Excellency's disposal, to act immediately for the preservation and quietness of the peace of this community.

And I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's obedient servant,

B. F. BUTLER,

General of Third Brigade.

STATE OF MARYLAND, }
Executive Chamber, Annapolis, April 23, 1861. }

To Brig. Gen. B. F. Butler:

Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this morning, tendering the force under your command to aid in suppressing a rumored insurrection of the slaves in this county.

I thank you most sincerely for the tender of your men; but I had, before the receipt of your letter, directed the Sheriff of the County to act in the matter; and am confident that the citizens of the county are fully able to suppress any insurrection of our slave population.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

TH. H. HICKS.