

by our citizens, the loyal as well as the disloyal, have become obnoxious to the charge of aiding and abetting those persons who are now in rebellion against the United States Government; and whereby, also, the State, in addition to a pecuniary loss, has been deprived of the protection designed to her citizens by the purchase of said arms. Having good reason to believe that more of said arms would be carried off for a like purpose, unless they were promptly secured, I ordered them to be reclaimed, thinking it to be my duty to do so, for the protection of the interests of the State.

I have ordered the arms to be deposited at Fort McHenry, as a place of security, because other arms belonging to the State had previously been stolen from the depository selected in Baltimore city; and I did not deem it prudent to again incur a similar risk.

The security I have "for the restoration of said arms, when demanded by the proper authorities of Maryland," lies in the honor of the United States Government, and of its loyal officers. I should have deemed it absurd and insulting to have required any other security.

THOS. H. HICKS.