

this—I feel more about it than any one else can. I assure you if any unserviceable arms have gone to Maryland, it has been owing to the negligence and stupidity of my men and inspectors who has assured me when each lot of arms went from here that they were serviceable. I have discovered that some of the first arms I sent out have a breech pin a little too small, but there are not many I trust. You will oblige me by sending me at once a list of the defects. The guns that have left here for several months past I think are right, I have just discovered, too, that there may be some with the hammer a trifling too loose on the shank of the tumbler (this is wrong and as soon as discovered they should be laid aside for repair which can easily be done.) I am positive there is nothing in the guns but can be easily repaired and that in other respects the guns are good and serviceable.

Hoping that you will give this matter your most prompt attention and delegate your brother H. C. Hicks to go at once to every place where the arms are distributed and examine them—sending me those that are not every way right.

I want to know the faults and then I can correct the difficulties. Don't hesitate to assure parties that if their is any thing wrong about the guns they will be made right, I have 100 here now to substitute for any that prove defective.

Yours, very respectfully,

E. WHITNEY.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE. }
Annapolis, May 3rd, 1861. }

To His Excellency,

THOS. H. HICKS,

Governor of Maryland :

SIR :—

Your communication of the 30th enclosing an order adopted by the House of Delegates requiring us to report at an early day to the House in relation to the purchase of arms,