

&c., did not reach me until late yesterday afternoon, and I hasten to furnish you with the information desired.

After the passage of the Act referred to, you and myself had a consultation and we determined to purchase the arms, &c., of the General Government, because we concluded by so doing we could obtain better arms and at more reasonable prices than if we should purchase of individuals or companies. Accordingly I addressed a letter to Col. A. K. Craig of the Ordnance Department. He replied under date of April 14th, 1860, that he had no authority to sell arms; that a bill was then pending before Congress to give such authority, and that when the same should become a law he would afford us every facility. I herewith enclose you Col. Craig's letter marked H. C. K. The bill much to our regret did not pass and we were compelled to look elsewhere.

Accordingly we invited proposals for furnishing arms and accoutrements from the most prominent manufacturers in the United States. The proposals were received with samples of the articles to be furnished. Not trusting to our own knowledge we invited the assistance of Lieut. William T. Magruder a distinguished officer of the U. S. Army and other prominent and competent military men. The samples were opened in the Executive Department and fully and thoroughly examined. We thereupon awarded the contract for furnishing the muskets and revolvers to Eli Whitney of New Haven Connecticut and the sabres to Ames Manufacturing Company, Chicopee, Massachusetts.

There has been expended \$64,415.05 of the appropriation, leaving in the State Treasury a balance of \$5,584.85, and the proper vouchers for these expenditures are now on file in the Executive Chamber.

We had no agent for the purchase of arms—H. C. Hicks, Esq., was employed to procure samples &c., but the contracts were made by you and myself.

The Infantry arms purchased by us were two thousand Rifled Muskets of the Minnie pattern, and one thousand Cavalry Sabres and Revolvers with the necessary accoutrements, &c.

After we had contracted for the purchase of the arms, &c., upon consultation, we concluded that it would be better and attended with less expense to the State to have them deposited in the city of Baltimore, and distributed from that place. We were led to this conclusion in the first place on account of the superior advantages and facilities afforded by steamboats and rail-roads for transporting them to their various places of destination, and thus with as little delay as possible granting the pressing demands of the Military companies for arms from the various counties in the State; and in the se-