

to call out a portion of the Military of the State, to quell the riots and restore the supremacy of the Laws. These calls have been obeyed with a promptitude and alacrity worthy of all praise.

The accompanying interesting Reports of Brigadier General Charles Sterrett Ridgely, who commanded the forces employed in quelling the most formidable and alarming of those riots, are submitted for your information, and affords indubitable evidence of the zeal, fidelity, and ability with which his own duties and those of the officers and men generally, under his command were discharged.

We regret that the means of paying the expenses of these and other similar services were not at our disposal, and now invite your attention to the subject in the hope that you will promptly provide for that object. We would further suggest the propriety of placing permanently, at the disposal of the Executive, such fund as may be deemed sufficient to meet contingencies of this sort for the future.

While on this subject, we will call your attention to the organization and discipline of the Militia of the State, generally. We suggested in our last annual communication the propriety of "providing more effectually for the enrollment of all the citizens of the State subject to militia duty, and the exercise and instruction of the commissioned officers in camp and field service;" a plan which, it is yet believed, might be carried out in such manner as to afford us all the advantages of a well organized and well disciplined Militia, without a sacrifice of any portion of the time or convenience of the citizens generally, or requiring more of the commissioned officers than they would most willingly yield. Out of the city of Baltimore, with few exceptions, we may now be said to have no organized militia. There is scarcely the semblance of organization in the greater portion of the State. Our militia is, or should be, our chief reliance for protection against outrage and violence, and unless they be kept in a state of at least partial organization, we must become dependent upon the Federal Government, to a degree utterly incompatible with our character or dignity. Those, who hold the greatest stake in the community, should be themselves, always, not only willing, but prepared to defend it. Freemen should ever rely upon themselves alone for protection and defence; then there would be no fear that the defenders of the land will become its opposers. We submit this subject to your consideration, again expressing the earnest hope that your present