

san spirit could so far pervade the Legislative halls of Maryland as to cause the gentlemen assembled there to forget the respect due to the Executive office, in a fanatical desire to prop up, by such support, the unholy cause of treason against the General Government.

I have patiently forborne to remonstrate against the bitterly malignant spirit evinced against me, personally, by the majority of your body. It is a matter of no consequence whatever to me what your opinion of me may be. But when your official acts reflect upon the dignity of the office which I hold, I feel it to be my duty to protest against them. In such case, forbearance on my part is not only not a virtue, but it is a tacit dereliction of my duty.

I cannot find in the constitution any warrant for the action proposed by your order. You have the power "to call for public or official papers and records," and it will always afford me pleasure to comply with any such call from you. Without being requested by you, I furnished you with all the correspondence I have had with officers of the General Government. I have omitted nothing having the slightest public importance; and I am thoroughly convinced that your body is fully aware of the fact that I have kept back nothing having the least bearing upon the relations between the General Government and the Executive of Maryland. I am compelled, therefore, to look upon your order for an examination of the Executive Records as a feeble effort to offer an indignity to me.

But, as this is a thing of no consequence to me, I hereby tender to your committee every facility in my power in furtherance of the task imposed upon it. Indeed, had the examination been proposed in a proper manner, I should have been highly gratified at the opportunity of showing to the people of Maryland that an official examination, by my enemies, of the Executive Records, proves the utter falsity of the many malignant charges brought against me by partisans.

In thus tendering facilities to your committee, however, I respectfully but firmly demand that the committee shall fully and effectually discharge the duty imposed upon it. Thereby the people of the State will become convinced that, although originating in partisan feeling, and in an effort to offer an indignity to me, your order could elicit nothing in the premises not already fully laid before the public.

THOS. H. HICKS.

Which was read and referred to the select committee appointed to examine the records in the office of the Secretary of State.