

to report, That they have duly and carefully considered the communication from his Honor, the Mayor of Baltimore; which was referred them, enclosing a copy of a joint resolution of the two Branches of the City Council of said city, in the following words :

*“Resolved by both branches of the City Council of Baltimore, That the Mayor be and he is hereby requested to communicate with the General Assembly of Maryland, now in session, for the purpose of procuring such action of that body as may in their judgment be most advisable to bring about as early a restoration of the communications by the different railroads and other means between the city of Baltimore and other parts of the country, as may be entirely consistent with the safety and welfare of the city and State.”*

It impossible to overrate the importance of the subject to which the attention of the General Assembly is thus directed. The almost total interruption of direct communication between Baltimore and the North, by the destruction of the bridges upon the Northern Central and Philadelphia, Wilmington and Delaware Railroads, is an evil of a very aggravated character, not only in itself, but in its manifold bearings upon the prosperity of the State and its commercial metropolis. On the other hand, in the face of the dangers which would seem inevitable, if facilities for invasion were offered to the fanatical and excited multitudes of the Northern cities—whose animosity to Baltimore and Maryland, is measured by no standard known to christian civilization, and who publicly threaten our destruction, without subordination even to the Federal authority—it would hardly be consistent with the commonest prudence, to re-open the avenues which would bring them to our very doors. Indeed, if it were the pleasure of the General Assembly to provide for such a measure, no security would certainly exist for its permanent enforcement, during the continuance of the natural excitement which now disturbs our people.

The instinct of self-preservation is far more powerful than any sense of obedience to law, and coupled as it is, in the present case, with every prompting of resistance to violence and wrong, it would be sure to over-ride all the ordinary restraints to which a free government is capable of imposing. It would be of small avail for your committee to discuss this state of facts, further than to say that it exists, and must be dealt with, carefully and wisely. The channels of intercourse with the Northern States cannot be effectively re-established, without a guaranty, from some quarter, of the safety and