

of the laws. The Mayor rejoined briefly, declining to discuss any point at issue, remarking that the responsibility was with me, a fact which I had well considered from the first, and had resolved to bear with me to the end.

The measures which had been set on foot, progressed during Friday and Saturday, the 30th and 31st October, and reports were made to me from time to time. From these I had no difficulty in gathering the conviction, that whatever effort might be made by the military officers to embody the proposed force, the result would be unsatisfactory and inadequate. This was of course a sufficient cause of official embarrassment, and a result entirely at variance with what I had been led to expect.

Misrepresentation and voluble abuse from the press, together with the assiduous diffusion of the most erroneous sentiments respecting the Executive authority, and the proceeding I had taken, no doubt, had their effect upon the public mind. There was moreover and had been for so long a time, a peculiar tolerance of the lawless element to be subdued; and a species of insatiation pervading a large portion of the community, which affected or amounted to, a morbid ignorance of its true character; in consequence of which, the class of citizens from whom military service was mainly to be expected, exhibited first, indecision, and at last unwillingness to respond to the call which had been made upon the community.

I need hardly say, that however a portion of the people, or of the press found cause to rejoice in this state of things, and its obvious consequences, I was made painfully sensible of a total perversion of political sentiment, and an indifference to the security of equal rights, wholly inconsistent with the spirit of our institutions. I had been invited to exert the extreme Executive authority, in a community notoriously without sufficient or effective municipal power for the protection of its citizens against outrage and violence, and for the execution of its own laws; and when in obedience to my own sense of duty, I assumed the unwelcome task, I found a complaining people more willing to submit to the grievances which oppressed them, to the lawlessness which disfranchised them, to the terrors which overawed them, than to rally in their strength, and vindicate their outraged rights, and insulted honor. Justly and truly indignant at such a result, I resolved to maintain my own, and pursue the purpose I had undertaken. In this resolve I was sustained by a few gallant, earnest, and faithful men, and by the spirit with which one, at least, of the military officers was responded to in the district assigned to him. In this case there was an enrollment of volunteers, prompt, earnest and effective. And so long as there was but a maniple of true men, willing to stand for their rights and honor, I determined that they should at least, have the full sanction of what I had done, and my personal interest in the matter until the emergency was past.