

especially when the power was reserved by the Governor over that military force which events might still make necessary in future.

H. MAY.

WM. HENRY NORRIS.

GEO. P. KANE.

Baltimore, Nov. 1, 1857.

The undersigned having been consulted by Governor Ligon in relation to the various measures adopted by him to preserve the peace in the city at the approaching election, and having witnessed the loyal manner with which he has exerted his constitutional powers in this behalf, feel it to be our duty to tender our testimony to this effect, of the certainty of the malignant and representations with which his course will be assailed by a certain portion of the press.

But we were not willing to join in a paper signed by some of our associates without accounting it with this explanation. In the terms of the letter addressed on Nov. 1st, 1857, by Gov. Ligon to Mayor Brown, we know that no part of his phraseology was intended as an admission of any other constitution than that the exercise of power to use the military was constitutional and legal and had been only practically suspended because of the circumstances that the Mayor would compose a special police of respectable persons without regard to party, and this we hoped would be effective and sufficient for this emergency.

But we saw from circumstances around us that his language would be distorted by the press and partisan leaders, and that the effort would be made to impute the belief that the letter had been intended as a surrender of his right to use the military power.

We knew that Gov. Ligon had come to this city with no view of arraying that force against a political party, but against those only who were believed to be a united number of lawless men. When therefore we saw the press of this party unitedly assailing him for this purpose and the civil authority of the city practically leading this excitement, we concurred in the expediency of that letter with a view to avoid the general bloodshed which his military might have to cause if some practicable arrangement of peace was not adopted.

We thought it better therefore that the Governor should accept the Mayor's proffered responsibility for the peace of the city, and hand it over after the full instant to the rule of the clubs and a people whom we had reason to think felt that a citizen soldiery employed against lawless men was a constitutional course.