

Government could not be questioned by any sane man, but thought any measure which would allay the existing excitement and prevent bloodshed, was wise and in accordance with that view, so expressed myself to Mr. Merryman, and asked him if that was his object, he said to me it was solely so, and suggested that inasmuch as I agreed with him that I should be one of the number, that I declined, I told him whilst I approved of the suggestion if literally carried out in the manner proposed, I would have no indisposition to join him in the undertaking, but because I did not know to what else it might lead, I had limited it to one object to prevent bloodshed and universal scene of riot, at that moment Robert McLane came up and the conversation was reported to him, he suggested to Merryman, that he should go down to the Mayor's Office and make the suggestion there and act if they acted at all, on authority and not take it on their own responsibility. That was the first suggestion about burning the bridges. Immediately afterwards my brother-in-law Mr. Grason came up and knowing that he was from the county, and feeling myself exceedingly solicitous that he should be all right at that time, and on that occasion I told him of the conversation between myself and Mr. Merryman. I told him of my qualified approval of it.

I did not know Merryman well enough to put myself under his guidance at a time like this. I told Mr. Grason I had declined myself to go and as he will probably apply to his friends and acquaintances to accompany him, I have no doubt you will be spoken of on that subject and I hope you will not join him because people are very much excited, it may lead to something which you do not anticipate. I well remember his replying that he certainly would not, that he agreed with me that it was better not to do it, that he was going to do nothing that could be construed into an act of hostility against the government, because I put it upon that ground. I remember distinctly I was particularly anxious to see Mr. Grason was not led away, we differed in politics, he was a democrat and I was a whig, and I thought if anything could be done wrong it could be done by a democrat, and I was anxious to see that he was right, he said that he did not intend to do anything that would partake of hostility to the government. I think upon that occasion, the right of the troops to pass through was discussed between us and the impression on my mind was, that he conceded the right of the government to order the troops through the city at that time. From that day until a long time afterwards pending these troubles, I took Grason, being a man of some prominence in the county, and one in whom I felt an interest personally on account of his position, also the interest of a brother-in-law. I talked with him upon these troubles on several occasions to satisfy myself that he was one who would not do any-