

Soon after the outbreak of this rebellion the importance of a special defence of the region bordering on the upper Potomac was recognized by the Government, and the Hon. Francis Thomas, of Maryland, was authorized by it to raise three regiments with the view to the protection of the counties on either side of that river.

These regiments were raised, but the subsequent exigencies of the service required their employment elsewhere, and they therefore afford at present no particular security to that region beyond other troops in service.

The necessity, as we think, for some such peculiar provision has now become so obvious, that we would, with great respect, but most earnestly urge upon your Excellency, the expediency of acceding to the suggestion we have made, and we will immediately set about raising the forces required, and we have no doubt they will be promptly procured.

We have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Your obedient servants,

A. W. BRADFORD,

A. G. CURTIN.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

*Washington, Aug. 1st, 1864.*

HIS EXCELLENCY,

THE GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND:

*Sir*:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the joint letter from yourself and the Governor of Pennsylvania, dated July 21st, 1864, asking authority to raise a volunteer force in your respective States, to be exclusively used for home or local defence, and for guarding the fords of the Potomac.

In reply, I am directed by the Secretary of War, to inform you that the proposition has been fully considered, and that the authority asked for cannot be granted.