

What reasons exist for my arrest, and my present detention, I have been unable, after the most earnest inquiry, to ascertain. Since my arrest, up to the present period of my detention, no legal process has been served on me, advising me that I am charged with the violation of any law of my native State or of the United States. I have always been advised that the only legal mode of proceeding against a violator of the laws either of the United States or of the State of Maryland, was by presentment and indictment by a grand jury. I have been further advised that the accused has a right at least to a copy of the indictment, which is a specification of his offence, and in most cases to be discharged upon bail.— If I have misconceived the usual steps taken against offenders, and the rights which even they possess, the legal members of the Senate, and the high legal talent of the other Legislative Branch will correct the false impressions of legal rights under which I and many other citizens of Maryland, in common with myself, have heretofore labored.

I have now been imprisoned for near three months, to the injury of my business at home and the neglect of my private affairs, which have been greatly deranged by my forced and constrained absence. In a word, I cannot be accused of harshness of expression when I say I have been deprived, and am still deprived of my liberty by what must be a misconception on the part of the Government, of my true position as a citizen and public man, the result, I believe, of the wilful and egregious misrepresentations of my enemies; for I have never done an act or had a thought unfriendly to the maintenance of the Constitutional Government of the United States, or in any way contributed to the severance of the bonds of the Federal Union, but have at all times labored for their preservation. I am sure that I cannot be accused of egotism, or that it would be out of place in this statement to briefly advert to my public career. I was in the Legislature of Maryland in the years 1844, 1858, 1860 and 1861, and during those years I cannot reproach myself for any act that I have done nor do I regret any vote that I have ever given. I have been guided and governed in every vote by a strict regard to the requirements of the Constitution, which I have repeatedly sworn to support, and which, though illegally and undeservedly imprisoned, I challenge the most critical and malignant of my enemies to prove that I ever violated. If I have violated my oath, or been, in word or deed, traitorous to the constitutional obligations which I assumed when I became a member of your body, confront me with my accusers—let me be judged by your Honorable Body, who are my peers, and who are authorized by the Constitution of Maryland to say whether I have done aught unbecoming a Senator of Mary-