

Honorable Body over which you preside. It is hardly necessary to say, that I at once declined to accept my release upon the terms proposed. I refused to take the oath of allegiance for many reasons, of which it is sufficient to mention the obvious one, that neither the Secretary of State, nor any other officer of Government, is authorised to prescribe it to me, and least of all, as the condition of my release from an imprisonment in which I am unlawfully and forcibly held, in violation of the Laws and Constitution of the United States. I refused to consider the proposition to resign my seat as a member of the Senate of Maryland, because the Secretary of State can have no constitutional, lawful or proper concern, of any sort with the composition of that Honorable Body, or the selection or removal of its members, or their conduct as such; and I felt it due not only to myself, but to my official position, to resist any such interference upon his part, through me, with the Constitutional independence of Maryland, and the rights and dignity of its Legislature and people. It is for the Senate to determine for itself, what notice such action on the part of the Executive Government of the United States, may require at its hands.

On the 16th of December, 1861, I addressed to the Secretary of State a communication, of which a copy is likewise furnished herewith, (marked B,) in which I asked to be released under a temporary parole, for the purpose of appearing before the Senate, or its committee, in any investigation which might be had in my case, and for the further purpose of attending to my private affairs, which are suffering greatly from my absence. I have received no answer whatever to my letter. I leave it to my fellow Senators, many of whom entertain, and have officially expressed the same opinions of public policy which have caused my unlawful seizure and confinement, to take such steps in view of the foregoing facts, as they may deem due to themselves, the Honorable Body which they compose, and the rights of citizens of Maryland.

I am respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

ANDREW A. LYNCH.

[A.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

*Washington, Nov. 29th, 1861.*

To Col. JUSTIN DIMMICK,

Fort Warren, Boston,

SIR:—Let Dr. A. A. Lynch, a prisoner confined in Fort