

aggression upon the rights of the Southern people. It was an overthrow of the principles of free government, and could end in nothing but an ignominious annihilation of the noble institutions of the Republic. The people of Maryland were summoned to take part, as soldiers, in the strife, and as citizens they were asked to contribute their means to its prosecution, and were to bear their share of its unconstitutional burdens; their stake in the struggle, therefore, was one of political and individual self-preservation. They were bound by every principle and pressed forward by every impulse of right and self-respect, to make every protest against the wrong to their brethren, and the oppression to themselves, which their situation and circumstances would permit. To the requisition upon them for troops, to take part upon the side of the Government in such a strife, their answer, if they could have given it with their own voice, would have been an instant and indignant refusal.

It is deeply to be regretted that the response of his Excellency, the Governor, should have fallen so far short, in this regard, of the manly and patriotic spirit with which the Governors of Virginia and North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri, threw back the insulting proposition of the Administration. Indeed, the Committee are unable to determine, from the correspondence with which the Governor has furnished the Legislature, whether his Excellency does not still contemplate complying with the requisition as made. His letter of April 20th, to the Secretary of War, is the only one which gives a key to his intentions, and in that he merely announces that he thinks it "prudent to decline (for the present)"—not because of the illegality and wickedness of the demand, and the disgrace which the State would incur from acceding to it—but on account of the then alleged disorderly condition of the militia themselves. Your Committee are not prepared to admit the accuracy of the statement made by the Governor in the letter referred to, to the effect that "the principal part of the organized military forces" of Baltimore took part with the "disorderly element" in the affair of the 19th of April. On the contrary, they have every assurance and every reason to believe that the organized military of Baltimore, under the direction of the constituted authorities, and in implicit obedience to their orders, did all that could have been expected from brave men and good citizens to preserve the public tranquility. But whether the hasty statement of the Executive be well or ill-founded in that