

that it is no longer a simulated question of "enforcing the laws" and "defending the Capital," but a downright case of "civil war"—of "open, flagrant, deadly war," which the United States have "accepted." Such a confession—nay, such a bold and defiant annunciation—that the President has assumed upon himself the power of peace and war, in glaring and indisputable subversion of the Constitution, leaves to the people of Maryland nothing further to consider, in this connection, but the fact, that they are face to face with a military despotism, whose only law is its will.

If the Committee are justified, by what has been said, in their view of the constitutional position of the Federal Government, and especially if the admissions now made by it, without disguise, show but the consummation of an original and persistent illegal scheme on the part of the Administration, it follows, as a matter of necessity, that the troops called out by the President were and are an unauthorized body of men, passing across our territory for illegal and unconstitutional purposes, and carrying with them none of the constitutional safeguards, which would undoubtedly accompany any force of the United States exercising the right of transit for lawful and justifiable ends. They were, in fact, not United States soldiers, but "Northern troops," as they were properly designated by the Governor in his correspondence, and "Northern troops," too, whose presence in Maryland, without the consent of her constituted authorities, was indubitably an aggression upon her dignity, her safety and tranquility. Your Committee, of course, admit, without question, that only the authorities of the State were competent to deal with such a case, and that it could only have been dealt with properly, even by them, in distinct recognition of the fact, that Maryland is still a State of the Union, with all the obligations which that relation imposes upon her.

But they cannot shut their eyes to the other fact, equally indisputable, that it was primarily the fault of those who marched the Massachusetts soldiery through Baltimore, upon an unconstitutional and illegal errand, if the popular passions were unfortunately stimulated by their presence, into a lawless outbreak, too sudden and too violent to be restrained, for the moment, by the ordinary appliances of a free government. The Committee, therefore, cannot but commend the repeated efforts of the Governor to induce the President to forego his purpose of passing troops across our soil, both before and after the fatal occurrence of the 19th