

the moment of the suspension of the active duties of the force, by General Banks, these memorialists have pride in asserting that no community ever acknowledged, more universally than the citizens of Baltimore, and none ever had better reason to acknowledge, the successful operation of a police system, in securing the strictest enforcement of the laws, the amplest protection of private rights and the most rigid maintenance of public order. Your memorialists further say, that with every opportunity afforded by their official position and every energy stimulated by their sense of duty, to ascertain the existence of all unlawful combinations or associations within their jurisdiction, they have no reason whatever to suspect that any such combinations did in fact exist, as alleged by General Banks in his proclamation of June 27th, and they confidently assert their conviction, that his allegation to the contrary was founded upon false information, communicated to him by designing persons, and cannot be sustained or countenanced by credible evidence of any sort. But even if your memorialists were and are altogether mistaken in these particulars: if the Marshal of Police had been faithless to his obligations as charged, and had been willing or able to seduce the men under his command from theirs also: it was still only necessary for General Banks to furnish the Board of Police with the slightest evidence to that effect, and your memorialists would have given to his suggestions the most prompt and respectful consideration. They would have suspended or removed the Marshal, if such action had been proper, and would have placed beyond question their own disposition and ability to discharge the whole of their duty in the premises. If General Banks, even without advising them, had seen fit to arrest the Marshal of Police, upon any charge which might have been deemed sufficient to justify such a step, your memorialists would have taken care to govern the police force, efficiently and properly, during his confinement. The legality of such arrest would have been a question for Col Kane and not your memorialists to consider, but either of the courses suggested would have fulfilled the purposes and have met the exigency announced in the proclamation. General Banks, acting doubtless in conformity with his orders, adopted neither the one course nor the other, but assuming jurisdiction not only over the person of an alleged offender, but over his official functions likewise, saw fit not only to arrest and imprison him, but to dismiss him from his place as a public officer of this State, (which only your memorialists could lawfully do,) and to supersede the lawful authority of your memorialists besides. Knowing that such a proceeding could not, by possibility,