

be justified, by any thing in the Laws or Constitution of Maryland or the United States, your memorialists were compelled, by every consideration of sworn duty, to treat the same as an arbitrary act of force and usurpation, no matter by whose orders it might have been committed, or under what pretexts it was sought to be excused. No construction which it was possible for them to give to the proclamation of the 27th of June could have brought them to any other conclusion than that it was their bounden duty to enter their protest against it.

They therefore deny that the construction which they adopted was either "forced" or "unwarrantable," as charged in the proclamation of July 1, and they emphatically protest against the truth of the further allegation contained in the latter document, to the effect that their official course upon the occasion was dictated by a purpose to "leave the City without any police protection whatever." If indeed they had entertained such a purpose, they respectfully suggest that it was not a matter with which any officer of the Federal Government had any rightful concern, how much soever it would have furnished their fellow citizens, with just cause of complaint. But they entertained no such purpose. On the contrary they aver and are prepared to show, that when General Banks, by his proclamation of June 27th, interrupted the exercise of their lawful authority, the City was thoroughly protected, in all particulars, by your memorialists and the force under their command; that its tranquillity was perfect; its peace was neither disturbed nor threatened; the rights of person and property, of all men, were inviolate: the civil authorities of the State and city were in the beneficial and effective exercise of all their functions, and the laws were supreme, except in so far as interfered with by the military power. If therefore the City was left without protection, on the 27th of June, it was the fault, and upon the responsibility, not of your memorialists, but altogether of that Department of the General Government, by which the constituted authorities of the State were superseded, and the protective provisions of its laws deprived of their vitality. If General Banks himself were unlawfully superseded by force, he surely would not regard it as just, in his captors, to accuse him of leaving his Department without protection, because he refused, as a man of courage and honor, to acquiesce in their violent suspension and assumption of his functions. Your memorialists claim to be judged, officially and personally, by no lower standard of dignity, responsibility or honor. As public officers, and men of ordinary integrity, it must be obvious to your Honorable Bodies that they could