

simple performance of their official duty. Had they aided or acquiesced in the establishment of any police authority other than their own, they would have plainly violated the law under which they hold office.

By a fourth proclamation, dated July 10th, the Major General in command informs the public that he has removed the "provost marshal," and has appointed a "marshal of police," "in all respects to administer every department of the police law in full freedom for the peace and prosperity of the city, and the honor and perpetuity of the United States." This officer now affects to administer the law for the police government of Baltimore, by means of a force organized under and acting by his direction.

Whatever professions of regard for our laws accompany these transactions the facts are too plain to be concealed. The local laws of the State of Maryland, for the police government of the city of Baltimore, to which all officers of the federal government are bound to yield obedience within our limits, have been set aside. The only officers competent to administer those laws have been superseded, and then imprisoned. The General in command, professing to act under instructions from the federal government, has marched large bodies of armed men into the city, planted cannon in the principal streets and public squares, and, by the law and authority of superior force, has established the present acting police force, has enabled its officers to take possession of the offices and buildings belonging to the city of Baltimore, to eject officers appointed by the Mayor & City Council, & to assume the function of executing laws whose fundamental provisions they daily violate by the exercise of police authority. Your memorialists need not dwell on the embarrassments which must certainly result from thus disorganizing the civil government of a city, nor on the sense of insecurity which affects citizens who reflect that the present police acts without legal warrant or authority. A community thus deprived of its lawful government is entitled to demand that those who assume so grave a responsibility shall furnish some sufficient reason for their action. It is impossible to believe that the federal authorities have wantonly disturbed the peace and good government of the city. No doubt statements have been made to which credit has been given, and on the faith of which the government has acted. The proclamation of the General in command, issued immediately after the arrest of the members of the Board of Police, vaguely charges that the Board "hold, subject to their orders, now and hereafter, the old police force, a large body of armed men for some purpose unknown to the government, and inconsistent with its peace and security."