

Its Court House has been occupied by troops. Its civil authority has been disregarded, and a revolutionary government established by mere force of arms and against law.

Against these manifold wrongs your memorialists for themselves and the free community which they represent do most solemnly protest. The State of Maryland has been and is subject to the Constitution and laws of the United States, and her citizens are of right entitled to the protection of that Constitution and of those laws. The civil authorities of this city have heretofore and do now render fitting obedience to the requirements of both. If disaffection is believed to exist, from which danger is apprehended, the guns of Fort McHenry turned on the homes of the women and children of an unarmed city—the Federal troops encamped around its limits would seem an adequate protection to the Government. Whether that disaffection is weakened by depriving a whole community of the protection of its laws—whether the risk of disorder is diminished by establishing a police government which fails to command the respect accorded to undoubted lawful authority, you, in your wisdom, will determine.

But your memorialists respectfully, yet most earnestly demand, as a matter of right, that their city may be governed according to the Constitution and laws of the United States, and, of the State of Maryland. They demand, as a matter of right, that citizens may be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, and that they be not deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law. They demand, as a matter of right, that the military render obedience to the civil authority, that our municipal laws be respected, that officers be released from imprisonment, and restored to the lawful exercise of their functions, that the police government established by law, be no longer impeded by armed force to the injury of peace and order.

These, their rightful demands, your memorialists submit for the consideration of your honorable bodies.