

sole judges, our city has been occupied by large bodies of troops in its central points; picket guards have been stationed along many of our streets; the arms provided by the city for its defense and those left by private individuals with the authorities for safe-keeping, the station-houses and other property of the city have been seized, operators in the Police and Fire Alarm Telegraph Office have been displaced and others substituted in their stead; the Marshal of Police and the Board of Police, with the exception of myself, have been arrested and are now imprisoned in Fort McHenry, one only, who is in bad health, has been released on his parole; the writ of *habeas corpus* has been suspended; the police force, established under a law of the State, has been set aside by superseding the only power which could lawfully control it; a new police, without authority of law, has been established under the control of a Marshal appointed by the commanding General, and all power to hold elections in the city has been for the present set aside by suspending the functions of the Board under which alone elections can lawfully be held.

The grounds taken by Major General Banks as a justification for these proceedings, and the position assumed by the Board of Police, respectively, will be found in the proclamations of the General and the protest of the Board, which I enclose.

The hidden deposits of arms and ammunition referred to in the proclamation of June 27th, are, I suppose, those found in the City Hall, in reference to which a few words of explanation may be made. The arms consisted in part of muskets, which belonged to the old police established under the administration of Mr. Swann; of revolvers procured for the police, and of some rifles, carbines, &c., lately procured in part for the use of the police and in part for the defense of the city. The Board of Police considered it proper that there should be a sufficient number of efficient weapons to arm the entire police force in case of an emergency. There were not enough in the City Hall for that purpose. An allegation has been made that some of the arms and ammunition belonged to the Massachusetts troops; but I am informed that this is not the case, except perhaps as to two muskets which were taken by the police from the hands of the mob. The ammunition at the Hall which was purchased for the defence of the city, was more than was entirely safe. Of this I was well aware, and should have ordered it to be removed if the city had had any proper place of deposit; but I apprehended that any attempt at removal at this time would only lead to a seizure on the part of the officers of the General.