

Massachusetts soldiery through Baltimore, upon an unconstitutional and illegal errand, if the popular passions were unfortunately stimulated by their presence, into a lawless outbreak, too sudden and too violent to be restrained, for the moment, by the ordinary appliances of a free government. The Committee, therefore, cannot but commend the repeated efforts of the Governor to induce the President to forego his purpose of passing troops across our soil, both before and after the fatal occurrence of the 19th of April. They can only regret that the indignant feeling manifested by his Excellency in regard to the misdeeds of the "rebellious element" at home, was not testified, with equal vigor of remonstrance against the illegality and wrong, involved in the proceedings of the Government.

The events which have occurred since the period referred to, the Committee do not feel themselves called upon to discuss in any detail. They have taken occasion to allude, in a previous report, to the humiliating facts which are disclosed by the present position of Maryland. A State of the Union, held to the obligations of that relation, and having never through her constituted authorities pretended to repudiate or abjure them, she is treated as a conquered enemy. Her soil is occupied; her property and that of her citizens are sequestered; her public highways are seized and obstructed; her laws are suspended; her capital is converted into a military post; her Legislature is compelled, in the language of her Executive, to consult its "safety" by holding its sessions at a distance from her offices and archives; troops are quartered around the peaceful homesteads of her people; her citizens are subjected to the illegal and arbitrary violence of military arrest and confinement; her very freedom, in fine, all that distinguished her from a Neapolitan province, before Naples was liberated, is under the armed heel of the Government. That such a fate is imposed upon her, without constitutional authority; that indeed no respect to the Constitution is even pretended in her regard; the frank admission of the Federal authorities to the Commissioners recently accredited to them by this Legislature, renders a mortifying and almost intolerable certainty.

The State of Maryland is under military rule. Partly for military convenience, and partly for chastisement, her free institutions have been temporarily suspended by the War Department, and her name blotted out, for the time, from the list of free governments. It is not the desire of the Committee to aggravate by comment the humiliation which is inseparable from these facts in their simplest statement. It is not their disposition to provoke a review of the unhappy policy, in her own councils, which has contributed to plunge the State into so hopeless and helpless a condition. They wish to deal only with the practical questions it suggests for present determination; and this brings them to consider the recommendations of the message transmitted by the Governor.