

into an authority, to the Governor, to strip the organized and uniformed volunteer companies of the State of their arms, for which they had bonded according to law. The provisions of this section were intended to give the Governor the power to collect and re-deliver or place in the armories the arms of the State, in the hands of disbanded companies, and companies whose members do not amount to thirty-two men in uniform.

The Governor says, in his message, that he "issued the orders for reclaiming the arms referred to, because he had become satisfied that many of them had been carried beyond the limits of the State of Maryland, for disloyal purposes." He does not point to any source from which proof could be obtained to establish the charge against the disarmed companies; nor does he say from what source he obtained his information, whether it was "from a reliable source not accessible to the people," or from anonymous letters. Your Committee, however, have not been able to discover that any of the arms of the State were so carried beyond the limits of the State.

If the Governor is to be justified in the orders he says he has given, then the right of our people to "a well regulated militia, as the proper and natural defence of a free government," and the statute laws of the State, are all to give way and be disregarded whenever the Governor "becomes satisfied," and so orders.—Yield in this matter to the Governor, and he becomes a military despot, and the citizens of Maryland an enslaved people.

The Governor says, also, in his message, that he "cannot acknowledge any right on the part of the Senate to make such inquiries." If the Governor be right in assuming this position, which your Committee utterly deny, it follows as a necessary consequence, that the Governor of the State of Maryland can violate all the statute laws of the State, and there is no power in the State to question his authority or stay his hand.

Your Committee are of opinion that this is the first time in the history of Maryland, that such powers have been claimed by any Executive officer of the State, and that it is the imperative duty of the Legislature to make a direct issue with the Governor on the powers thus claimed, and to confine him to the exercise of the powers and duties confided to him by the Constitution and the laws.

The undersigned recommend the passage of the following Joint Resolution:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Delegates of Maryland,
That the Governor be requested to return to the armories of the State, the arms which have been removed by his order from said armories, and deposited in Fort McHenry, or placed in the hands