

upon the contrary, refusing to communicate such information even to Congress, on the ground that to do so would be "incompatible with the public interests"—confronted with no witnesses against them—allowed to call no witnesses in their defense—separated from their counsel, as from their homes and friends—the Maryland Commissioners of Police now imprisoned at Fort La Fayette, are a living testimonial of the overthrow, within their State, of every barrier erected by the Constitution between the freedom of the citizen and the onslaught of arbitrary power. Let it be to their honor and the honor of Maryland, that they have not sullied her name or theirs, by unmanly submission or mean compliance. It will be the eternal shame of the whole nation, if its people, as one man, do not demand and compel their deliverance.

Upon the ground of "military necessity," already discussed in another point of view, there is no doubt that defense will be made for the Government, against the grave responsibilities which these overt acts of individual oppression must entail.

But the Committee, now, as before, rely upon the Constitution of the United States as a bar to all such attempted justification or excuse. There is no foundation whatever for it in our history or our institutions, nor is it any part of our Anglo-Saxon inheritance. No mode of reasoning is more false than that which appeals to what are called "general principles of government," to determine the powers of the particular Government under which we live. It is a Government *sui generis*; to be construed according to its own peculiar principles and none other. It is a Government of enumerated and delegated powers, framed expressly upon the theory that it shall exercise no powers except those which are so delegated and enumerated. Where it finds no prerogatives in the Constitution, it was not meant to be clothed with them. There are no "inherent attributes" about it. This principle, recognized by all the Courts of the land, is insisted upon more strenuously and more repeatedly nowhere, than in the Courts of the Northern and Eastern States. The written Constitution of the Union, as all readers of history know, was expressly devised to get rid of inferences and implications, of all sorts, from general principles and abstract reasoning. No other Government is like ours in this, and the analogies of no other Government apply to it. To insist, therefore, that it has the right to preserve itself by any and all means, whether constitutional or unconstitutional—because other governments, which have no written constitutions and no limitations of power, have adopted the