

ELKTON, May 30, 1838.

SIR:

On the morning of the 22d inst, at day-light, I received from two justices of the peace, a requisition for a military force, to preserve the peace at Charlestown, in this county, likely to be endangered by the assemblage and rioting conduct of the workmen engaged upon the Wilmington and Susquehanna rail road, near that place. Immediately upon the receipt of which, I issued an order to Lieutenant Colonel Cloud, of the 49th regiment, to detach one hundred men from his regiment, and to be in readiness at 8 o'clock to march to the scene of disorder. With a promptness which always characterized our citizens, at the appointed hour, about one hundred men, composed of militia and volunteers, took up their line of march, and at North East, understanding some of the rioters were to be found there—the shanties erected for the accommodation of the men were surrounded, and ten or twelve persons captured. At Charlestown as many more were arrested, and the whole delivered over to the civil authority for examination—the principal part of whom were committed for trial, and marched to the jail at this place. (For a more detailed account, I refer you to the report of Col. Cloud herewith enclosed.) Copies of the requisition and the order issued thereon will also be found enclosed. The call being of an urgent character, and requiring immediate attention, some expenses were necessarily incurred by the employment of teams for the conveyances for a portion of the men. Accounts are herewith enclosed, together with a militia roll. Upon my arrival at Charlestown, the damages done were not found to be as great as apprehended, and which was prevented probably, by the promptness with which the attack was met by a few resolute and determined citizens, who happened to be in the house at the time the riot commenced. Ten or twelve persons were badly wounded, and of whom