

that the Returns have not been more complete.

In this situation of Affairs two expedients are suggested... one that the Adjutant General shall be dispatched through the State to effect the object in view and discover the causes of delay, and that Money be advanced to him for that purpose... a second that a New order should be sent to the Major Generals who have not yet sent forward their Returns commanding them to do it... and to assign the causes which have prevented them.

The first expedient I think ought not to be adopted... The Adjutant General is a high and important Office under our Military establishment, he is the Organ through which the Commander in Chief speaks to the different Corps, and in times like the present big with danger, I think it would be highly improper and impolitic to employ him on a service which would remove him beyond the Commander in Chief: this would be the present case, and if on any sudden call from the General Government, the assistance or presence of the Adjutant General should be immediately wanting, it would be difficult to calculate the inconveniences which would result or the arrangements which would take place from the want of that Officer who then would be absent and his Return uncertain.

But the circumstance which is conclusive in its operation on my mind is the expenditure of the Public Money necessarily attendant on this Measure and the total want of power in the Executive to make any appropriations for this purpose, and that the expense will be considerable I have no doubt... I think it extremely plain that the Executive of Maryland have no power over the funds of the State except so far as the Legislature have thought proper to give it: the regulation of the pecuniary concerns of the State being peculiarly appropriated to a different Branch of the Government... There is a fund given of a very limited nature to serve the contingent expenses of Government... But the contemplated advance I conceive is very different from the contingent expenses being to aid the known defects of an established System... The very difficulty under which we now labour existed before the last Session of Assembly, yet the Legislature having a full knowledge of this subject never thought proper to take any steps in it or created any fund to serve the expenses which are now proposed to incur.

The example and precedent of this proceeding is also disarming of the consideration of the Governor: perhaps it will be found that no Officer from the Major Generals down to those of the lowest grade, but what is obliged to step beyond the strict line of his duty and to incur considerable expense. This