

Annual
Message for two Regiments of Infantry as the quota of that force, to be supplied by the State of Maryland, & immediately issued a Proclamation, calling upon the Citizens of the State, to volunteer for that purpose; and the patriotic ardour manifested by the Sons of Maryland, to rally under the flag of their Country, enabled me in a few days after the date of my Proclamation, to call upon the Secretary of War with the assurance that I could supply the entire quota of this State within any period he might designate, provided, he would authorize me to give the assurance to those who might volunteer, that they would be received & mustered into the service of the United States.

The Secretary of War stated that the President had no intention to receive into actual service any part of the force called for from this State, & of course abandoned as worthless & useless every money, the idea of organizing two volunteer Regiments, under the requisition of the President, when informed that he had no intention to accept their services. Before, however, the intention of the Government was known, three companies had organized in the City of Baltimore, who claim to be mustered into the service of the United States, the President subsequently recognized; and they with two companies from the District of Columbia, were sent to the seat of War, under the command of Lt. Col. Wm. H. Watson, who has since met a soldier's death, in leading his Battalion in a charge upon the Mexican batteries at Monterey.

The requisition of the President, the Proclamation issued by me, & a letter from the Secretary of War, explanatory of the requisition, are herewith submitted, as documents which should be preserved to explain the smallness of the force which Maryland has sent into the field, and to show the readiness of her people to meet the call of the Federal Executive, in defence of our common Country. In placing Maryland in her true position upon this subject, I must not be understood as desiring to throw any censure upon the President for the course pursued by him, under this act of Congress. His taking the major part of the force for actual service from the southern & south western States is attributable, I have no doubt, to the greater facility with which they could reach the seat of War, and to their supposed better adaptation to the climate of the Country in which the war is waged. Whatever was his object in making his requisitions for the entire force, when he only designed to receive into the service a part of that force, the effect has been to exhibit to Mexico & the World, the great political spectacle of a free people, differing amongst themselves, as to the necessity, policy, & National utility of the War, uniting as one man for its prosecution against the enemies of their Country. Indisposed from habit & temperament to look at the darker side of every question, I cannot see, as soon do, in every victory achieved by American valor, a lurking danger to the institutions of the Country, and although I am fully impressed with the conviction that in other honors the present War might have been avoided by the Federal Government, beneficially & with honor to the Country, I cannot view the mere expenditure of the public treasure, as outweighing the National benefits which have so far resulted from the conflict.

The National debt, by creating the necessity of a larger revenue, may be converted by those who are to follow our present rulers, into a national blessing, by affording adequate protection to American industry. But independently of this - the mere treasure which has been expended is in my judgment fully compensated by the manifestations of union & patriotism, which have been exhibited by the American people - by the national glory won by American valor - by the confidence which has been ~~and~~ established in the efficiency of our regular Army - & above all, by the sense of security, consequent upon the firm reliance, which, for the future, will be placed in the efficiency of our only true National defense - The Citizen Soldier.