

When in their opinion the proper time has arrived for that purpose, the people of the Country will thoroughly investigate the conduct of their Government upon this subject, and if their conviction shall be that this War was not called for by such grievous national wrongs inflicted by the Republic of Mexico, as rendered an appeal to the bloody arbitrament of the sword necessary to the honor of the Country, the deep condemnations, which will follow that conviction, will not spring from the amount of the public treasure unnecessarily expended, but from the loss of those gallant sons of the Republic, whose blood has been shed in the prosecution of the War. If the result of this investigation shall be that the War was in called for by such momentous national necessities, as would justify the Federal Executive in waging it, the condemnation of our Federal Rulers will be no where more unanimously expressed than in Maryland; for she has suffered more severely than her Sister States. Before the American Army had met the enemy, it was her lot, to mourn the loss of one of her sons, (the gallant Col. Trueman Cook) treacherously murdered upon the banks of the Rio Grande, and although every conflict with the foe has resulted in a glorious victory, the rejoicings of her Citizens, have been checked & saddened, by the loss in every battle, of some of the most distinguished of those, whom she had sent forth to serve their Country.

Although the memory of those who have perished will live in the hearts of their Countrymen, it will, Gentlemen, be your duty to meet the wishes of your constituents by taking the necessary steps to express, in a suitable manner, on behalf of the State, her deep sorrow & lamentation for the loss inflicted upon her, & the Country by their untimely death. As the existing legislation of Congress gives a pension only for five years to the widow or orphan of the officer or soldier who may be killed in battle, it will be expected by your constituents that you will take such steps as will ensure such a permanent provision, either through the action of Congress, or by your action, as will be sufficient, to keep from want the widow & orphan of the Maryland officers & soldiers, who have been killed in fighting the battles of their Country. Will you permit me, Gentlemen, in reference to this subject, to trespass so much further upon your attention, as to express my convictions, that you will be performing an acceptable service to your constituents, by expressing the approbation of the State, of the conduct of those of her surviving sons, who have distinguished themselves in the battles which have been fought.

In my message to the last Legislature, it became my duty to express the opinion, that the existing laws were wholly inadequate to ensure the proper enrolment and organization of the Militia of the State, and to recommend, in view of the then hostile attitude of Great Britain, the passage of such laws as would be sufficient to effect a thorough re-organization of the Militia force of the State, & thereby place her in a proper posture of defence in the Legislature, believing that our difficulties with Great Britain would be amicably adjusted, and not apprehending a War with Mexico, did not deem it necessary to legislate upon that subject.

When Congress declared that a state of War actually existed with Mexico, I believed it to be my duty to ascertain the state of organization & efficiency of the Militia, and to use all the power, with which I was clothed, to place Maryland in a military position to meet any contingency which might occur.

The report of the Adjutant General, which is herewith submitted, will give you a detailed account of the enrolment & organization which have been effected, under the military orders issued by me. I must ask for this subject the considerations which its importance merits, and I have every confidence, that the additional legislation necessary to the full enrolment & efficient organization of the