

1861.

of this State with the Federal Government since the commencement of our existing national troubles."

I have heretofore had the honor to inform you, in response to an order, that I had "furnished your Honorable Body with copies of all correspondence between myself and officers of the General Government which I deemed it necessary to lay before you." In making that response, officially, and in good faith, it did not occur to me that my veracity would be impugned by a co-ordinate branch of the State Government, with which I have earnestly endeavored to maintain harmonious relations. Certainly it did not occur to me that a party partisan spirit could so far pervade the Legislative Halls of Maryland, as to cause the gentlemen assembled there to forget the respect due to the Executive office, in a fanatical desire to prop up, by such support, the unholy course of treason against the General Government.

I have patiently forborne to re-monstrate against the bitterly malignant spirit evinced towards me, personally, by the majority of your Body. It is a matter of no consequence whatever to me what your opinion of me may be. But when your official acts reflect upon the dignity of the office which I hold, I feel it to be my duty to protest against them. In such case forbearance on my part is not only not a virtue, but is a tacit dereliction of my duty.

I cannot find in the Constitution any warrant for the action proposed by your Order. You have the power "to call for public or official papers and records," and it will always afford me pleasure