

1861.

to comply with any such call from you. Without being requested by you, I furnished you with all the correspondence I have had with officers of the General Government. I have omitted nothing having the slightest public importance; and I am thoroughly convinced that your Body is fully aware of the fact that I have kept back nothing having the least bearing upon the relations between the General Government and the Executive of Maryland. I am compelled, therefore, to look upon your order for an examination of the Executive records as a feeble effort to offer an indignity to me.

But as this is a thing of no consequence to me, I hereby tender to your committee every facility in my power in furtherance of the task imposed upon it. Indeed, had the examination been proposed in a proper manner, I should have been highly gratified at the opportunity of showing to the people of Maryland that an official examination, by my enemies, of the Executive Records, proves the utter falsity of the many malignant charges brought against me by partisans.

In thus tendering facilities to your committee, however, I respectfully but firmly demand that the committee shall fully and effectually discharge the duty imposed upon it. I hereby the people of the State will become convinced that, although originating in partisan feeling, and in an effort to offer an indignity to me, your Order could elicit nothing in the premises not already fully laid before the public.

Thos. H. Hicks.