

1861.

conspirators, unlawfully issued his "Proclamation" for an assembling of the Legislature at Baltimore, where a large portion of the secession element would be congregated, I knew it was time for me to act. True, I might then have called upon the President of the United States to quell the insurrection; but this would almost certainly have caused the destruction of the city of Baltimore. I might have called out the militia to endeavor to restore quiet, and, indeed, I did make an effort to that end. But I discovered that nearly all the officers were in league with the conspirators; and the volunteer corps of the city and vicinity, which possessed arms, were almost entirely in the same category. It is true, there was a considerable loyal military force in Baltimore, but it was undisciplined and ^{entirely} unarmed. So that if I had effectively called out the militia, at that time, I should have actually assisted the conspirators in their design.

I concluded, therefore, after anxious deliberation, that there was but one course left to me. I summoned the Legislature to assemble at Frederick city, in the midst of a loyal population, on the 26th day of April, believing that even the few days thus gained would be invaluable.

By the merciful intervention of Providence this step accomplished my full purpose. The State could not secede, and bloodshed was averted from our soil.

The history of that Legislature is before the country. Not only did it fail to do its duty, as representing a loyal State, but it actually passed treasonable resolves, and attempted to take, unlawfully, into its hands both the purse and the sword, whereby it might plunge us into the vortex of Secession. It was deterred from doing