

strangers, the people of Baltimore and those
of the Magistrate in particular thought it
absolutely necessary that a portion of its in-
habitants should be furnished with the means
of aiding the civil authority in the preservation
of order, if at any time, it should be infringed.
and although nothing of the kind has hap-
-pened, we thought their apprehensions too
reasonable, to hesitate about taking a step
which as it is certainly irregular and not
founded on any express authority, would not
have been entered into without the appearance
of a strong necessity - We accordingly furnished
arms for three companies - an application
has been received from a fourth, which we
have declined granting, because we conceive the
tranquility of the place is sufficiently secured
by what we have already done - but in addition
to this consideration we have at present in
Annapolis but two hundred and seventy five
stand of arms - a number too small to
gratify all the applications we have before
us, and as the meeting of the Assembly is
so near, when proper measures may be
(legally)