

Hagerstown Aug<sup>st</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1839-

Sir

I yesterday received, by express, your communication of the 18<sup>th</sup>, and to day by mail a duplicate of the same in answer ~~to~~ to my letter of the 17<sup>th</sup>. I have the honor to report to your Excellency that on the day I wrote you, three Troopers from Capt<sup>ns</sup> Hollingsworth's Corps were despatched, as Videttes, to the sections on the line of the Canal on which the riots occurred. They returned last evening, and the result of their observations and enquiry you will find in the enclosed Report of Capt<sup>n</sup> Hollingsworth.

I have ordered the Cavalry, a company of Infantry, and a company of Riflemen, to hold themselves in readiness and shall wait to be advised of the movements of Col. C. M. Thurston of the 50<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Allegany County Militia who has been ordered to make a reconnaissance on the line of the Canal and to act, if necessary, with such a force as may be at his command, in aid of any that may be required from this portion of my Brigade.

I have received information that all the hands on Sections 281 & 293 have left the work, with the exception of about 10 on Sec. 281, who retire at night to the opposite or Virginia shore to rest, fearing another attack.

I have no doubt that a permanent military force will be required to enforce order and secure quiet in future on the line of the Canal, and as great inconvenience must necessarily occur in the detail of Militia Corps for such service, could not the Secretary of War be prevailed on to station a company of Regulars on the line? it would not only give security to those employed, but add to the interest of the State in expediting the work.

You have enclosed the bill of the Videttes, for which you will please furnish an order for payment; and you will oblige me by directing in what way funds will be supplied and appropriated for expenses pay<sup>d</sup> &c. in further operations.

In haste

J. M. Cooper

y<sup>r</sup>

D. H. Williams

Lieut<sup>nt</sup> Gen. 2<sup>nd</sup> B. N. M.

To

Gov<sup>t</sup> Wm. Mason

Hagerstown