

is reason to apprehend a repetition of violence, the force ought to be kept in a position to prevent it till quiet is restored.

When a riot occurred on the Tide Water Canal, the militia remained two weeks in the neighbourhood of the rioters, and were allowed, at the next session of the Legislature, pay and rations for the whole period of their service.

You suggest an application to the Secretary of War, for a company of regulars, to be stationed on the line of the canal.

The aid of the United States can only be required by a state, "in case of an insurrection against the government thereof," and then the application must be made by the legislature, or the executive, when the legislature cannot be convened. In the event however of such an insurrection, and of an application made by the legislature, the president is authorized "to call forth such number of the militia of any other state or states, as may be applied for as he may judge sufficient to suppress such insurrection."

The act of congress (1795) here quoted authorizes the president to call out the militia for such purpose, but no part of the regular army. It would therefore be useless to apply to the Secretary of War.

The state must depend upon the energy of her own citizens to enforce the law and maintain good order within her own limits.

I regret that I have no authority to pay the bill enclosed in your letter; it must be presented to the legislature, with the other accounts for the same service.

Yrs. Respectfully  
Wm. Mason

Hugues Town 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug<sup>st</sup> 1839 -

Sir

In my letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> instant I informed your Excellency, that I should wait until advised of the movements of Col. Thurston of the 50<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Alleghany County Militia, whom I had ordered to make a reconnaissance on the Canal, before I should prosecute any further measures to check the rioters, other than to have a force in readiness to march at a moments notice.

By last night's mail I received a report from the Col. a copy of which is enclosed, and shall, no doubt receive another from him as soon as his officers return from the line.

The Catholic Priest has just returned from the belligerous sections and I have had a long and confidential talk with him on the subject of the riot - He is preparing a statement, and will also furnish a list of