

Head Quarters 2nd Brigade M. M.
Hagerstown 27th August 1839-

Sir

Yesterday I received a letter from Col. Thurston of the 50th Reg. Alleghany County, a copy of which I send enclosed, as well as a copy of the report to which it refers. You will see, Sir the deplorable condition of the Inhabitants in the neighbourhood of the line, as well as the condition of those engaged on the public works in consequence of the threats held out by the Insurgents emboldened as they no doubt are, by the fact of their being amply provided with arms, and well organized for effective operations. The inefficiency too of the Militia, as they suppose for offensive movements, and the impracticability of stationing a permanent military force on the line, encourages them no doubt to continue their threats and depredations; and I am under serious apprehensions, from the letters and reports which daily reach me, that there will be another and more serious outbreak, unless the labourers are soon deprived of their arms, and the turbulent dismissed from the line.

With the force now held in readiness by Col. Thurston in Alleghany County, and the military here, I am prepared to make a demonstration on the rioters, whenever there is any prospect of identifying their leaders.

I have forwarded a list of their names to Col. Thurston, which were furnished to me, in confidence by the Catholic Priest, and shall wait his answer.

I am Very Respectfully
Yr Excellys Ob. Servt
O. H. Williams Brig. Gen.
2nd Brig. M. M.

To,
His Excellency
Gov^t Mason
Annapolis

Head Quarters, 50th Reg. M. M.
Cumberland August 24th 1839-

Dear Sir.

Enclosed I have the honor to forward the report of Captⁿ Hatten and Lieut. Rice.

Yielding to their opinion, that it would be inexpedient to march down a force, having no means of identifying offenders, I shall postpone it until I hear from you, or until I get more positive information from some source. Probably Mr Fisk, who is down the line may furnish it on his return. Meantime I shall have my force in hand prepared for a sudden march.