

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> inst. in which you say that "representations from a large number of most respectable Citizens of the Councils of things in this City added to my own Convictions of my Constitutional duty, imposed upon me the obligation, respecting to Councils, as Mayor of the City of Baltimore, as to what provisions should be made by you to guarantee personal security and the free exercise of suffrage by the legal voters at the approaching election."

Your letter goes on to indicate duties which are incumbent upon us both in the Constitutional sphere assigned to you as Governor of the State of Maryland and to me as Mayor of the City of Baltimore, as believed to be sufficiently defined, while I should claim, by virtue of my Commission, the privilege of the initiative in any demand which I might consider necessary to be made upon your Excellency, for your aid and cooperation in preserving the peace of the City and the rights of its Citizens. I do not object at any time, to impart to you or any other Citizen, the fullest information in regard to matters connected with the Government of the City, in which the public might feel an interest. It could not fail to excite my surprise, that in a letter inviting a consultation with me, your Excellency, after pronouncing summary judgment upon the inefficiency of the City Government, should have thought proper to refer to the events of the municipal and Presidential elections of 1856, with which, as Mayor of the City, I had no official connection; and to impreg upon me, that you were "resolute in the determination to use your Constitutional power to fulfill the guarantee that the 'Citizen is entitled to good government'."

In your reference to the representations you have received from a large number of most respectable Citizens, your Excellency would seem to have lost sight of the fact, that by the authority under which he is acting, the Mayor of the City is made the Judge of, and is responsible for, the completeness and efficiency of his arrangements for preserving the public peace, and that the only official source of information, in reference to the plans which were adopted was in himself and the Officers acting under him.

As to what your Excellency has said about the importance of maintaining law and order in a great Commercial Metropolis like this, I need hardly assure you, that no man has labored more faithfully and assiduously than I have done towards the accomplishment of this end. The events which transpired since I took charge of the municipal government, and the murdered and mangled Police men who have fallen in the late effort to preserve the peace of the city, and to secure to the Citizen the free exercise of his right of suffrage, will sufficiently attest the activity of my labors.

My preparations at the last municipal election were, as is known, of the most ample character, sufficiently so in my judgment, to have met any emergency, that