

Confidence; and to these I ~~have~~ will add at once such further measures as will remove I trust, even the fear that the borders of this State may be made the points whence to assail the rights or the property of our brethren.

With the highest respect
I am Sir

Yours truly
Thomas H. Hicks.

State of Maryland

Executive Chamber

Annapolis

November 29th 1859

To the Sheriff of Washington County.

Sir,

In a communication addressed to you on the 27th ~~October~~, I advised and directed you to summon a sufficient number of deputies who might assist in the preservation of order and the public peace against any attempted outbreak in favour of the criminals now at Charlestown in Virginia, condemned to death for the treasonable outbreak at Harpers Ferry; and arrest all improper and lawless persons whose conduct or bearing might justify their being detained for examination. Since then I have received several communications from the Governor of Virginia in which he assures me that reliable information has reached him of the intended invasion of that State, on the day appointed for the execution of Brown (December 2^d) and of the threatened or intended assemblage of lawless persons who design to attempt the rescue of Brown and his Confederates.

I am still of the opinion that these reports are exaggerated or magnified by the fears of the population among whom such outrage could be attempted, and I hope that the steps you have already taken may be sufficient to preserve public order; but in view of the repeated instances of the Governor of Virginia, of the respectability of the sources whence, as he assures me he derives his information, of the importance to us that our own authorities with the assistance of our citizens, should maintain the supremacy of the law, and guard the rights of our brethren in matters which interest us so nearly, I think it advisable again to call your attention and through you the attention of your deputies to my former communication, and to direct