

Measure has taken any such action. The Legislature of the great State of Virginia which has been called together to act on us to her works of internal improvements, will have these matters under their consideration; and it seems only wise and proper to await the decision of our nearest Southern Neighbor, rather than run the risk of clashing with her by hasty action. Our people will not fail to act with boldness, when it becomes necessary, because we waited with patience, the true time for action, instead of becoming alarmed before danger had actually arrived, and proceeding with haste, which prudence may avoid.

In addition to these reasons, it seems to me we should wait to hear from the National Executive. It is his duty to look not to Maryland alone, but to the entire Union. He is, doubtless, correctly advised as to the true condition of the Country, whose chief officer he is, and must have means of judging correctly as to its condition, far more extensive than those at my command; and of deciding properly as to what measures are best suited to compose our national troubles; and I will say that I consider it respectful to await the recommendations of that high Functionary. Congress too will be in session on the third proximo, and coming, as its members will do, from every section of the Country, it is but reasonable to hope that they in their congregated wisdom will give aid to the National Executive, and that wise and temperate counsels will prevail, and proceedings be had, which will delay much of the unkind and unnatural prejudice existing between the different sections of our once united and happy Country.

Believing that all should act, or decline to act, as circumstances may render proper, I must as at present advised by my own judgement, founded upon much information of the wishes of the people, and great deliberation, respectfully decline to qualify the request so politely made - but shall hold myself ready to act promptly when I shall believe the honor and safety of Maryland require me to act in the premises.

With great respect I am  
Yours obt. Serv't.  
Thos. H. Hicks.

Nov. 9, 1861.