

above expressed.

With high regard

Your obedient Servants

Silghman Nuttle  
John E. Smith  
John S. Watkins  
Coleman Yellott  
Andrew A. Lynch

John B. Brooke  
Thomas S. McKaig  
Thomas Franklin  
Thos Whittaker  
Chas. F. Goldsborough  
J. J. Heckart

State of Maryland  
Executive Chamber  
Annapolis, January 5<sup>th</sup> 1861

To the

Gentlemen,  
Hon, John B Brooke, Thos Franklin, Thos. J. McKaig,  
J. J. Heckart, John S Watkins, A. A. Lynch, Silghman  
Nuttle, Coleman Yellott, John E Smith, Th. Whittaker  
and Charles F. Goldsborough,

I have received a communication dated at Baltimore on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December and signed by you, requesting me, "to convene at the earliest practicable time, the Legislature of the State, in order that they may take such steps as shall to them seem most conducive to the interests of the people of Maryland and promotion of harmony between the two sections of the Country". You make this request as Senators of Maryland, looking to the present disastrous condition of political affairs, and sincerely desirous that the peace of the Country, the Union of the States, and the rights of the South, in the Union, shall be maintained and preserved. The sixth article of the Declaration of Rights of Md., declares, that the Legislative, Executive and Judicial powers of Government ought to be forever separate and distinct from each other; and no person exercising the functions of one of said departments shall assume or discharge the duties of any other".

The sixteenth section of article 2<sup>nd</sup> of the Constitution reads as follows: "The Governor may convene the Legislature or the Senate alone, on extraordinary occasions". From the foregoing quotation, I respectfully suggest that I understand it to be my duty to convene the Legislature when I believe such extraordinary occasion may arise to justify it, having in view the honor, interests, and well being of the people of our state, and that to call the Legislature together, or Senate, in the absence of such occasions, in my own judgment, would be the abuse of a power confided to the Executive of the state. I must then regard your communication as coming not from Senators of Maryland, but from Citizens of the state; from gentlemen well known to me,