

In order that I may learn by what means we can best sustain you and your Union-loving co-adjutors in the accomplishment of the noble purpose you have in view, I have informally commissioned the Hon. R. L. Palmer, Speaker of our State Senate, the Hon. Sideon S. Ball, a leading and influential member of our House of Representatives, and Morton McMichael, Esq. a distinguished citizen of this Commonwealth, to wait upon you for me and in my stead, to convey to you personally the opinions I entertain, and to confer with you generally on all such topics as may be necessary to a full mutual understanding of our respective wishes and objects. These gentlemen are amply authorized to speak to you in my name, to spread before you my views, to receive from you any suggestions you may feel inclined to make, and they are, also, amply qualified to explain to you the feelings and opinions of the people of this State on the questions which now agitate and distract the public mind.

With assurances of the most cordial esteem,

I am, my dear Sir, very truly

A. S. Custer.

His Excellency

Thomas S. Pickens

Governor of Maryland

State of Maryland

Executive Chamber

Annapolis, January 19th 1861.

My dear Sir,

I avail myself of the first leisure moment, to assure you, that I am not insensible to the obligation under which you have placed me, by your patriotic, kind and friendly letter of the 15th instant, handed me on Thursday, by Messrs Palmer, Ball and McMichael, the gentlemen charged by you with its custody and delivery.

With these gentlemen I had a frank, free and full conversation. I told them, that while I could only meet them informally and had no power to pledge Maryland to adopt any particular measures of cooperation or conciliation, I would hear with pleasure any suggestions they could make with a view to a satisfactory adjustment of our national difficulties. I also, during the interview, inquired of them as to the rumored intention of a Military display in Washington on or about the fourth of March; and was gratified to learn that the people of Pennsylvania entertained no such design. I told them and I take pleasure in repeating it to you, now, that the people of Maryland are Union-loving, and law-abiding; and with some few exceptions, decided in feeling and action for