

The importance however, which it is manifest that you attach to it, from the fact of your having deemed it necessary to place the officer commanding at the Naval Academy in possession of the letter, renders it my official duty to investigate the matter, as well for the maintenance of public order here, as for the vindication of the people of the City & State if the imputation be unjust, & therefore respectfully request you to favour me at your earliest convenience, with the name of your correspondent.

If there be any truth in his statement I ought to be furnished with his evidence, & the ground of his knowledge, so that I may prevent this crime and disgrace said to be threatened & bring the conspirators to punishment.

If the statement be not true, I will have an opportunity of fixing where it belongs, the responsibility of this & perhaps many other of the false & exciting reports which have of late been circulated so freely and widely to the disparagement of our Citizens, & how injurious such reports if believed must be to the reputation, and disparaging to the efficiency of the force under my Command cannot but be obvious to you.

I therefore earnestly invoke your permission and aid to investigate their truth, if they are true, or expose their falsehood if they are false, & I respectfully repeat my solicitation to be furnished with the names of all the persons from whom you have information of Conspiracies existing here against the peace of the State or the United States. I tender you my best efforts in that behalf and all the means of detection at my Command,

With great respect

I am yours &c

Geo P Kane

State of Maryland

Executive Chamber

Annapolis, February 12/58

Geo. P Kane, Esq. Marshal of Police, Baltimore.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of yesterday was received by this morning's mail. To your request to be furnished with the name of the of the show you, by Mr Swann, I must for obvious reasons, decline. Should I make known the names of those who may feel it to be their duty to communicate with me on matters of public interest, I might endanger their safety, and beside, such action on my part would deprive me of all opportunity of obtaining information other than that given in the newspapers.