

be sent elsewhere, and I most respectfully urge that a
 voice be offered by you, so that the effusion of blood may
 be prevented. I respectfully suggest, that Lord Lyons be
 requested to act as mediator between the contending
 parties of our Country.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully
 Your obedient servant
 Thos. H. Hicks

Department of State
 April 22nd 1861

His Excellency

Thos. H. Hicks,

Governor of Maryland,

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your commu-
 nication of this morning, in which you inform me
 that you have felt it to be your duty to advise the
 President of the United States to order elsewhere the
 troops then off Annapolis, and also that no more be
 sent through Maryland, and that you have further
 suggested that Lord Lyons be requested to act as
 mediator between the contending parties in our Country,
 to prevent the effusion of blood.

The President directs me to acknowledge the receipt
 of that communication, and to assure you that he has
 weighed the counsels which it contains with the respect
 which he habitually cherishes for the Chief Magistrates
 of the several States, and especially for yourself. He
 regrets as deeply as any Magistrate or Citizen of the Country
 can, that demonstrations against the safety of the United States
 with very extensive preparations for the effusion of blood,
 have made it his duty to call out the force to which
 you allude. The force now sought to be brought through
 Maryland is intended for nothing but the defense of this
 Capital. The President has necessarily confided the choice
 of the national highway, which that force shall take in coming
 to this City, to the Lieutenant General commanding the army
 of the United States, who, like his only predecessor, is not less
 distinguished for his humanity than for his loyalty, patriotism,
 and distinguished public service.

The President instructs me to add, that the national highway
 thus selected by the Lieutenant General has been chosen
 by him upon consultation with prominent Magistrates
 and Citizens of Maryland as the one which, while
 a route is absolutely necessary, is farthest removed from
 the populous cities of the State, and with the expectation
 that it would therefore be the least objectionable one.
 The President cannot but remember that there has
 been a time in the history of our Country, when a General of
 the American Union, with forces designed for the defense of
 its Capital, was not unwelcome anywhere in the State of