

It is difficult to see how it could be, that if my troops could not pass over the rail road one way, the members of the Legislature, could pass the other way. I have taken possession for the purpose of preventing the carrying out of the threats of the mob, as officially represented to me by the Master of Transportation of this City, that if my troops passed over the Railroad, the Railroad should be destroyed.

If the Government of the state had taken possession of the railroad in any emergency I should have waited long before I entered upon it, but, as I had the honor to inform your Excellency in regard to insurrection against the laws of Maryland, I am here armed to maintain those laws, if your Excellency desires, and the peace of the United States, against all disorderly persons whatever. I am endeavoring to save and not destroy; to obtain means of transportation so I can reach the Capital prior to the sitting of the Legislature, and not be under the painful necessity of occupying your beautiful City while the Legislature is in session.

I have the honor to be

your Excellency's obedient servant
Brig. Genl. B. G. Butler

Headquarters Third Brigade
Mass. Vol. Militia
Annapolis, Md. April 23rd 1861

To His Excellency

Thos. H. Hicks

Governor of the state of Maryland,

I did myself the honor, in my communication of yesterday, wherein I asked permission to land the portion of the Militia of the United States under my command, to state that they were armed only against the disturbers of the peace of the state of Maryland and of the United States.

I have understood within the last hour that some apprehensions were entertained of an insurrection of the negro population of this neighborhood. I am anxious to convince all classes of persons that the forces under my command are not here in any way to interfere or countenance any interference with the laws of the state. I am, therefore, ready to cooperate with your Excellency in suppressing most promptly and effectively any insurrection against the laws of Maryland.

I beg, therefore, that you announce publicly that any portion of the forces under my command is at your Excellency's disposal, to act immediately for the preservation and quietness of the peace of this community.

And I have the honor to be

your Excellency's obedient servant

B. G. Butler, Genl. of Third Brigade