

requested to act as mediator between the contending parties. The result of the mission will be seen from the correspondence herewith submitted.

Those events have satisfied me that the War Department has concluded to make Annapolis the point for landing troops, and has resolved to open and maintain communication between this place and Washington.

In the brief time allowed, it is impossible for me to go more into detail. The documents accompanying this message place before you all the information possessed by me. I shall promptly communicate such other information as may reach me.

Notwithstanding the fact that our most learned and intelligent citizens admit the right of the Government to transport its troops across our soil, it is evident that a portion of the people of Maryland are opposed to the exercise of the right. I have done all in my power to protect the citizens of Maryland and to preserve peace within our borders. Lawless occurrences will be repeated, I fear, unless prompt action be taken by you.

It is my duty to advise you of my own convictions of the course proper to be pursued by Maryland in the emergency which is upon us. It is of no consequence now to discuss the causes which have induced our troubles. Let us look to our distressing present, and to our portentous future. The fate of Maryland, and perhaps of her sister Border Slave States, will undoubtedly be seriously affected by the action of your Honorable Body. Therefore should every good citizen bend all his energies to the task before us; and therefore should the animosities and bickerings of the past be forgotten, and all strike hands in the holy cause of restoring peace to our beloved state and to our common country. I honestly and most earnestly entertain the conviction that the only safety of Maryland lies in preserving a neutral position between our brethren of the North and of the South. We have violated no rights of either Section. We have been loyal to the Union. The unhappy contest between the two Sections has not been fomented or encouraged by us, although we have suffered from it in the past. The impending war has not come by any act or any wish of ours. We have done all we could to avert it. We have hoped that Maryland, and the other Border Slave States, by their conservative position and love for the Union, might have acted as mediators between the extremes of both Sections, and thus have prevented the terrible evils of a prolonged civil war. Entertaining these views, I cannot counsel Maryland to take sides against the General Government, until it shall commit outrages upon us which would justify us in resisting its authority. As a consequence, I can give no other counsel than that we shall array ourselves for Union and peace, and