

Head Quarters, Harper's Ferry
May 6th 1861

His Excellency John Letcher
Governor of Virginia,

I have received your letter directing me to investigate certain complaints made to his Excellency, Governor Hicks, of the State of Maryland, and by him presented to you,

Allow me to say that if any outrage has been committed, it was previous to the time when I assumed the command here. Since I have been in command, I have strictly observed your Excellency's instructions touching the relations to be maintained towards the State of Maryland, and feel assured that no just complaint can be made. Under the authority of your letter, I have made all the investigation in my power of any thing of an unfriendly nature which might have occurred before my arrival here.

His Excellency Governor Hicks says that complaints have been made to him that "Cattle, fairs &c have been seized, Canal boats laden with produce have been detained; private houses have been forcibly entered; and unoffending citizens have been insulted and threatened".

I can only say that no intimation of such acts committed here have reached me, and unless names and dates are supplied, it is impossible for me to institute an investigation.

A single instance came to my knowledge of the recovering of Harper's Ferry arms within the limits of the State of Maryland. The ascertained facts in this case are, that some soldiers were informed by a citizen of Maryland that in a certain locality in Maryland, a number of these arms could be found. The soldiers applied to their Captain for authority to go and seize these arms, which authority he replied he could not give. The same application was made to a superior officer, and the same reply was given. The soldiers, however were permitted to go into Maryland and obtain the arms if those who held them would surrender them, without compulsion. The soldiers went for the arms and obtained them, as far as I could learn, from the statement of the men, who as I was assured are entirely reliable, without violence or the threat of it.

It is proper that I should state that I found here upon the orderbook, an order issued by Maj Genl. Harper for the detaining of boats, and I understood that by virtue of this order some boats were detained under the supposition that they were supplying provisions to Washington.

This order I countermanded, and since that time no boats have been detained.

G. J. Jackson
Col. Va. Vols
Comd. Officer