

as the Wisdom of Man could well devise. But it suited the vaulting Ambition of certain Southern Conspirators to renounce the Constitution and these laws, and to make war upon the Government with the pretence of rendering more secure the tenure of that very species of property the loss of which is the subject of your Complaint. Many who have not openly joined in their Rebellion yet actuated apparently by a similar purpose, have continued to the present time to aid and comfort them - Our Country thus openly and secretly assailed has been forced in self defence to take up arms - It has organized and equipped its Armies and established laws for their discipline and Government - They may occasionally come in conflict with the rights of the Citizen; such as I have already said, is a necessary consequence of all war - but no one doubts that when that War is ended and the Authority of the Nation completely re-established, like other sufferers in similar cases, all who have faithfully stood by their Country will be fully indemnified for any losses they may have sustained.

Whether however the prospect of such a settlement in future is satisfactory or not, the suggestion you propose of calling out the Militia of the State to resist the forces of the Government who may harbor a fugitive slave, can scarcely I should think command <sup>the support</sup> of your own judgement upon sober second thought.

Nor can I regard these National forces as you seem to do, as employed only "to rob us"; for however we may occasionally suffer individual losses at their hands, it is chiefly through their instrumentality that our State under the Providence of God has been spared the spectacle so plainly visible to you from the other side of the Potomac, of being made the great Battle field of this Rebellion - They drove back the invaders of our soil after a sojourn just long enough to give them a wholesome lesson on the Loyalty of Maryland.

Besides Sir, if our State Militia were ready for effective service, the scenes we are daily called upon to witness - the Country shedding its best blood in self preservation - to say nothing of the Rebel outrages continually committed on our own State, its property plundered and its peaceful Citizens captured & <sup>abducted</sup> ~~abducted~~, would all indicate very clearly a far more appropriate field for their employment than the one that you suggest.

I trust Sir that I shall never be wanting in a proper appreciation of the position of our State, her power or her dignity, nor in the purpose to advance her prosperity and execute her laws by all available means, and without entering into a discussion of the doings of other States or how far "Federal usurpation" depends upon the weak nerves of the Governors of the States, I hope I shall always have fully nerve enough to do precisely what I believe to be my duty - That duty, at present paramount to all others, and dictated by a strict regard for the best interests and dearest wishes of the people of the State, is to aid the Government in bringing this War to an end in the only way in which it ever can be permanently ended by putting down the Rebellion. Whether I always approve or not the policy which the Administration