

We further beg to say to your Excellency, that being obliged to vacate the New Assembly Rooms, we rented from Mr. Edward Kearney a large public Hall (Monumental Hall) and advertised, as was our custom, that we would have public preaching, on Sunday 22nd Feb^y — Whereupon another order issued by directions of Major Genl. Schenck, copy of which is herewith enclosed, arrested such contemplated public worship. In this last order we most respectfully ask a critical examination by your Excellency: you will perceive that it is directed to Mr. Kearney, the owner and proprietor of the Monumental Hall, a large public hall, in which several nights during the week there are public gatherings, parties - balls - soirees &c - and yet this order to display the flag, is only to be enforced, "on every occasion when this congregation meets in your building."

Sir - with the most distinguished consideration for your Excellency, we hold that it is not within the range of possibility, that the Governor of Maryland can bring his mind to any other conclusion than, that a more direct interference with the right of public worship never was exercised in any Country, and that such interference is in violation of the Bill of Rights of this State.

Coming then, to your Excellency, as we now do, soliciting for our people that relief and protection which is guaranteed to us by the Constitution and laws of Maryland, we cannot and will not permit ourselves to doubt, but that we shall have your sympathy and the sought-for relief, so entirely within your power to afford. Our people are scattered - our large and flourishing Sabbath school cannot meet, and by consequence the children go without that religious Sabbath training, so beneficial and so important to the rising generation.

Pardon us, and we will ask of your Excellency, what have we done, that we are not permitted to meet as the other religious Congregations in this City? We appeal to this entire Community to witness against us, whether we be unworthy to enjoy the same rights and privileges as our fellow-citizens.

Finally we say to your Excellency that as Citizens of Maryland, law-abiding and order-loving - we have rights in common with our fellow-men - We ask for nothing more - Is it right to grant us less?

Will your Excellency consent that Military Authority shall, in violation of law, over-turn and set at naught, the dearest and most sacred right that any man can enjoy, that of Worshipping God? Who is it Sir, in Gods name, who is it of human composition, that shall assume to himself such high prerogative?

Pegging your Excellency to excuse us for being tedious, and again imploring your aid in behalf of our afflicted congregation, who we are anxious to bring together again by procuring a place for worship.

We are with great respect, Your Excellency's obedt. Servts.

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| John M. Quirk | Charles Towson | } Stewards
Mc. E. Church |
| Charles J. Baker | Joseph P. Shipley | |
| John W. Couff | Wm. R. Barry | |
| J. C. Brinkley | Leonard Parsons | |
| Saml. G. Miles | | |