

State of Maryland
Executive Department
Annapolis April 9th 1863

To John M. Buck Esq. &
others, Stewards &c.

Gentlemen:

I received upon the 6th Inst. your letter of the 2nd written as you say to call my attention to "the misunderstanding of the facts and principles" embodied in your former communication, and perceiving my reply thereto of the 10th of March last — Whatever may be my misunderstanding of the principles assumed in your former communication, it is not likely that any thing I could add to what I have already said, will tend to reconcile the different views we respectively take of the subject; nor have I the time to devote to such further discussions — I can not perceive however wherein I have so misunderstood the facts of the case —

You devote about one half of your last letter to showing that when I said that "in March 1862 you for the first time practically sundered your Church Connection and abandoned the time honored edifices" &c, I misapprehended the facts — and to prove it, you recur again with great particularity to the proceedings of the Conferences and Conventions of 1861. But though these had, as I before remarked, but little bearing on the subject, they were all fully recited in your former letter, and were repeated and quoted by me in my reply; and whilst allowing all that can be claimed for them, I still maintain that in making the declaration above quoted, I stated the case strictly as it was —

The question was not what the Baltimore Conference of 1861 (nor the Haymen's Convention of 1860 had done or declared, but what was the Origin and action of your particular Congregation, and if I am correctly informed, you never did until March 1862 do any act or institute any proceeding to set on foot any separate Congregational organization, but up to that time, occupied the same Churches, recognized the same appointments, listened to the same Ministers, and were governed in all respects by the same laws and ordinances with all the other members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the City of Baltimore — If this was the case, I certainly did not misapprehend the facts as I intended to state them when I said that you then "for the first time practically sundered your Church Connection" &c.

In referring to that part of my reply wherein I call your attention to the functions respectively pertaining to the different Departments of the Government, and to the fact that such complaints as yours should come properly before the judicial tribunals, you say: "the history of the past two years has quite satisfied us of the entire futility of any appeal to the Judiciary," and referring to the view you had been accustomed to take of the office of Governor as "the Guardian of the rights and honor of the State" &c evidently still assume that the case of your complaint was one that called for his interference or influence.

I do not understand how or why it is that you have such little faith in any appeal to the Judiciary; it certainly does not accord with the views taken by other Citizens who have thought themselves aggrieved by the action of Military officers, and have, if I am rightly