

great extent I presume, disturb the citizens of your own State, especially throughout the Cumberland Valley and all other parts of it in dangerous proximity with the Potomac River.

I have good reasons to fear that unless some adequate provision is at once made against such incursions in the future, a large part of the inhabitants so subject to such depredations will abandon their homes and seek security at the North.

The Government so far has certainly failed altogether to furnish any forces, posted particularly with the view to guarding the Fords of the Potomac.

It is perhaps not to be expected that they at all times can do so.

The practicable fords in times of ordinary state of water in that river do not exceed as I understand, some six or eight in number, and I consider the defence of these particular points so important, that it has occurred to me that by a united effort of our two States, we might be able to furnish a volunteer force amply sufficient with the aid of such fortifications as the force itself could soon construct, to quiet all apprehensions of such incursions as have heretofore so frequently occurred with impunity.

To insure the immediate raising of such a force for this purpose, we should I think require from the Government an assurance that the men so raised should be credited to the quotas of our respective States upon the call just made, and they should be also armed, equipped and supplied as the other Troops in Government Service.

I cannot but think that the Government itself is now sufficiently awakened to the importance of defending this frontier to accede readily to such suggestions, and if you agree with me as to the importance and feasibility of the plan proposed, I shall hope for your favorable response to the proposition and await such suggestions as you may make as to the best and speediest manner of consummating it, and especially of obtaining without delay the assurances from the Government above suggested.

With great regard

Your friend & servt.

A. W. Bradford

Pennsylvania

Executive Chamber

Harrisburg 20th July 1864

Dear Sir:

I received your letter of the 19th July instant by the hands of Colonel Morris a few moments since