

exclusively used for home or local defence, but we regard such a service as we now suggest, as an exceptional case and the complete protection of this part of our frontier as of admitted material importance.

Soon after the outbreak of this Rebellion the importance of a special defence of the region bordering on the upper Potomac was recognized by the Government, and the Hon. Francis Thomas of Maryland was authorized by it to raise three Regiments with the view to the protection of the Counties on either side of that River - These Regiments were raised but the subsequent exigencies of the service required their employment elsewhere, and they therefore afford at present no particular security to that region beyond other troops in service.

The necessity as we think for some such peculiar provision has now become so obvious, that we would with great respect, but most earnestly urge upon your Excellency, the expediency of acceding to the suggestion we have made, and we will immediately set about raising the forces required, and we have no doubt they will be promptly procured.

We have the honor to be

With great respect
Your obt. Servts

A. W. Bradford
A. C. Curtin

War Department
Adjutant General's Office
Washington Aug. 1. 1864

His Excellency,
The Governor of Maryland
Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the joint letter from yourself and the Governor of Pennsylvania, dated July 21. 1864 asking authority to raise a Volunteer Force in your respective States, to be exclusively used for home or local defence, and for guarding the fords of the Potomac.

In reply I am directed by the Secy of War to inform you that the proposition has been fully considered, and that the authority asked for cannot be granted.

In this connection please see the Act of Congress approved February 13. 1862, as promulgated in General Orders No 15 series of 1862 from this office.

I have the honor to remain Sir
Very Resp. Your obt. Servt.
Thomas M. Vincent
Asst. Adjt. Genl.

Similar letter sent his Excellency the Gov. of Penna this date