

ted the dignity of that important branch of the National Government, to which I have the honor to belong, and which, with its co-ordinate legislative powers, participates, also, in the high Executive function of appointment to office.

I have thus, sir, stated with freedom, though with great deference, what I thought best adapted to this peculiar occasion and to my own fair purposes ; and now I come to speak briefly of that part of your communication, which alone concerns the Maryland Senators personally.

If the inference which I draw from the order of the House of Delegates, itself, be not strained by an undue sensibility, on my part, to the slightest implication of a charge against me, as one of the representatives of my honored native State, it may behoove me to notice it with some special attention. I have already remarked that, in the inquiry contained in your letter, you do not ask of us to give to the House of Delegates, any information or report of our own "proceedings" in any case before the Senate, except in so far as being constituent members of that body, we are embraced in its general designation. It may be, sir, that, by thus calling the particular attention of the House of Delegates to their order, I am making an issue not intended by them to be raised, but it was impossible for me, although, at all times, most anxious to obviate the necessity for self defence, "to blink so hard" as not to have seen in the first introduction of that order, that there was implied some dissatisfaction with the conduct of the the Maryland Senators. To incur the just censure of any portion of the people of Maryland or of their representatives, would give me infinite pain, and I am therefore ever feelingly alive to the semblance of an accusation that might lead to such a consequence. The frankness which belongs to my character, prompts me, on all occasions, when I may with propriety do so, to meet openly and firmly, and to remove if I can, either misapprehensions or misrepresentations of my conduct. I might confide in the magnanimity or justice of the honorable House of Delegates of Maryland, if a serious charge of any sort were really intended to be alleged against me, that a full and certain specification of it would have been made and furnished me, so that I might if I pleased, plead to the jurisdiction, or confess or deny the impeachment. But if it be the sure, though undesigned effect of their order to "Just hint a fault———" and the grave proceeding have instantly become a prolific topic for ambiguous interpretations and malignant surmises, shall the intended victims of popular displeasure evade or rest quietly without notice of them, when a breath of theirs may dispel the cloud? A plain, blunt man, as I am, and not accustomed to rest quietly under the injurious operation of such a state of things, I will not now forbear to avail myself of the fair opportunity, which is presented, for repelling unfounded and unjust insinuations; nor do I think that any ground of self respect forbids me, in such a case, to speak out. I confidently trust, therefore, that in taking part in this irregular proceeding,