

expences of the militia : a balance, therefore, remains of one hundred and thirty-three thousand nine hundred and eighty eight dollars and fifty four cents, from which, if the balance of the appropriation for arms, viz. fifty two thousand seven hundred and eighty nine dollars and seventy-seven cents, be deducted, there will remain but eighty-one thousand one hundred and ninety-eight dollars and seventy seven cents ; a sum, we believe, inadequate to satisfy the claims already incurred for militia services.

To raise funds for this object, and for our defence for the ensuing year, whether by loan at an additional interest, or by a sale of public stock (for taxation seems to have been extended to its utmost bounds) rests with the wisdom of the legislature.

We beg leave to observe that as the general government has given so many unequivocal proofs of a defect of ability or inclination to afford us protection, nothing remains but that we call forth those means of defence which are still in our possession. We would, therefore, suggest the propriety of considering whether it would not be advisable to raise by enlistment, a certain number of troops, expressly for the defence of the state, their service to continue during the war, and they to receive the same pay, and enjoy the same privileges as the soldiers of the United States. It appears to us that eight or ten regiments might be advantageously organised in this manner, and employed according to circumstances, either in conjunction with or separate from the militia. This corps would speedily communicate to the latter an emulous spirit and habits of subordination, and thus the state of Maryland might soon boast of an efficient force, without having recourse to an unconstitutional and slavish conscription.

Should the plan now proposed not meet the approbation of the legislature, a revision of our militia laws will become indispensable.

In the third year of a war, which we ever deprecated as unnecessary in its origin, and ruinous in its consequences, we behold our national treasury exhausted, our councils confused and vacillating, and the people bowed down with difficulties, while the administration are as far from obtaining the ostensible object of contention, as when they issued the first Canadian proclamation ; nay, they have even abandoned it as a forlorn hope, for in the late instructions to our envoys it is no longer insisted on as a sine qua non of a treaty, that Great Britain shall relinquish the right of impressment. Amidst this general suffering, we have, however the consolation to perceive a spirit of liberty and love of country animating the breasts of our citizens. Though we are baffled in all our attempts at foreign conquest, success attends our gallant navy, and (with one disgraceful exception) victory has crowned us in every conflict, undertaken in defence of our homes. Here we fight in the cause of virtue, and may therefore rely on the protection of Heaven.

We have the honor to be, with great respect,

Your obedient servants,

WILLIAM B. MARTIN, President of the Council.

(No. I.)

Washington, August 18, 1814.

SIR—I have been authorised by the president to accept on behalf of the United States, all the militia now in service, under the authority of the state of Maryland, as well elsewhere as at Annapolis. This includes the cavalry here, as also general Stuart's command below. As I have no doubt that will be acceptable to you, I have been making provisional arrangements with colonel Tilghman and general Stuart. You will please therefore send your order to general Stuart to that effect, and direct colonel Hood to take my orders, and to send me without delay a return of his strength.

(Signed)

WM. H. WINDER.

His excellency Levin Winder, governor of Maryland, Annapolis.

(No. II.)

Council Chamber, October 17, 1814.

SIR—We sometime ago received a letter from brigadier-general Winder, informing us that he had "been authorised by the president to accept on behalf of the United States all the militia then in service, under the authority of the state of Maryland, including cavalry, as well as infantry ;" but as we do not know the exact period whence to date this acceptance, we must request the favor of you to give us the necessary information, that we may give directions to have the pay rolls and militia accounts arranged in conformity thereto, preparatory to their being presented for a final adjustment.

As connected with this subject, we beg leave to call your attention to the 10th section of an act of congress, passed on the 18th of April last, entitled, "An act in addition to the act to provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the union," &c. By this clause it is provided "that the expences incurred or to be incurred by marching the militia of any state or territory of the United States to their places of rendezvous, in pursuance of a requisition of the president of the United States, or which shall have been, or may be incurred in cases of calls made by the authority of any state or territory, which shall have been or may be approved by him, shall be adjusted and paid in like manner as the expences incurred after their arrival at such place of rendezvous, on the requisition of the president of the United States, &c. It appears evidently to us that this law is intended to embrace all expences of the militia necessarily incurred in the defence of any state, or part thereof ; we therefore deem it expedient to inform you that a considerable portion of the militia of Maryland were called into service for the express purpose of aiding commodore Barney's flotilla in the Patuxent ; an entire brigade was also engaged in defending the shores of Saint Mary's and Charles counties, when the enemy entered the Potomac ; a number of troops were employed also in repelling marauding parties from some of the counties on the Eastern Shore, and others were ordered out for the defence of Baltimore, prior to the president's first requisition. As all these calls were made for the safety of the state, and such only as her exposed situation imperiously demanded, we trust that the president will have no hesitation to sanction them, and order an ad-