

rages committed upon their property by the troops of Virginia now stationed at or near Harper's Ferry, and also by irresponsible bodies of citizens of your commonwealth. Cattle grain, &c., have been seized; canal boats laden with produce have been detained; private houses have been forcibly entered, and unoffending citizens have been insulted and threatened.

I am confident that these outrages have been committed without orders from you. But your Excellency will readily perceive that they are liable to provoke hostilities between your people and those who suffer from such unlawful acts. Such collision will be as much deplored by your Excellency as by me; and I am sure you will readily consent to do all in your power to avert it.

Believing that it is the desire of the people of Maryland, even those who have suffered from these depredations, to preserve amicable relations with Virginia, I do most earnestly advise that you warn the perpetrators of the outrages complained of that their acts are unlawful, and that you take immediate steps to prevent a recurrence thereof.

Very respectfully, your obd't ser't,

THOS. H. HICKS.

*Executive Department,*

Richmond, Va., May 3, 1861.

His Excellency, Thomas H. Hicks, Governor of Maryland: Sir:—Your letter from Frederick city, of May 1st, was received this morning. It will be communicated immediately to Col. Jackson, commanding Harper's Ferry, with instructions to inquire into facts, and make report to me.

I desire to cultivate amicable relations with the people of Maryland, and with this view will give instructions to Col. Jackson to restrain those under his command from all acts of violence and lawlessness.

So soon as I receive a report from that officer, I will communicate further with you.

Very respectfully your obd't serv't,

JOHN LETCHER."

Pending the promise contained in the letter of the Governor of Virginia, the Committee think it would not only be disrespectful to him, but unbecoming, so far as Maryland is concerned, to do otherwise than await his further communications.