

previous wars loyal States have applied themselves, by independent and separate activity, to support and aid the Federal Government in its arduous responsibilities. The same disposition has been manifested in a degree eminently honorable by all the loyal States during the present insurrection. In view of this fact, and relying upon the increase and continuance of the same disposition on the part of the loyal States, the President has directed me to invite your consideration to the subject of the importance of perfecting the defenses of the State over which you preside, and to ask you to submit the subject to the consideration of the Legislature when it shall have assembled. Such proceedings by the State would require only a temporary use of its means. The expenditures ought to be made the subject of conference with the Federal Government. Being thus made, with the concurrence of the Government, for general defense, there is every reason to believe that Congress would sanction what the State should do, and would provide for its reimbursement. Should these suggestions be accepted, the President will direct proper agents of the Federal Government to confer with you, and to superintend, direct, and conduct the prosecution of the system of defense of your State.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.