

to Frederick. It does not belong to the object of this petition here, to designate the relation of these intruders. If they were friends, it was not unsafe for the Legislature to meet at Annapolis. If they were enemies, it *was* unsafe. How the Governor regarded them, his proclamation, calling the Legislature elsewhere, discloses.

If they were, at the time of their intrusion, enemies, their conduct since has made no change in that relation. If any loyal citizen of Maryland entertained a doubt of their hostile feeling toward those in the State, who were true in their allegiance to our laws and institutions, the daily acts of atrocious outrage done by them, has disabused him. They have subverted the law of this State, and all other law that has ever obtained here, and in its stead have set up brute force—"the higher law"—heretofore promised by their chief.

They have seized private citizens, without warrant of law—they have deprived them of their liberty without a hearing before judge or jury—they have a military force within our border without sanction of the Legislature—they have set the military above the civil power—they have subjected persons to martial law, who are not soldiers, nor mariners, nor marines, nor of the militia in the regular service of the State. The *habeas corpus* has been suspended. The right of the people to bear arms has been infringed, and the militia of the State is being disarmed, thereby depriving us of the best "security of a free State." On the holy Sabbath last, an armed force—strangers and aliens to the State—was marched into a neighboring peaceful village; private citizens were arrested, on the high road, without *imputation* of offence against any law; and acts of outrage perpetrated by outlaws, bearing the authority of the person who is styled "the Governor of Maryland." On yesterday a gang similarly armed, and bearing the same authority, visited our County town, and subjected our people to the like oppression. This day they are traversing the county, invading the sanctity of our homes, alarming the children and the tender sex—with Minnie rifle in one hand and the Governor's warrant in the other.

They who ask your honorable bodies to adjourn are the confederates of the Governor and of these out-laws. The undersigned are citizens of the State of Maryland, who hold as their highest obligation their allegiance to the State. They are fully conscious of the obligations, which their relation to the Government of the United States imposes. They do not lose sight of the fact, that they are citizens of a State, in Union with those States, who hold the Government of the United States. But they do not recognize any powers in