

Government, and to unfounded rumors and suspicions; for all the rest of the arms and ammunition belonging to the city, and all the arms left with the city authorities for safe keeping, which were placed in depositories procured expressly for the purpose, and in no way concealed, had been previously seized by the authorities of the United States, under circumstances very mortifying to the pride of the people. That some of the arms and ammunition were concealed about the building, is sufficiently explained by the fact that the officers in charge desired to secure them from seizure, but such concealment was made without my knowledge.

The proclamation charges the existence of unlawful combinations of men organized for the resistance to the laws, for accumulating hidden deposits of arms, and encouraging contraband trade.

Although I am only ex-officio member of the Board, and by reason of other engagements not able to be present at all their meetings, yet, from the free and full interchange of views among us, and the custom of the members to consult me on all important questions, and my knowledge of all their proceedings, I feel that I have a right to say, of my own personal knowledge, that the Board had no notice or information of any such combinations, if any such existed, which I have no reason to suspect.

Indeed, my experience of the fidelity of the Board, to its legal obligations during my whole official connection with it, and the common understanding between myself and my colleagues as to our course of duty since the present troubles began, justify me in saying that if any organization in this city for resistance to the laws could have been discovered by proper vigilance, they would have been found out and suppressed, to the extent of the powers conferred on the Board by law.

After the Board of Police had been superseded and its members arrested by the order of Gen. Banks, I proposed, in order to relieve the serious complication which had arisen, to proceed as the only member left free to act, to exercise the power of the Board as far as an individual member could do so. Marshal Kane, while he objected to the propriety of this course, was prepared to place his resignation in my hands whenever I should request it, and the majority of the Board interposed no objection to my pursuing such course as I might deem it right and proper to adopt in view of the existing circumstances, and upon my own responsibility, until the Board should be enabled to resume the exercise of its functions.

If this arrangement could have been effected, it would