

same to that Honorable Body, with the result of any negotiations relating thereto with the authorities of Virginia.

Your Commissioner visited at once Montgomery county, and some of the petitioners, and ascertained that the apprehensions of molestation from the troops of Virginia were entirely groundless. He was informed by Mr. Darby, one of the petitioners, a respectable citizen, and owner of a large and important mill on Seneca Creek, near the Canal, that the petition had grown out of what they then considered well founded apprehensions of his neighbors, of injury to his mill property, in the continued security and operation of which they were all interested, arising from the fact of his supplying the Government with flour; but that he was now satisfied their apprehensions had been groundless, and his trade on the Canal, and his other branches of business, had not been threatened or molested by the troops of Virginia.

The undersigned made as thorough an examination of the condition of things on the Maryland mountain, opposite Harper's Ferry, as the pressure of circumstances, and the almost inaccessible nature of its approaches, would admit of.

Its top was occupied by four or five hundred Virginia troops, who had cut down four or five acres of the indifferent timber which clothes its summit, for the apparent purpose of constructing huts for their temporary shelter; and about the same space of land had been burnt over by the accidental contact of the dried leaves with their camp fires, as your Commissioner supposes.

That as soon as he had investigated all the complaints he returned to Richmond, and reached there on Wednesday, the 29th ultimo, when the authorities were engaged with the pressing duties arising from their reception of the President and Government of the Confederate States of America. That, on the evening of the 30th, he had a short interview with Governor Letcher, and brought to his notice the object of his mission, and the specific acts of aggression complained of, in the entrance upon our soil of the troops of Virginia.

The Governor was understood to say that he would apply to the commanding officer at Harper's Ferry for information on the subject, and be prepared to reply more fully when the report of that officer was received; but he begged me to convey to your Honorable Body the distinct and earnest assurance, that if, at any time, the military forces of Virginia should trespass or temporarily occupy the soil of Maryland, it could only be justified by the pressing exigency of a military necessity, in defence and protection of her own soil from threatened or actual invasion, and certainly with no hostile intent towards the citizens of the State of Maryland, and that any and all damages to persons or property, consequent upon such occupation, should be fully and liberally compensated for.

Your Commissioner left with the Governor, at his request, a copy of the resolutions aforesaid, and the letter of Mr. Biggs,