

quarter. It might, therefore, in the opinion of the committee, have been fairly presumed, and the House, in adopting its order of June 5th, had not only the manifest right, but was bound to presume, that occurrences so momentous to the people of Maryland, as the suspension of the *habeas corpus* and the substitution of military authority for a government of laws, had attracted the Governor's official attention, and had suggested to him the propriety and obligation of some official interposition on his part. Indeed the fact that his Excellency's own official proclamation of May 15th, calling out a portion of the militia of the State, in *quasi* obedience to the demand of the Federal Executive, and in gross violation of the policy announced by this General Assembly, for the State of Maryland, but the day before—was contemptuously “countermanded,” the day after, without more ado, through the newspapers, by a recruiting captain of the U. S. army—might of itself have been deemed sufficient to furnish to his Excellency a reasonable official intimation, that the institutions and established government of the State were not exactly in their normal condition. When it is further considered, however, that the Governor himself was personally present, as this whole Honorable body is aware, when a venerable and prominent citizen, a useful and respected member of this House, proceeding to his home from the discharge of his official duties here, was arrested by military force, without color of lawful authority, and hurried into illegal imprisonment within the walls of a Federal fortress, your committee are at a loss to conceive the extent of the evidence which his Excellency might require, to give him “official information” of any fact whatsoever. They cannot hope that any demonstration which it is in the power of this House to furnish, could add strength to the testimony of his Excellency's own bodily senses. But believing that no government is faithful to its trusts, which does not feel and resent the oppression of a single and the humblest citizen, as a wrong done to the State and to every man within its borders; and believing too, that the Executive of Maryland, clothed with all necessary powers, and bound by his oath “to take care that the laws be faithfully executed,” is of all others (and especially in the absence of the Legislature) the person upon whom the duty of vindicating the independence of the commonwealth and the supremacy of its laws, to the best of his ability, devolves; your committee are constrained to regard the silence and inaction of the Governor, under the circumstances in question, as a grave and inexplicable dereliction of public duty.

In his other message, the Governor responds to the thrice-repeated and respectful solicitation of this honorable body,