

MESSAGE OF THE
GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND,

IN RESPONSE TO THE ORDER OF THE SENATE OF JUNE 5, 1861, IN RELATION TO HIS DISARMING OF THE STATE MILITARY.

STATE OF MARYLAND,
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
FREDERICK CITY, June 5, 1861.

Gentlemen of the Senate:

In response to your order of this date, asking me "to furnish the Senate, at my earliest convenience, with a statement of the facts which induced me to reclaim the arms formerly confided to certain military companies of Baltimore city; also, with the reasons why said arms were sent, by my order, to Fort McHenry; and, also, what security I have for the restoration of said arms, when demanded by the proper authorities of Maryland," I have to say—

That, although I cannot acknowledge any right on the part of the Senate to make such inquiries, yet it gives me pleasure to respond to them, inasmuch as I desire the people of the State to be acquainted with the motives of all my official actions, and had, therefore, determined to give the public the reasons for my action in the premises.

I issued orders for reclaiming the arms referred to, because I had become satisfied that many of them had been carried beyond the limits of the State of Maryland, for disloyal purposes, where-