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## Domestic.

From the Maryland Republican.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,

ANNAPOLIS, Sept. 7, 1812.

SIR—You are requested to publish the addition of documents herewith transmitted in your paper. They shew in the strongest light the correctness and propriety of General Stricker's official conduct, during the late unhappy occurrences at Baltimore, and evince in the most satisfactory manner, that the charges of neglect of duty exhibited against him are utterly unfounded in truth. I am, sir, with much respect,  
Your obedient servant,  
ROBERT BOWIE.

Mr. J. CHANDLER,  
Editor of the Maryland Republican.

To his Excellency the Commander in Chief of the Militia of Maryland.

To obviate certain gross misrepresentations, I deem it proper to submit to your excellency a supplementary report of my conduct during the late commotions in the city of Baltimore, in which I shall take the liberty of respectfully superintending such explanatory observations as the allegations against me may officially seem to require.

In the part which I had to take in those unhappy transactions, I was influenced not only by considerations of official duty but by principles of commiseration of Mr. Hanson and his associates. Never did I make greater exertions to maintain the supremacy of the law, and to prevent the effusion of blood; and never did I enjoy more completely the unqualified approbation of my own conscience; and yet, most unexpectedly to me, there have been widely disseminated rumors calculated to exhibit me to the world, in this affair, as the most horrid monster that ever appeared in the shape of man.

1st. It has been alleged against me, that in advising Mr. Hanson and his associates to leave the house in Charles street, I had no object but their massacre in the jail.

The unexampled wickedness of such a purpose, and the palpable absurdity of such a plan, are of themselves, one would think, a sufficient refutation of the charge. What motive could I have had for entertaining a design so detestably treacherous, so horribly flagitious? From these men I had received no injuries; against them I had no hostility; on the contrary, I had for several of them a personal regard. With the parents of some of them I had long lived in habits of uninterrupted friendship. If the indiscriminate butchery of these men had really been my object, the horrid purpose could have been accomplished, and without any participation on my part, by barely letting them remain in the house in Charles street. For, as they were destitute of the requisite provisions and water; as they were quite exhausted from the fatigue of duty and from want of sleep; as, from desertions, they were reduced to a number barely sufficient to man the most essential stations, without any to relieve them; it was evident that they could not long withstand the multifarious assaults of the very numerous and highly-exasperated populace, and that, consequently, their destruction was obviously inevitable. Enfeebled and intimidated as they were it was manifest to me that they could not have maintained their stations five minutes against the impending tremendous attack.

2dly. It is alleged that I pledged my honor to these men for their security in the jail; and that upon that pledge they consented to leave the house in Charles street.

From a principle of humanity and a wish to maintain the dominion of the law, I and others repaired to the place. We there at once perceived that the men in the house would infallibly be destroyed in the course of a few minutes, unless some expedient should be immediately devised to avert the catastrophe. It was suggested to me at the time, and indeed it was the prevailing opinion, that the jail was the only place of safety. When it was proposed to them, their principal objection was that the military before the house was not sufficiently strong to protect them on the way to the jail, from so large and infuriate a mob. Those who will seriously consider the tumultuous confusion of the scene, the impatient vociferations of the exasperated mob, the menacing impending destruction of the objects of their fury, the consequent agitation of us all, will not easily imagine, that, at a juncture so frightful any thing was thought of but the tremendous danger of the moment, and the best way of averting it. Thinking as I did, that the armed militia, with the proffered assistance of many persons who had been with the populace, would afford to them an adequate protection, I gave to them my opinion, but only as an opinion, that we could take them to the jail, declaring at the same time that I and other citizens, looking arms with them, would go into the hollow square, and would there expose ourselves to all the danger of the attack of the populace. Accordingly took Mr. Hanson under my arm, and thus exposed myself to much danger. I was considerably hurt by a large paving stone, thrown with great force, which had it struck me but a few inches higher, might and probably would have proved fatal.

Believing, as I most assuredly did, the jail was a sanctuary, which no mob would attempt to violate, it is quite probable that I may have represented it to them as a place of safety; but most solemnly do I affirm that I at no time did directly or indirectly give my personal guarantee for their

safety in the jail. Such a pledge would have been on my part a very silly volunteer act of supererogation, as well as of arrogant pretension to power.

As they were morally certain, that by remaining in the house in Charles street, their destruction, sooner or later, was inevitable, what rational object, in the name of common sense, could they have had in insisting upon such a stipulation, as an indispensable preliminary to their leaving a place of such imminent danger—nay, of certain death! And at all events, what inducements, official or personal, could I have had for pretending to take upon myself the making of a stipulation so extraordinary? As Brigadier I had nothing to do with the Jail. Of myself, I could order no military force for its defence. I could take no such step, but upon the requisition of two justices of the peace. Thus, in a case wherein there was no obligation on me, official or moral, to enter into any kind of personal stipulation; a case, too, of very awful character, I am represented as going out of my way, and voluntarily pledging my honor that some two justices would in due time make a requisition upon me to order out the militia; and moreover, that a competent portion of the militia would, in such case, afford, with effect, their services. As Brigadier I was far more active than duty required, since in that capacity it was not my duty to go either to the house or to the jail. As an individual, it was no more my duty to protect them than it was the duty of any other individual. When I joined in recommending the jail as a sanctuary, it most certainly never did occur to my mind to regard their going to the jail as a matter of favor to me. On the contrary I considered their situation so desperate, their fate in the house so certain, that it was from motives of compassion that I urged their compliance. When I had returned from the prison, and reflected upon the fury and exasperation of the populace; when I considered to what danger I had exposed myself (although not bound to do so from any considerations of duty) and when so few others could be found willing to risk so much, my consolation was, that I had assisted in preserving the lives of my fellow men, and my expectation was that I should have had their gratitude instead of their enmity.

The only pledge given by me was, that I, as an officer, would do in their protection whatever was my duty. And I do affirm that in my official capacity nothing was left undone that ought to have been done. I did immediately after receiving the requisition of the justices issue orders to Colonel Sterrett, Colonel Harris and Major Barney, which had they been carried into effect, would have brought into the field a force much stronger than was required by the exigency. Under these orders, however, to my great mortification, there appeared only about thirty-five infantry, and about three or four dragoons. And as to the artillery, it is proper here to state that most of the companies did parade as ordered, but in what force Colonel Harris has not been able to report; it is however known that some of them were very weak, and that they are armed with swords, and ought not to be employed but when properly supported by cavalry and infantry, it was deemed indispensably necessary that they should be dismissed with the few infantry that paraded on the occasion. On this subject I refer your excellency to the accompanying letter from Colonel Harris, marked A.

3dly. It has been alleged that the refusal of the militia to turn out was owing altogether to an order issued by me interdicting the use of ball cartridges.

My orders transmitted to your excellency in my last report, will speak for themselves. They cannot fail to acquire the approbation of all men of candor, who will take the trouble of comparing them with the jealous limitations and restrictions of the law of Maryland.

When the written order was delivered to Colonel Sterrett, he enquired whether ball cartridges were to be carried; to which enquiry I replied, that I did not think it would be necessary, and at the same time remarked that the principal object was to assemble the men as early as possible, and that to wait for ball cartridges, might, by the delay frustrate our views. This opinion was founded on the fullest persuasion then and yet entertained, that a whole regiment of infantry with bayonets and a squadron of horse, with pistols and swords, would overawe, and if necessary disperse any mob that would appear. But this opinion of mine could not possibly have had any effect upon the men, as there was no such interdiction in my official order, and as there could have been none such in the orders of Col. Sterrett and Major Barney. And as an illustration of this subject, I have to refer your Excellency to the accompanying documents marked B, C, D, E, F, G.

It is worthy of notice that no such opinion was given to Major Barney, yet but three of his whole squadron turned out.

4thly. It has been asserted, and upon oath, that I "dismissed a body of Militia, under Major Heath, contrary to his advice, and remonstrances, and that from Major Heath I proceeded to Colonel Sterrett and ordered him to dismiss the party which was under arms in Gay-street, an order which Mr. Sterrett obeyed with a heavy heart."

This accusation has been accompanied with insinuations as to my motive and object, which upon mere circumstances of suspicion, could not by a liberal mind be ascribed even to the most abandoned ruffian. I shall content myself, as to this

\* See Captain Shrim's certificate which contains the regimental orders as follows: "In consequence of an order from the Brigadier, the 5th Regiment is ordered to march for the protection of the prison. Parade your men in uniform."

base aspersion, in referring your Excellency to the subjoined letter from Major Heath, marked H, which will fully enable all dispassionate minds to form a just estimate of the credit due to this as well as to the other calumnies that have been so wantonly uttered against me.

As to the order of Colonel Sterrett, it is necessary only to remark, that there were not, as has been asserted, two separate bodies of Infantry, the one commanded by Major Heath, and the other by Colonel Sterrett.

It was the 5th Regiment that was on that day ordered out, of which Mr. Sterrett was the Col. and Mr. Heath the first Major. And as before stated, of this Regiment only thirty-five appeared in Gay street, where they were dismissed.

In consequence, I consider it proper to let your excellency know, that at the time of the outrage on the printing office on Gay street, when, and for some time before, I was absent from the state, yet as soon as I had been apprized of that circumstance, I hastened home under an impression of duty, and with a view to contribute my best exertions towards the restoration of peace, good order, and the authority of the law; and although doubts have been entertained by many as to the law, all calls of the civil authority on me for a militia force have been promptly complied with on my part.

I have the honor to be,  
Your Excellency's  
Obedient servant,  
JOHN STRICKER,  
Brig. Gen. 3d Brig. Md. Militia.  
Baltimore, August 29 1812.

(A)  
Baltimore, 26th August, 1812.

SIR,  
In answer to your request of this morning for my opinion as to the propriety of your orders directed to me for dismissing the Artillery on the evening of the 28th ult. I have only to observe, that Artillery unsupported by Cavalry or Infantry, would be insufficient in a service such as they were called upon to perform, said evening.

DAV. HARRIS, Lt. Col.  
1st Reg. Artillery, attached to 3d Brigade Maryland Militia.  
Brig. Gen. Stricker.

(B)  
Baltimore, August 26th, 1812.

SIR,  
In reply to your request to state any knowledge I may have of the cause of the Baltimore Independent Blues not turning out more numerously on the 28th July last, I made inquiry of the non-commissioned officers who notified the members to attend; they informed me some peremptorily refused, others alleged the late hour of receiving their notices, (being in many instances some time after the stated hour of meeting) which latter circumstance was owing to the number of members and their dispersed residences. The want of ball cartridge was not stated in any one instance as a reason for not obeying the orders for parade.

Very respectfully,  
A. R. LEVERING,  
Lt. Comdt. Baltimore I B on Aug. 28th, 1812.  
Brig. Gen. John Stricker, (present.)  
(C)  
Baltimore, August 26th, 1812.

Brig. Gen. Stricker,

SIR,  
Much having been said, and various reasons assigned relative to the Military not turning out on the 28th ult. I felt it a duty incumbent on me to ascertain the cause, so far as related to the squadron under my command being implicated, and therefore I required of Captains Horton and Stevenson, "to answer for their respective troops not parading on the afternoon of Tuesday the 28th ult. in conformity to my orders issued to them to that effect." In reply to which requisition Captain H. states, "that he was much indisposed himself at the time, but that the Quarter Master Sergeant called on as many of the troops as the shortness of his notice would admit of;" (it being 4 o'clock when Captain H. was shewed the orders, the bearer of it not being able to find him sooner); and I have further to observe that many of that troop had been on duty nearly the whole of the preceding night, which may be esteemed an additional reason for their not assembling as ordered.

Captain Stevenson refers me to the letters of his 2d Lieut. and Cornet, who had been charged with notifying the members of his troop; both of those concur that in answer to the call made upon them on the 28th ult. they unanimously refused turning out; remarking "that they were always ready and willing to meet the enemies of their country, and to sacrifice their lives in its defence, but that they never would turn out to protect traitors or disorganizers."

It may be proper to add, that one of the members of this troop ("the Fell's Point Light Dragoons") whilst passing the house in Charles street on his way home, was very dangerously wounded in the back and one of the arms, by the discharge of a musket from the house; and this may have been the cause of their so peremptorily refusing to obey their orders.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,  
Your very obedient servant,  
W. B. BARNEY,  
Major 5th C. D. Maryland Militia.  
(D)

I hereby certify that on the 28th of July in the afternoon, I received the following written order

from Col. Sterrett—"In consequence of an order from the Brigadier, the 5th Regiment is ordered to parade this afternoon at 8 o'clock, in South Gay street, to march for the protection of the prison. Parade your men in uniform." Every exertion was used that time and the dispersed situation of the men would admit of, but few attended to the order, none joined the regiment except  
J. SHRIM, Captain  
1st Com. 5th Reg. Md. Militia.  
August 24th, 1812.

(E)  
I do hereby certify that I left town on the 20th of July, and returned on the 1st day of August, and I heard nothing about marching out on the 28th day of July.

DANIEL CONN, Capt.  
Republican Company.  
Baltimore, August 24th, 1812.

I hereby certify that I was in the city of Baltimore for several days before, and after the 28th day of July last, and received no orders, neither did I hear any thing of turning out on said day.

ROBERT LAWSON, Lieut.  
of Capt. Conn's company.  
August 25th, 1812:

(F)  
I hereby certify that on the 28th day of July last, when the 5th regiment were ordered out for the protection of the Jail of Baltimore county, I was directed by the adjutant to order out my company and furnish the men with powder and ball. I accordingly ordered them out and only three privates with the two lieutenants and myself appeared on the parade ground.

W. VANCE, Capt.  
Rifle Company 5th Regiment.  
Baltimore, August 23d. 1812.

(G)

I hereby certify that on the 28th day of July last, late in the afternoon, lieut. Towson sent me word by his apprentice that he was requested to inform me that I must order out the company immediately. I returned for answer by the apprentice, that I would attend as soon as possible, and that he should take the command until I came. The young man had not left me more than ten minutes when ensign McCubbin came with direction from the adjutant of the 5th Regiment to order out the company as soon as possible. I told Mr. McCubbin that I had intended to turn out agreeably to the message sent by lieut. Towson, but that I had changed my mind, and should neither turn out myself, nor order the men out. Both of the orders to me were verbal, and nothing was said about blank or ball cartridges.

JOHN KELLER, B. M. V.  
Baltimore, August 23. 1812.

(H)  
Baltimore, August 17, 1812.

SIR,  
Yours of this date I received, and think the best mode of answering it is, to state the facts as they occurred, so far as I was connected or became acquainted with them.

On Monday night the 27th ult. I was informed you wished to see me; I immediately went to your house, where a number of persons collected, and among the rest Major Barney. From your conversation and your repeated assurances, then, and from all the circumstances that accrued within my knowledge, I do not hesitate to say, that I believed you seriously disposed to put a stop to the riotous proceedings in Charles street. About 1 o'clock on Tuesday morning, I proposed to you that I should go home, being under an impression that nothing further would occur, when you requested me to remain somewhat longer as you wished "my advice and assistance," to which I agreed. Some time afterwards upon your return from the street into the house, you remarked that nothing further was necessary for me to do, that I could then go to my family, (who had been left in great distress when I went to town) and harked me for my assistance. I reached home about 3 o'clock, and in the morning was again informed that there was a very large mob collected in Charles street and that you wished my presence. I went to your house, where I was told you had gone with the gentlemen who had defended the house to the jail, I was induced to believe that an attempt would be made to force it and massacre Mr. Hanson and his friends, which I communicated to Col. Sterrett, and soon afterwards he and I waited upon you at your house; you then ordered Colonel Sterrett to call out the 5th regiment; upon our way to his counting house I enquired if he had a written order; which he answered in the negative. I immediately returned to you and asked for it; you told me you were about to shave and dress, and requested me to call about fifteen and twenty minutes afterwards at your counting house, when I should have it; I went to my shop where I found the colonel, communicated your answer to him and he waited with me there until you came, when you informed us, that upon reflection you could not issue a written order without another requisition from the civil authority. This we obtained after considerable difficulty and delay, about one o'clock; when as soon as it was presented, you gave the written order to the colonel who took great pains to collect the regiment, and gave orders to meet in Gay street at 2 o'clock—when as many had assembled as we thought would come, he ordered us to march to the jail, and advanced some distance in Holiday street, when you met us, ordered us to return to North Gay street, and there wait for further orders, which we obeyed.

After waiting some time, there was a large col-