

1862

September 8th

The Governor issued the following
Proclamation

State of Maryland

Executive Department

Annapolis September 8th 1862.

Whereas it has been represented to me upon authority which seems unquestionable that a portion of the Rebel army of the South now in arms against the Union have crossed our border and encamped upon our territory menacing the City of Baltimore and other portions of the State with a hostile attack and it is expedient that besides all the other powers with which the Government may be prepared to meet this daring invasion, that our own citizens should without delay organize throughout the State such a militia force as may effectually exist in defending our homes and firesides against the assault of the invader

I therefore in virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State hereby call upon her citizens to enroll themselves at once in volunteer military organizations, that no possible power at command may be overlooked in preparing to meet every emergency. In the City of Baltimore I would especially call upon our citizens to organize at once and complete the formation of the First Light Division of Maryland Volunteer Militia in which several companies have been already filled and their officers commissioned.

As a mistaken impression seems to exist to some extent of a purpose to offer to the Government the services of this Division or some portion of it as United States Volunteers for nine months and this impression may tend to retard the formation of the division, I would take this occasion to reiterate the assurance already given to many who have consulted me on the subject - that no one by becoming a member of any company in that division places himself thereby in the power of the officers of the organization to transfer his services without his consent to the Volunteer forces of the United States. Whilst opportunity will be given to any Regiment or Brigade connected with the Division to make such tender of their services to the Government no member of any such regiment can be constrained to such a course by the majority of the command nor without his individual consent.

With this understanding of the character of this military organization I hope to see the ranks of the First Light Division immediately filled prepared when called into the service of the State or City, to respond effectually in maintaining their peace and ministering to their defence. At the same time any portion of it disposed to extend the sphere of its usefulness will have the opportunity with the consent of the Government of uniting their exertions with the other Volunteers from Maryland in the service of the United States.

To the citizens of the several Counties I would appeal and especially commend to them the formation of Volunteer Cavalry Companies as better