

Correspondence Between Gov. McEnery and Gen. Emory.

THE UNITED STATES FORCES SUPPORT
THE SEIZURE OF THE HALL OF THE
LEGISLATURE AND EXECUTIVE OF
LOUISIANA.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, }
New Orleans, March 6, 1873. }

Major General Emory, Commanding Department
of the Gulf:

General—I have the honor to submit to you the inquiry whether or not the action of the metropolitan police force of this city, in the seizure of the Odd Fellows' Hall this morning, and the armed prevention by said force of the assembly of the Legislature of this State in said hall, meets with your countenance and approval, and whether or not the United States forces under your command will support this armed occupation of that building.

I have the honor, General, to remain your obedient servant,

JOHN McENERY,
Governor of Louisiana.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF, }
New Orleans, La., March 6, 1873, }

Hon. John McEnery:

Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your communication of this date, in which you ask "whether or not the action of the metropolitan police force of this city, in the seizure of the Odd Fellows' Hall, this morning, and the armed prevention by said force of the assembly of the Legislature of this State in said hall meets with your countenance and approval, and whether or not the United States forces under your command will support this armed occupation of that building."

In reply I have to state that the seizure of the said building by the metropolitan police was without my knowledge, and made without conference with me.

In regard to any expression of opinion as to the act, having no authority in the premises, I must respectfully decline to make any reply.

In answer to that part of your letter which asks whether my command "will support this armed occupation of that building," I have the honor to inclose to you a copy of a telegram received last night, from which you will see that it is made my duty "to prevent any violent interference with the State Government of Louisiana."

Previous instructions have directed me to recognize the Government of the State of Louisiana to be that represented by the Hon. William P. Kellogg.

If the act referred to by you in your letter is the act of Gov. Kellogg, and of the Government of the State of Louisiana represented by him, and any violence is used to interfere with this act, I shall most assuredly consider it my duty, under my instructions, to use the whole force of the United States at my disposal to prevent such "violent interference."

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

W. H. EMORY,
Colonel Com'dg, Brev. Major General.

[Copy of Telegram]

WASHINGTON, March 5, 1873.

Col. W. H. Emory, Commanding Department of
the Gulf, New Orleans, La.:

The President directs you to prevent any violent interference with the State Government of Louisiana.

Acknowledge receipt.

W. T. SHERMAN, General.

A true copy:

W. T. GENTRY, Captain, A. A. A. G.