

W.A.M. Van Bokkelen  
276 Russ Building,  
San Francisco, California

July 22, 1924.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,  
Care S.S. McClure Publishing Co.,  
New York City, New York.

My dear Madam:

Shortly after the organization of the Confederacy, Mr. Seward wired Bishop Wm. Rolison Whittingham, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Maryland, and my second oldest brother, the Reverend Libertus Van Bokkelen, requesting them to call upon him at Washington. This they did and Mr. Seward said to them, in substance, "Gentlemen, we are informed that no two men have the influence with Governor Hicks that you two have; and that personally you are supporters of the Union as opposed to the Confederacy of the South. It is absolutely necessary that every effort should be used to prevent Governor Hicks from calling a Convention to carry Maryland into the Confederacy. I now ask that you use your influence to prevent the issuing of such a call."

The trouble of the Baltimore disturbance when the first regiment of troops passed through that city had caused the Governor to move his Headquarters to Hagerstown. The Bishop and my brother returned to Baltimore and en route canvassed over an excuse for going to Hagerstown. This they found in a letter received by the Bishop from that place and the two started. On their arrival they called on the Governor who said that as his movement had caused a crowded town and made accommodations rather limited, they had better make his office a sort of headquarters.

The afternoon papers contained a statement that the Governor had concluded to issue the call for the Convention and that it would appear in the next day's papers. That evening after dinner, the Bishop, finding his room rather cold, went to call on the Governor. He (the Bishop) was standing before the fire warming his hands; the Governor was busy writing a paper which as he finished he handed to the Bishop remarking, "Perhaps you will find this interesting reading." The Bishop read it and answered, "Yes, quite so, but this is the best place for it." Throwing it in the fire, added, "As you wrote this you can write another, but I hope you won't." Thereupon the Bishop proceeded to argue the question, during which my brother came in, and they remained in conference to a very late hour. The proclamation was never issued.

This is briefly the facts given me by my brother shortly before his death, which I was recently telling to a friend and saying that I was very proud of what my brother had done toward the preservation of the Union. My friend said that I ought to give it to the press. I told him that I was not a writer but just

