

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

a hard headed business man. Then he suggested that I write you this letter giving them to you so that you might use them in the Lincoln portion of the History of the Confederacy, and its failure; for it is certain that the failure of Maryland to secede was a very important item.

Now, you will naturally ask what provable facts I have to support me in my claim. These I will take pleasure in giving you in full if you conclude to give them attention. There will be considerable detail and the bringing together of much reference, all of which I am willing to preform in you desire.

When Governor Hicks died he left no will but a mass of memoranda among which was one referring to this matter which was then made public, with the result that my brother found the atmosphere rather hot and left Maryland going to Mount Morris in Western New York and later became rector of Trinity Church, Buffalo.

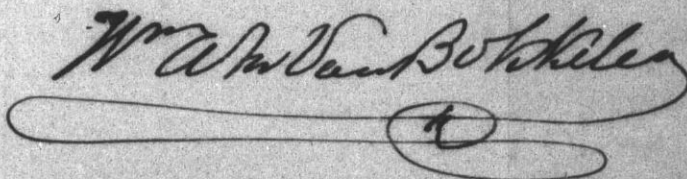
Bishop Whittingham on account of advancing years had asked for an assistant and which had been granted. When this explosion took place, he surrendered full jurisdiction to his assistant, Bishop Pinkney, and went to New Jersey where he died in 1879.

When my brother was in California the year of his death I asked him why he had left Maryland where he had considerable property and a high scholastic standing. He told me that which I have written above in substance, and which at that time I reduced to writting but the great conflagration of 1906 took everything I had and now I have only my memory.

I suppose I might add that I was ninety years old on June 12, 1924. My brother was nineteen years my senior. He died in October 1889; was found dead in bed by the side of his wife, supposed heart failure. He was the founder of St. Timothy's Hall, a Military school at Catonsville, Maryland, with some one hundred forty students mostly from the southern states, which had to close on account of withdrawal of the southern students for the Confederate army.

I came to California in 1858 and have been here and in Nevada and New Mexico to the present time, never being east of the Rockies from that time until 1869. My occupation has been that of Corporation Secretary and Treasurer of the Diocese of California of the Protestant Episcopal Church for thirty years, having given away to my assistant two years since, the duties becoming too heavy for my advancing years.

Yours respectfully,



WAMVB:LS