

Annapolis Aug. 26th 1840

Your letter by express was received last
night. There can be no doubt as to the propriety of
the taking of arms and ammunition under present
circumstances, & I conceive it to be his duty so to do,
to take all the necessary measures which are au-
thorized by law in the defence of Baltimore, & I
am certainly ready to invest Gen. Smith with
that power which I am in any
manner to do. The law has given to Gen.
the power of calling out the militia, of
requisitioning arms from a neighbor
& I will do every thing in my power
to furnish arms & ammunition, & such other
articles as are authorized. I wish you had
been more explicit as to the powers with which
I wish Gen. Smith to be invested, for I
do not know any power, which I am
willing to invest Gen. Smith with, that
does not completely possess at this time, ex-
cept that of appointing his Major General
by the requisition of the President of the