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to me by several British subjects,  
to know if I can afford them any  
protection in case of danger. No  
protection whatever exists & we must  
all take our chance. I am even  
doubtful whether in case of disturbance,  
it would be prudent for me to hoist  
my flag. In short we were yesterday  
precipitated into an abyss, the depth  
& dangers of which none can tell.

The town is guarded by the Militia,  
as well as Police, but a mad spirit  
is abroad & all the arms are brought  
up in the city.

I have the honor &c  
(signed) Frederic Bernal  
Consul