

M 4  
East Newmarket, Dorchester Co

To His Excellency J. Watkins Ligon

Governor of Maryland

We the undersigned beg Leave very Respectfully to represent to your Excellency that a certain Free Negro who was convicted in the Circuit Court for Dorchester County held in <sup>the</sup> town of Cambridge About April 1857 for Aiding and <sup>abetting</sup> Slaves to escape from their Masters, and for having in his possession certain Abolition Handbills Pamphlets and other documents, and papers of a like character, also certain letters from negroes in Canada, who had escaped from his immediate neighbourhood, inviting certain other negroes by name to follow on as the way was all clear, and he found plenty of friends and money on the way, and where he stopped and how long he remained at several Points on his Passage, there were also found in his possession several schedules of Railroad Road Travel, throughout the northern States. We further represent that said Negro - Samuel Green by name had a fair and Impartial Trial His Honour Judge Spence assigning him two as Counsel as belonged to the Bar. It was in evidence before the Court that those negroes written to from Canada did obtain from their Masters some time after the Reception of this letter, It was further Proved on the trial of said Negro that he the said Samuel Green did during the Autumn of 1856 visit Canada himself secretly, and return to this State, not more than one or two persons knowing when and where he went and when he returned, and those two coun-<sup>selling</sup> him to keep the matter Private

In view of all these facts, we are no little surprised to find circulating in this community a Petition to your Excellency for Executive Clemency towards this said Negro now confined in the Maryland Penitentiary for the term of ten years, one fact we failed to mention it was in evidence before the court, and of the most Respectable kind, that nine tenths of the community in which he lived believed he was guilty of the matters whereof he stood charged; so unanimous was the sentiment against <sup>him</sup> that his counsel could not for a moment entertain the Idea of trying him by a jury, but elected to and did try him before the court, the Petition before alluded to asks your Excellency to Pardon unconditionally said Negro Convict, and restore him to his family and friends, We should look on his restoration to this neighbourhood as the greatest evil that could befall it for the reason that up to the time of his arrest in April last our Negroes were leaving in numbers from 2 to 15 ~~to 15~~ or 18 from the time of his arrest up to the 10 of the present month, there has scarcely any Negroes ran away at all and in no case has the writer of this known to <sup>2</sup> run of together untill as before remarked on the 10 of the present month 5 have left Cambridge, I suppose they <sup>low</sup> opened another channel. The Petition to your Excellency above alluded to was presented to the writer of this communication last evening 24 names being annexed all very well known to the writer 4 of them alone are slaveholders to a very small extent 3 or 4 farmers some carpenters a few merchants school teachers, plasterers and quite a respectable number of ~~them~~ are ladies some of which are not even residents of the county or state but merely Sojourners

Sir our object in this communication is merely to inform <sup>you</sup> such a Paper as we have described will in all Probability be read by your Excellency, we do not think it worth while at the present to get a counter Petition <sup>or</sup> for the reason we do think a memorial of such material as <sup>the one described</sup> ~~it~~ must necessarily be composed of cannot have any considerable weight with your Excellency at least. We very Respect <sup>fully</sup> Represent that were Slave Holders and tillers of the soil and situated in the Immediate Vicinity where said negro resided before his arrest and conviction and should consider our slaves in still greater jeopardy were he turned loose among us. In conclusion we very Respectfully Ask your Excellency should a memorial of sufficient Respectability be presented to you for the Pardon of Samuel Green so to Raise in your mind a question of the Propriety of such a course of Proceedings that before consenting you will cause the undersigned to be so Informed and give sufficient time to prepare a counter Petition.

We are very truly and Respectfully &c

October 13<sup>th</sup> 1857

William Holland

William C. Harrison  
Jno. S. Hodson

John Pettist

Rich. H. Dixon  
Asa H. Wright  
John T. Houston  
William S. Vickers

PLG

Gov. Lyon & Sir  
domestic affliction <sup>caused</sup> has the delay  
of this communication, or it  
would have reach you sooner

October 18<sup>th</sup> 1857

William Holland

Mr. D. H. Lane  
Boston

Cambridge  
Nov 17th 1857

Hon. J. Watkes, Secy  
U.S. of M.

Dear Sir

The gentlemen  
-en who have signed the petition  
-nal (which I have not read, for the want  
of time) are highly respected citizens of our  
-ent, and any statement they may make  
-ent can do but good. I have a letter