

ney General, who deemed it unnecessary to report the facts as requested, owing to the investigation then going forward, on the part of others, who were duly authorized to act. I am informed by the State's Attorney of Anne Arundel County that, although a thorough investigation was subsequently had before the Grand Jury of the County, with the lights of the previous investigation, no indictment could be found, owing to the conflicting character of the testimony, and the impossibility of fixing the responsibility upon any one connected with the riot—the weight of opinion being, that both whites and negroes were alike implicated. The Report of the Grand Jury is herewith submitted. Certain it is that no countenance was given, to the conduct of those who were engaged in the riot, by any respectable citizen or class of citizens in this community; and that the outrage was generally rebuked by the judgment of the whole State.

From what I believe of the State of Maryland, and the views of her people upon the subject of the negro race, I will only say, that I have felt encouraged by the general harmony which prevails between the races, and the total absence at this time of any serious disagreement, growing out of the recognized standard of wages or any other exciting cause.

The recent discussion in the House of Representatives, in reference to the political disabilities imposed by our laws upon the colored race, can hardly be recognized as dealing fairly with the subject, to which reference was made, with so much unnecessary bitterness. There is no disposition in this State, so far as I am informed, to interfere with the civil rights of the negro, and all laws in conflict with them I sincerely hope will receive your prompt attention. In relation to that feature of your Code, relating to the colored population, adopted years ago, giving to the courts the power to commute criminal sentences, by selling the offender into slavery for the period of his sentence, in lieu of imprisonment at hard labor in the penitentiary, I would commend it to your notice, not in the interest of the colored race, to whom it is a benefit, but as making an unfair discrimination under the new order of things, against the white man, from whom the same privilege is withheld. I trust that its repeal will be promptly ordered. The particular occurrence furnishing the ground of complaint in the Congressional debate must be received in connection with the attendant circumstances. The sentence of the prisoner, it will be found, was commuted simply as an act of humanity; and in other trials of a similar character, this has been done at the special request of friends and counsel, and not in a spirit of oppression, as will appear by the letter of the State's Attorney herewith submitted.