

a resident of Annapolis, where the cause of complaint is said to have originated, and beg leave to enclose herewith a full report of that officer, which I hope will prove satisfactory.

In reply to your remark that "if the officials are so paralysed by a wrong public sentiment, that they cannot exercise their trust and make requisition for aid, it will be afforded," I would state in justice to the people of Maryland, that from the date of the Proclamation of Emancipation, I have witnessed no evidence of that "wrong public sentiment" which could justify the violent action recommended by your agent. Individual instances of outrages have occasionally occurred without the sanction or countenance of the people of the State; and I think I have promptly exercised all the power which was required, to restrain these acts, whenever complaint has been made to this Department.

It is not without regret, General, that in some communications heretofore made to this Department, I have discovered a disposition on the part of certain citizens to ignore both the power and disposition of the Executive to afford relief in cases of a similar character, by direct appeal to the Freedmen's Bureau; and you will permit me to express surprise, that you should have deemed it necessary upon the submission of a trivial complaint by an impulsive subordinate to consult General Grant as to the propriety of occupying the State of Maryland by a military force in the interest of the Freedmen's Bureau to supercede the civil authority and outrage the feelings of our people by the presence of a military force to execute the laws.

The report of the Attorney General will satisfy you of the utter groundlessness of the whole proceeding, which I regret to find, has already gone forth to the public in disparagement of the temper of our people and their disposition to do the amplest justice to the Freedman in all that relates to his person and his property.

I am, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS SWANN.