

LETTER TO PRESIDENT,
ON SUBJECT OF
SLAVE ENLISTMENTS.

STATE OF MARYLAND,

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

Annapolis, September 28th, 1863.

His Excellency, ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

President United States :

DEAR SIR:—In the personal interview I had with your Excellency a few weeks since, upon the subject of the enlistment of slaves in this State, you stated that no orders had been given for such proceedings, and that the existence of such a practice had only been brought to your knowledge two days before.

I, at that time urged some of the most obvious objections to such a policy, to which you replied that the subject was then under consideration, and you were good enough to say, in answer to my request to that effect, that whatever conclusion was reached, as the result of your deliberations, should be communicated to me.

Several weeks having since elapsed without hearing from your Excellency, and the practice of which I complained still prevailing and increasing—a practice all the more reprehensible if pursued without your express authority—I feel constrained once more to bring it to your attention, and again to invoke your interposition in arresting it.