

{ Denton, Caroline County, Md.
8 July 1852

To his Excellency

E. Louis Lowe, Governor of Maryland.

I learn that efforts are being made to obtain a pardon for Isaac Gibson, a free negro, convicted at March Term of our Court 1851, for carrying away a slave belonging to David Knott. Having been of counsel for Gibson, I have a distinct recollection of the facts in evidence for and against him, and upon reviewing my notes of the evidence, and carefully weighing the facts elicited upon the trial, I entertain not the slightest earthly doubt of Gibson's entire innocence. The only evidence against him was that of Charles Burger and Frances Burger, free negroes, of notoriously bad character. Burger admitted that a personal hostility existed between him and Gibson: whilst several white witnesses (Capt. David Dixon, James Willis, John Faulkner and others all of respectable standing) testified to the bad character of the witness Charles Burger, to their knowledge of his ^{bad} reputation for several years, and that they could not believe him upon oath. The uniform good character of Isaac Gibson was established by excellent witnesses of undoubted integrity. Such was the evidence upon which Gibson was convicted. There was at the time much excitement on the slavery question, (and there is no doubt but that Gibson suffered from that excitement. The general feeling in this community is in favor of Gibson's innocence.

Respectfully Yours
J. E. Rochester