

was about to return with him to this state, when he was arrested by order of John A. Wilson, and required to give bail for his appearance in the sum of five hundred dollars. He was arrested for the crime of kidnapping, without the least evidence against him besides the oath of Isaac Burnside, whose escape depended upon this contumacious justice Wilson, and whose safety was to be secured by the imprisonment of a public agent. Mr. Mean, however, was fortunately able to give bail for his appearance, and was afterwards discharged at the instance of Mr. Murty, the Deputy Attorney General, upon the ground that there was not a shadow of evidence against him.

(You will perceive from the foregoing statement, and the proofs herewith communicated, that John A. Wilson in his capacity of justice of the peace, has attempted to rescue a criminal from the custody of the law; has arrested a citizen of this state without cause, and interrupted him in the discharge of his public duty; and that he has committed these offences, in contempt of your authority as Governor of Pennsylvania, and in violation of the Constitution and laws of the United States.

From the disposition manifested by yourself, on different occasions, to comply with the just demands of this state and to respect the rights of her citizens, I entertain not the least doubt, that you will exert the full extent of your authority, to punish the offending magistrate and prevent the repetition of proceedings, so likely to disturb the friendly relations that exist between the different States of the Union.

With the highest Respect  
I remain

Your obedient Servant

Wm. Gordon  
Governor of Maryland

Annapolis Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> 1839.

Sir,

By resolution No 56 of the last Legislature the Governor was authorized to have collected and returned to the Attorney at Frederick, all arms in possession of persons in Washington County not members of an organized militia company.

Your aid therefore is requested in collecting such arms as you may know or discover