

State Department

July 9th 1845

Com^d Charles G. Bridgely
Dr Sir

I received to day an application most-respectably signed asking the pardon of William Essender a youth of 14 years of age who was convicted of Arson in Baltimore City Court: This youth is the son of a very worthy man & is said to be an intelligent & sprightly Boy - I feel reluctant to exercise the Executive power of pardon in this case as it would establish a precedent which would occasion me much trouble or be productive of public injury - Under an Act of the General Assembly of Maryland Authority is given in such cases to bind out youths so situated as Apprentices in the Navy - My object in writing you is to request you (if consistent with your views of duty) to receive this Boy under the provisions of the Law referred to - Be pleased to excuse the trouble I am giving you & believe me
Very resp^t - L C L C

Thos G. Pratt
State Department

July the 11th 1845

Dr Sir

I have received your favour of the 7th inst - informing me that you will be prepared between the 22nd & 24th inst - to present for approval the guarantees under the Law of the last Session for the completion of the Canal - I shall of course consider it my duty to be in place on the day you may designate for that purpose - If my attendance in Frederick on the 22nd - would facilitate the contemplated arrangements I should consider it my duty to attend - I do not desire you to consider my convenience in fixing the time or place of meeting for the purpose above indicated - I will with pleasure attend at any time & at any place which will best conduce to the interest of the Company & the convenience of the Board of Agents -
resp^t - L C L C

Thos G. Pratt

J. M. Coates Esq^r
Pres^t Ches^x & Ohio Canal Co.

State Department

July 14th 1845

M. H. Gatchell
Dr Sir

Your favour of the 12th inst - has this moment reached me & I hasten to reply to it - You are right in defining the position which I occupy in reference to the exercise of the pardoning power - I have determined as a general rule not to be departed from (except under peculiar circumstances) not to grant a pardon except where the Judges before whom the party has been tried recommend the exercise of that power - In this case to which you refer I had the Certificate of Mr. Pitto that the Jurors of the City Court - before whom Essender had been