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State Department, Annapolis July 8th 1857.

Rev. John P. Learter,
Rev. and dear Sir;

After much and deliberate reflections, I am prepared to act finally in the case of Amos Green, In justice to my own, as well as in respectful consideration of your feelings, I think it well to review the whole case.

When I signed the first warrant for the execution of Green, I had nothing before me but the Court record; and consequently had no hesitation in ordering that the sentence of the Court should be carried into effect. Happening to be in Frederick City, on the day assigned for the execution, I received a telegraphic despatch from you, praying a short reprieve, upon the ground that you had doubts of his guilt, and for the further reason that you believed ^{him} unprepared to die. The first consideration, unaccompanied by some facts justifying the doubts, could not have induced me to grant the reprieve. But the suggestion of his total unfitness to appear at the terrible tribunal beyond the grave, determined my judgment, and I granted your request. I believed that it was not necessary, neither would it have been excusable to peril the eternal salvation of a soul, merely to hasten the retribution of human justice. By the mail of the same day I addressed you a letter, asking you to furnish me with a statement of the facts upon which your doubts of his guilt were predicated; and this was the origin of the correspondence, and the cause of the interview, which subsequently took place between us. When you honored me with a visit at the Government House, some weeks ago, I clearly stated my views, in regard to the crime charged, and the evidence which would be required in the present case. I told you that of all crimes known to the law, I looked upon that of Rape with the greatest abhorrence; that I regarded it as being more injurious to society, and more destructive to the happiness of its immediate victim and her family, than Murder; for, death takes but the life of the body, and leaves no cankering wound upon the honor of the mother, whose memory should be the most precious legacy of her children.

In conclusion, I assured you that, so far from being open to appeal, I would, in a case of Rape, hang the highest man in the land, if satisfied of his guilt, even though his victim was the humblest of the virtuous humble. The whole question, therefore, in the case of Amos Green, resolved itself into this: "is he guilty?" And here again, I assured you of two things; first, that if his innocence could be made apparent, I would grant him an unconditional pardon.