

And yet, no such testimony was before the Court, and none has been produced before me. The letters of St. Howard and Col. Capron are equally general, and furnish no evidence, based upon their personal knowledge, or for which they can positively vouch. They speak only of rumor, and of conversations held with other parties, who are, I presume, still to be found within the reach of inquiry, but who do not appear before me. With them it is a matter of opinion as to the propriety of commuting Green's sentence; but with me, it must be a matter of evidence. That reports have been circulated to the prejudice of the Woman, I have no doubt; but, that those reports are true, and that she is, consequently, unworthy of belief under oath, I have no proof. Prima facie, it is not to be supposed likely that a white married Woman would wantonly degrade herself, her husband, and family, by charging the Commission of a Rape by a black Man. To create the belief that she has sworn away a man's life, and, to her own and her family's degradation, charged such an offence as the one alleged, it must be shown, either that she was actuated by some fiendish spirit of revenge, or that her general depravity of Character warrants the suspicion of consent, and subsequent apprehension of detection. No proof upon the first point has been offered. Upon the second point the proof is insufficient.

On the other hand, the affidavits of Mrs. Margaret Conaway, James H. Duvall, Robert Pilson, Andrew Adams, Mr & Mrs. Lewis Wesley, Benjamin H. Dorsey, Richard Iglehart Jr, Richard Waters and Jesse Duvall, sustain her character for virtue, and some of them in positive and emphatic terms. In addition to this, are several petitions, numerously and respectably signed, which speak of her as a "respectable white woman"; and one of which, from Laurel and its vicinity, where she resided at the time of the Commission of the act, expressly avers her purity of character.

If, as you suggest, there are those who could testify, and would have testified, had they been summoned at the trial, but who have since been intimidated, and thereby prevented from giving in their evidence before me, then, I have only to say, that they, and their aiders and abettors, will be morally guilty of the blood of Amos Green, if they have suppressed evidence which would have been sufficient to authorize me to commute his punishment. If he is, in fact, innocent, then upon the Woman who swears away his life, and upon those who, through moral cowardice, stand by and see it done, be his blood. As the case presents itself to my Executive judgment, upon the testimony, I do not feel warranted in arresting the arm of the law. The Jury has convicted; the