

uninformed of the fugitive having been charged with any crime committed in this State. Though the prosecutor (Col Hamilton, expressed an entire willingness to give the prisoner up, in case I considered it proper, I had no hesitation under the circumstances to approve of the course adopted by the authorities in Sussex, and to decline a present compliance with the requisition of your Excellency, until justice was satisfied for the crimes committed within our own jurisdiction. I am happy to be sustained in this course by the Attorney Genl, the Hon, L. J. C. Elmer - and herewith enclose a copy of his reply to a letter which I addressed to him upon the subject.

In regard to charge of collusion "between the accused and some one or more of the local officers concerned in the affair" I have no knowledge. As no specific officer is named, nor fact stated, the charge becomes vague and cannot be refuted. I am gratified however that your Excellency has not even intimated a belief in their validity - My acquaintance with Col. Hamilton, the prosecutor, and G. H. Stelden Esq, the Sheriff of the County justifies me in saying that they are gentlemen of high honor and integrity, without fear and without reproach. They are faithful and meritorious officers, and upright, intelligent, and law abiding citizens.

I have the satisfaction of informing your Excellency that the Culprit has been tried, convicted and sentenced to three years imprisonment in our State Penitentiary, and that the sentence has been carried into effect. As I shall not be in office at the date of the expiration of his sentence (the 1st of Sept 1854) I have for the satisfaction of your Excellency procured and herewith enclosed copies of the proceedings had in the Oyer & Terminer of the County of Sussex in relation to the case -

By a recent letter from Col H. I am informed that he was not tried there for the larceny.

I have the honor to be, with great respect
Your Obedt Servt
Geo: F. Fort

His Excellency
E. Louis Love
Gov. of Maryland

(Note - The two succeeding pages cut out for error, and the records carried regularly forward.)