

Baltimore October 18th 1857

Dear Sir,

Atty. Gen.

In reply to yours of the 7th inst. I have examined the 2^d Amend. article 19 of the New Constitution & am of opinion that the whole power of granting pardons & reprieves, is delegated to the Governor without trammel or restriction by the Legislature & that the foregoing all previous acts restricting the exercise of this power are ipso facto annulled by the adoption of the New Constitution, while on the contrary all acts of Assembly are perpetuated & preserved which enlarge the discretion of the Governor by giving him the power to commute, grant conditional pardons &c.

The same considerations apply to fines & forfeitures.

Your very Respectfully

Robert S. Brant

To His Excellency,
E. Louis Lowe,

Governor of Maryland

State Department
Annapolis Oct. 24th 1857

Mr. E. King

Attorneys at Law, New Orleans,

Gentlemen,

I am instructed by his Excellency, the Governor to request you to give a minute and detailed statement of the proceedings of the McDonough Will case, from the commencement of the controversy in regard to the provisions thereof, down to the present time. Our Legislature will convene early in January next, and his Excellency is desirous, will cause therefor, to be fully prepared to present a full & particular history of the whole subject. His Excellency wishes you not to defer the statement later than the first of December next.

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully, your obt. Servt.

Thos. H. O'Neal
Secy of State.