

when they may think that the interests of the State demands his exclusion. And, further, as the act of 1841, Chapter 215, abolishes the office of Chaplain altogether, and as the Board can find no legislative authority for the privileged which Doctor Wyatt exercises in this Prison, they cannot but entertain the opinion that they have the right to regulate this matter as they think best, and to confine the visits of Clergymen, except in the case of a Convict's illness, to the Sabbath day).

The Board most respectfully asks your Excellency to honor them with a reply to this communication in time to be laid before their meeting on Thursday next, and in conclusion they direct me to assure your Excellency of the great respect which they entertain for you.

With much respect, I remain
Your Excellency's Obedt. Servt.
Barzillai Marriott,
Secretary of the Board.

Note - The following Copy of a letter from the Reverend Doctor Wyatt to the Board, was transmitted by the Secretary of the Board, to the Governor, with the above communication.

Baltimore October 10th 1857.

To the Directors of the Maryland Penitentiary,
Gentlemen:

I received this morning from your Board through the Secretary - a request "to produce to them the authority which confers upon me the exclusive privilege to make Clerical visits to the Prison during the hours of labor &c."

Not having at hand a copy of the Charter or Constitution of the Prison, I can only reply by asking - 1st If the Board mean to imply that it is a fact, that I have claimed an exclusive privilege; that is, whether the Ministers of the Lutheran, Methodist and the Roman Catholic Churches have not been allowed to exercise the same - 2nd I would ask if this has not been the case for many years, say twenty or thirty or more, under the administrations of all the Boards of Directors and all the Governors that have been in office, and all the visiting Committees of the Legislature, with the concurrence of all the Wardens during that period. If this has been so, then I need only reply that the interpretation which his Excellency the present Governor, and all his predecessors, and all the Boards of Directors have put upon the provisions of the Charter, in regard to the proper agency of the Ministers for Prisoners, is my authority for going to the Prison to give religious instruction for the reformation of the Convicts.

If there is any higher law, I should desire to know it - and 3rd

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